

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE COMBINED MINUTES

September 21, 2020 via Zoom

TWINCATS MEMBER	MEMBERS (2019)	TAC	POL	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Benton Charter Township	Richard Royal				P		A	A			P	P			
Berrien Co. Board of	Bill Chickering		x	P	A		A	A			A	P			
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Evan Smith	x		A	P		A	A			A	A			
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	Eric Lester, M.D.		x	P	P		A	P			A	P			
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	(vacant)		x					A							
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	Kevin Stack	x		P	A		A	P			P	A			
City of Benton Harbor	Ellis Mitchel		x	A	A		A	A			A	A			
City of Benton Harbor	Chris Cook (Pol. V. Ch.)	x	Alt	P	A		P	P			P	P			
City of Bridgman	Juan Ganum	Alt	x	A	A		A	A			A	A			
City of Bridgman	Tim Kading	x	Alt	P	P		A	A			P	A			
City of St. Joseph	John Hodgson		x	P	P		A	A			A	P			
City of St. Joseph	Tim Zebell (TAC V. Ch.)	x		P	A		A	A			P	P			
	Tom McDonald	Alt		A	A		A	A			A	A			
Cornerstone Alliance	Sue Wyman	x	x	A	A		A	A			A	A			
Disability Network of SW Mich.	Cindy gray	x			P		P	P			P	P			
Hagar Township	(vacant)	x	x												
Kinexus	(vacant)	x													
Lake Charter Township	Gloria Payne	x	x	A			A	A			A	A			
Lincoln Charter Township	Dick Stauffer (Pol. Ch.)		x	P	P		P	P			P	P			
Lincoln Charter Township	Terrie Smith	x		P	P		P	P			A	A			
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	A	A		P	p			P	P			
MDOT – Southwest Region	Amy Lipset	x	x	P	P		P	P			P	P			
MDOT – Southwest Region	Brian Sanada	Alt	Alt	A	A		P	A			A	A			
MDOT – Trans. Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	P	P		P	P			P	P			
Royalton Township	Steve Tilly	x	x	P	P		A	A			A	A			
Sodus Township	David Chandler	x	x	A	A		A	A			A	A			
Southwest Mich. Regional Airport	Vince Desjardins	x	x	A	P		A	A			A	A			
St. Joseph Charter Township	Denise Cook		x	P	A		P	P			P	P			
St. Joseph Charter Township	Roger Seeley	x		A	P		A	A			A	A			
	Ron Griffin	Alt		A	A		A	A			A	A			
	Jonathan Fisk	Alt		P	P		P	P			P	P			
Twin Cities Area Trans. Authority	Paul Gillespie	x	x	P	P		A	P			P	P			
Village of Grand Beach	(vacant)	x	x												
Village of Shoreham	Stephanie Clarke	x	x	P	P		P	P			P	P			
Village of Stevensville	(vacant)		x												
Village of Stevensville	Chris Cook (Pol. V. Ch.)	x	Alt	P	P		P	P			P	P			
Federal Highway Administration	Andy Pickard	x	x	A	A		A	A			A	A			
Federal Transit Administration	Angelica Salgado	x	x	A	A		A	A			A	A			
EGLE - Air Quality	Breanna Bukowski	x		A	A		A	A			A	A			
MDOT - Modeling	Katie Beck	x		A	A		A	A			A	A			
MDOT - Passenger Division	Fred Featherly	x		A	A		A	A			A	A			
Northwestern Ind. Reg. Plan.	Scott Weber	x	x	P	P		A	A			A	A			
Southwest Michigan Planning	Kim Gallagher	x	x	P	P		P	P			P	P			
Southwest Michigan Planning	Brandon Kovnat			p	A		P	P			P	P			

Pol. Ch.- Policy Chair; TAC Ch. - TAC Chair; Alt – Alternate; P - Present; A- Absent; A blank spot means the position is

Others Present; Cathy Yates

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Policy Committee Chair, Dick Stauffer, Called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Kim Gallagher took roll call.

2. **Changes to the Agenda**

None.

3. **Public Comment**

None.

4. **Approval of August 17, 2020 TwinCATS Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2020 combined Technical Advisory and Policy Committee meeting. Made by Tim Zebell and seconded by Jim Sturdevant. **Motion approved.**

5. **SWMPC Staff Report**

Gallagher discussed the expiration of the FAST act, the current federal transportation bill. Federal transportation bills are approved for five years; the fast act will expire at the end of the 2020 fiscal year on September 30, 2020. If there is no active transportation bill federally funded transportation project cannot be obligated. In the past congress has authorized temporary extensions of the transportation bill until a replacement bill is approved. The worst case is a week by week extension that is costly and delays projects. MDOT has asked agencies to get projects submitted as soon as possible just in case.

6. **Agency & Project Updates**

a) **Transit**

Gillespie said TCATA had replaced staff cars and received the wrecker, which were capital purchases programed in the TIP. This helps TCATA keep their non-revenue service vehicles in a state of good repair.

b) **Local Agencies**

Denise Cook said that the St. Joseph Charter Township board approved a .75 mil road millage for 10 years. She said the Township had an asset management plan written to show how the millage could be used most effectively. She said residents often had questions about why preventative maintenance was conducted when there were road in need of more extensive repairs. The asset management plan shows how over time investing in maintenance save money.

Zebell said that all the permits needed for Langley were ready and he expected the project to be obligated in early October.

Chris Cook said that Empire Avenue project was awarded and construction will begin soon. The limits go to the eastern city limits. There will be a detour around Empire using Fair Avenue.

c) **MDOT**

Sturdevant said MDOT was preparing for the beginning of the 2021 fiscal year. They are finalizing the 2020 jobs and beginning to program new jobs for FY 2021.

Lipset discussed a planning study, requested by the State legislature, to examine creating toll roads in Michigan. Lipset a statewide tolling study committee member said an RFP was sent to find a consultant to conduct the study and four interviews were held. Lipset added that this was just a study and the consultant will identify which roads if any make the most sense for tolling.

7. **New Business: Transportation Improvement Program Amendments**

- a) **Roosevelt Road path Cancellation:** Gallagher reminded the committee that the bids for the Roosevelt Road path had come in far over the estimates. This is primarily due to difficulties building the pedestrian bridge over Hickory Creek. Due to the high cost, Lincoln Township is canceling the project. The path was programmed to use \$189,604 in CMAQ funding in 2021.
- b) **Langley Avenue CMAQ funding increase:** Gallagher explained that a Berrien County CMAQ meeting was held on September 9th to decide how to reprogram the \$189,604 in 2021 CMAQ funds. Four projects were considered and ultimately it was decided to award \$100,000 additional CMAQ funds to the Langley Avenue project in the City of St. Joseph. The Langley avenue project had been programmed for 2021 construction using an advance construct to use 2022 CMAQ funds. The project will replace some of the 2022 funding with 2021 funding, THUS, freeing up \$89,604 in 2022 CMAQ to be programmed at a later date.
- c) **MDOT Pavement marking project:** Gallagher said that MDOT was using Highway safety **Improvement** program (HSIP) funds to improve pavement markings throughout southwest Michigan.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the amendments to the TwinCATS 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program as contained in the meeting packet. Made by Jim Sturdevant and seconded by Chris Cook. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Denise Cook and seconded by Eric Lester. **Motion approved.**

8. **Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment**

Kovnat mentioned that the 10-ft. paths on Orchard and Morton in St. Joseph are well used and he expects the new path on Langley to be well used as well.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2020 at 9:30 AM.

Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Transportation planner