

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE and POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date & Time: Monday, September 15, 2025 at 9:30 am

Location: Kinexus - Michigan Works! Anchor Room A,
499 W Main St, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Zoom Link: [TwinCATS Meeting Zoom Link](#)

Audio: Call in Number: 1 (312) 626-6799
Meeting ID: 921 578 9818
Passcode: 288785

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Changes to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of August 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes (*Action*)
5. SWMPC Staff Report
6. Local Agency Updates
 - 6.1. Construction Updates
 - 6.2. Planned Projects
 - 6.3. Amendment Request – Add TAP Grant for St. Joseph (*Action*)
 - 6.4. Community Updates (Developments, Land Use Changes, new Plans, Policies etc.)
7. Transit Updates
 - 7.1. Twin City Area Transportation Authority
 - 7.2. Berrien Bus
8. MDOT Updates
 - 8.1. Current and planned MDOT Projects – *Jon Smith*
 - 8.2. Southwest Region Updates – *Adrain Stroupe*
 - 8.3. Statewide Updates – *Jim Sturdevant*
9. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment
10. Adjournment

Comments can be sent prior to the meeting to Brandon Kovnat at kovnatb@swmpc.org or calling (269) 925-1137 x 1524. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please contact Kim Gallagher at (269) 925-1137 x 1518 or by email at gallagherk@swmpc.org

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
 TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
 Monday, August 18, 2025

Committee Members in Attendance

Representative	TwinCATS Member Organization	TAC	Pol
Tim Drews	City of Benton Harbor	X	Alt
Tim Zebell	City of St. Joseph		Alt
Alex Austin	City of St. Joseph	X	
Kacey Dominguez (<i>Virtual</i>)	Village of Stevensville		X
Tim Drews	Village of Stevensville	X	
Richard Royall (<i>Virtual</i>)	Benton Charter Township	X	X
Dick Stauffer	Lincoln Charter Township		X
Denise Cook	St. Joseph Charter Township		X
Roger Seeley	St. Joseph Charter Township	X	
Paul Gillespie	Berrien County Comm Dev.	X	
John Humphry	Berrien County Planning Comm.		X
Jim Sturdevant (<i>Virtual</i>)	MDOT, Planning	X	X
Adrian Stroupe	MDOT, Southwest Region	X	X
Hannah Qoronfleh	MDOT, Statewide and Urban Travel Analysis (SUTA)	X	
Brandon Kovnat	SWMPC	Alt	Alt

Others in Attendance

Name	Representing
Jerrid Burdue	SWMPC
Jonathon Fisk	St. Joseph Charter Township
Melainie Stanage	Wightman & Associates
Dan Sequin (<i>virtual</i>)	MDOT, Statewide and Urban Travel Analysis (SUTA)
Michel Zawruchka	MDOT, Local Agency Programs (LAP)
Ralph Benson	Lincoln Charter Township

Committee Members Absent

Representative	TwinCATS Member Organization	TAC	Pol	Representative	TwinCATS Member Organization	TAC	Pol
Alex Little	City of Benton Harbor		X	Todd Schurn	TCATA		X
Juan Ganum	City of Bridgman		X	Rufus Adams	TCATA	X	
Darwin Watson	City of New Buffalo	X	X	Shannon Christy	SW Michigan Airport	X	X
Mike Allard	Village of Shoreham	X	X	Cindy Gray	Disability Network	X	
Dave Bunte	Chikaming Township	X	X	Jon Smith	MDOT, Coloma	X	X
Terrie Smith	Lincoln Charter Township	X		Scott Weber	NIRPC	X	X
Michelle Heit	New Buffalo Township	X	X	Fred Featherly	MDOT, OPT	X	
Steve Tilly	Royalton Township	X	X	Andy Pikard	FHWA	X	X
Jonathon Fisk	St. Joseph Charter Township		Alt	Cecilia Crenshaw	FTA	X	X
Ray Bell	Berrien County BoC		X	Kim Gallagher	SWMPC	X	X

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
Monday, August 18, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order and Roll Call

Policy Committee Chair, Dick Stauffer, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am, and Brandon Kovnat took roll call.

