



SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN PLANNING COMMISSION

185 East Main Street, Suite 701, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Phone: 269-925-1137 • Website: www.swmpc.org

Re: Twin Cities Area Transportation Study Meeting

Dear TwinCATS Member,

The next meeting of the Twin Cities Area Transportation Study will be held on Monday April 18th at the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport. As usual, the Technical Advisory Committee meets at 9:30 AM and the Policy Committee meets at 10:30 AM. We will be meeting in the **terminal** this month, due to space constraints in the meeting room.

Note: Trevor has been looking for feedback on two data sets: 1) the posted speeds, number of traffic lanes, and signal information for the travel demand model; and 2) detailed roadway information for the Walk and Roll plan (<http://swmpc.org/walkbiketwincats.asp>), such as condition of sidewalks, location of bike parking and street furniture, condition of shoulders, width of lanes and shoulders, etc. If you have any updates on this data that Trevor passed out, please bring them to the meeting or contact him at thomast@swmpc.org or (269) 925-1137 x 24.

The agendas, previous month's minutes, and handouts are available at http://swmpc.org/twincats_fy_11.asp. Please look over them prior to the meeting.

Thanks!

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Other Updates and Resources

Feel free to forward ...

1. Information from Transportation & Environment workshop, March 22nd

Did you know March 22 was **World Water Day**? How appropriate that the workshop's 50 participants spent the afternoon learning and discussing how we can have clean water while also ensuring we have the best transportation system infrastructure possible. The information from the workshop is available online at http://www.swmpc.org/trans_water.asp.

2. U.S. Department of Transportation Seeks Public Comment on Regulations

The U.S. Department of Transportation is seeking comments from the public on its regulations. All comments should include specific reference to the regulation, a description of stakeholders' concerns, as well as supporting information that demonstrates why the comment is being made (such as why a regulation is burdensome or costly). Comments can be submitted at <http://dotregreview.ideascale.com>.

3. Designing Pedestrian Facilities for Accessibility

April 19, 2011

MDOT Region Office, Kalamazoo, MI

Purpose of workshop: To increase your understanding of Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) and FHWA ADA policies. Take home useful resource documents. Agenda includes:

- Legal Policies, sidewalk design, crossings, intersections, curb ramp construction, pedestrian signals, maintenance, temporary traffic control;
- Field exercises including walking audits, wheelchair experience, and vision degraders;
- Classroom interaction will discuss best practices for new design and retrofits;
- Compare local design standards.

Register by April 12th by contacting Kelly Tucker at (269) 337-3961 or tuckerke@michigan.gov.

4. Planning for Bicycle-Friendly Communities

April 20, 2011

Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission, Portage, IN

Purpose of workshop: This half-day seminar will provide planners, engineers, local elected officials, and community leaders with the knowledge and skills needed to plan for bicycling as a means of active transportation (the transport of persons or goods using human power such as walking or biking). Bicycle-friendly communities provide health, environmental, and economic benefits for residents of your community. Topics of discussion will include:

- Bicycling and public health;
- Bike safety lesson;
- Bikeway network;
- Other infrastructure;
- Non-infrastructure programs;
- Implementation.

Cost to register - \$25, includes lunch

To register, visit <http://www.jotform.com/bicycleindiana/10521806908>.

For more info contact Mitch Barloga at (219) 763-6060 x 133 or mbarloga@nirpc.org.

5. Complete Streets workshop

May 3, 2011

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Berrien County Extension Main Office, Benton Harbor MI

Purpose of workshop: to train local officials and interested citizens on the following topics:

- Key components of Michigan's new Complete Streets legislation that every elected and appointed officials should know;
- An overview of Complete Streets concepts and practice;
- Best practices and Michigan examples;
- The 10 key principles to develop