Changes to the Agenda

None.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of June 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the June 19, 2025 TwinCATS combined Policy and Technical Advisory Committee meeting with the correction. Made by Roger Seeley and seconded by Tim Drews. **Motion approved.**

SWMPC Staff Report

Socioeconomic Data for the 2055 Long range plan: Agencies were asked to review the employment data provided by MDOT and sent corrections to SWMPC & MDOT, with the final approval of the socio-economic data occurring at the October TwinCATS meeting. In response to a question about hybrid work, Sequin explained that the estimated number of trips per employee is based off of surveys which included hybrid workers; employees with a hybrid work schedule should be recorded the same as any other employee.

National Functional Classification (NFC) Review: Kovnat reminded agencies about then NFC review process and asked if any agencies were still considering submitting a reclassification request. Drews responded that he did not believe there were any roads he was responsible for that met the requirements for a traffic generator and network connection. Stauffer noted that Marquette woods was the most recent NFC classification, due to the Meijer being built.

Local Road Agency Updates

See meeting packet page 4-7 for details.

Tim Zebell gave an update on the City of St. Joseph's 2025 projects.

- **Botham Avenue:** The project should be complete by mid-October.
- **Cleveland Avenue:** Should be complete by mid-September. The concrete contractor might not be ready until after Labor Day

Non-motorized Updates

See meeting packet page 8-9 for details.

Lakeshore Trail: Under construction

Roosevelt Path: Stauffer reported that the single bid received for the proejct was well over the estimate and was rejected by Lincoln Township. The Township is applying for a statewide TAP grant for additional funding, and plans to rebid the project. The \$1.5 million congressional earmark the Township received for

the path will expire at the end of FY 2027 if unused. However, the FY 2025 TwinCATS Carbon Reduction funding of \$94,000 will expire by spring 2026.

TAP Grant for Main Street in the City of St. Joseph: Kovnat announced that the City of St. Joseph received conditional approval for a \$3,913,900 Statewide TAP grant for non-motorized improvements on M-63/Main Street, Ship St., and Port St, which will include lighting, benches, pedestrian signals, pedestrian crossing islands, and bike lanes. Construction will coincide with MDOT's M 63/Main Street road proejct in 2027.

Red Arrow Path: Kovnat announced that the Berrien County Road Department had received a FY 2026 TAP grant of \$3,096,048 to continue the path along Red Arrow Highway for the City of Bridgman to the Village Stevensville . The proejct engineer Melanie Stanage provided additional details. The path will connect Bridgman to Stevensville./ road will include a 6 ft. shoulder. separated 10ft. path on the west side of Red arrow.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve adding the Red Arrow Path to the TwinCATS 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program. Made by Tim Drews and seconded by Roger Seeley. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory committee. Made by Denice Cook and seconded by John Humphry.

Transit Updates

Paul Gillespie announced that the State and FTA will stop funding TCATA, primarily due to their high insurance costs after TCATA was dropped from the state transit insurance pool following several costly incidents. He said that a number of agencies, including educational and medical institutions, signed a letter supporting a countywide transit system. the Berrien Bus Local Advisory Committee also recommended a countywide system. TCATA is seeking to outsource management to a third party, but Gillespie felt this would be costly and would not resolve the agency's financial challenges.

MDOT Proejct Updates

See meeting packet page 10-11 for details.

Stroupe explained that for the M-139 project, MDOT had originally planned to extend the limits further south, but due to funding constraints, it is moving forward with the current limits. Plans for the remaining segment can move forward if funds become available.

MDOT Local Agency Programs

Michel Zawruchka reported that LAP is fully staffed. She reviewed the FY 2026 project planning guide, adding that currently NEPA approvals are taking about three months, and advertising following obligation takes four to five weeks.

Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10 :10 AM. The next TwinCATS meeting is scheduled for Monday September 15, 2025 at 9:30 AM.

Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Transportation Planner

NEW 2027 Project – Main Street Non-Motorized Improvements

City of St. Joseph

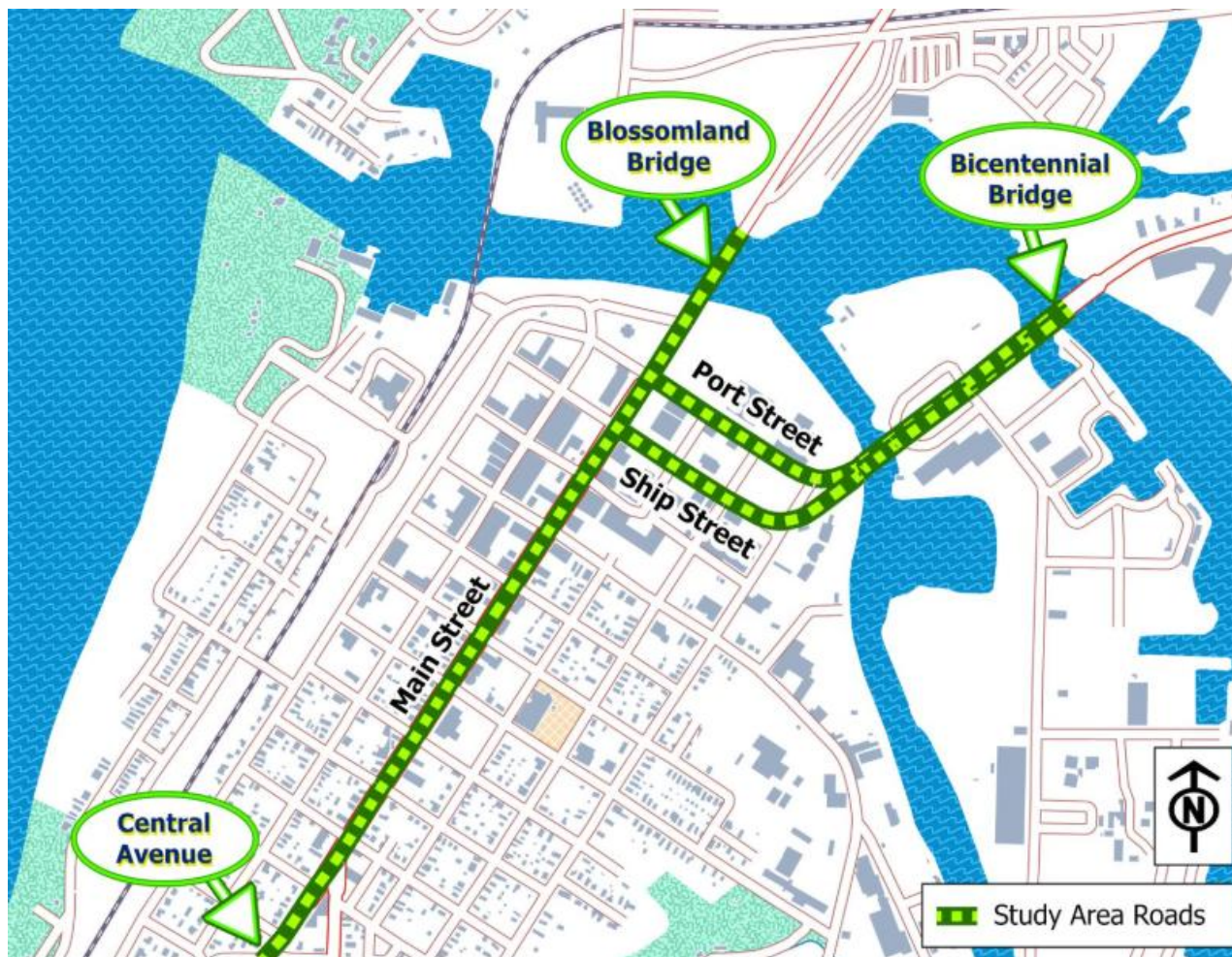
Limits: M-63/Main St from Central Avenue to the St. Joseph River.

Add pedestrian and cyclist improvements in coordination with the 2027 road work on Main St. Improvements will include:

- Proejct:**
- pedestrian lighting
 - plantings, benches
 - pedestrian signal enhancements
 - pedestrian islands
 - bike lanes

Estimated Budget

Statewide Federal TAP Grant	\$3,913,900	80%
Local Match	\$978,475	20%
Total Estimate	\$4,892,375	100%



Michigan Department of Transportation Projects

Within the TwinCATS Planning Area

Updated August 10, 2025 by Jon Smith, MDOT Coloma TSC Engineer – smithj29@michigan.gov

Projects Currently Under Construction

Lincoln, St. Joseph, and Benton Township

Project: I-94 from exit 23 to Britan Ave. – Reconstruction (JN 131843 & 132824)

Status: I-94 WB work in progress. I-94 WB entrance Ramp at Exit 27 (Niles Avenue) is closed but the exit ramp is open. Exit 29 (Pipestone Road) entrance and exit ramps are closed. Exit 30 (Napier Avenue) entrance ramp is closed but the exit ramp is open.

Est. Con: Jul. 10, 2023 – Nov. 30, 2026

St. Joseph and Lincoln Township

Project: I-94BL/Lakeshore Dr. at Maiden Lane – Signal upgrade (JN 209414)

Status: Signal is operational.

Est Con: Dec. 17, 2023 – TBD

Benton Township

Project: I-94 from Pavement Change east of I-96 to Hennessey Road – HMA Overlay (JN 128907)

Status: Construction is underway including Hennessey Road bridge work. Maintaining 1 lane of traffic on EB pavement and 1 lane on WB pavement. I-94 WB 2-week single lane closure has been completed with all culvert work accomplished.

Est Con: Mar. 01, 2025 – Aug. 15, 2026

Benton Harbor/St. Joseph

Project: I-94BL/Main Street over St. Joseph River – Rehabilitate hydraulic Cylinders (JN 221347)

Status: Remaining cylinders requiring rehabilitation will be completed this coming winter.

Est Con: Dec. 16, 2024 – Apr. 01, 2026

Projects Scheduled for Construction in FY 2026

Benton Township and City of Benton Harbor

Project: M-139 from 0.44 miles south of I-94 to I-94 BL/Main St – Reconstruction (JN 210875)

Status: Design is in progress. Final Plan Coordination meeting held 07/10/25. 2026 construction work will consist of M-139 and I-94 BL north of Pipestone Road and 2027 work will consist of M-139 work from Fairplain Drive to Pipestone Road including both Napier Avenue and Pipestone Road work for the county.

City of St. Joseph

Project: M-63 (Niles Ave) @ Lincoln Ave, M-63 over St. Joseph River Bascule bridge (Blossomland) – Signal Modernization (JN 211989)

Status: Design in progress. Targeting 02/06/2026 letting.

Various Location in Berrien County

Project: I-94 & US-31 Bridges – Capital Structural or Preventive maintenance (JN 214931, 214992, 215028)

Status: Turned in for targeted letting of 09/04/2026.

Bridgman

Project: I-94 WB North of Exit 16 – Guardrail Extension (JN 222028)

Status: Design in progress. Targeting 11/07/2025 letting.

Michigan Department of Transportation Projects

Within the TwinCATS Planning Area

Updated August 10, 2025 by Jon Smith, MDOT Coloma TSC Engineer – smithj29@michigan.gov

Projects Scheduled for Construction in FY 2027

City of St. Joseph

Project: M-63 & I-94BL from Central Avenue to the Blossomland and Bicentennial bridges – Reconstruction (JN 213168)

Status: Design in progress. 5th stakeholder meeting and public meeting held 06/02/25. Recently presented at a county board of the whole meeting and Rotary club meeting.

Lincoln Township

Project: I-94 west of exit 22 – Construct crash investigation sites (JN 211804)

Status: Environmental reviews in progress and design will begin soon.

Hagar Township

Project: I-196 over at Riverside Rd., Central Ave., and Red Arrow Hwy – Bridge Rehabilitation (JN 211253 & 211558)

Status: Design in progress.

Stay up to date with MDOT: news, projects, report a pothole, traffic alerts, five-year plan at:

<http://www.michigan.gov/drive>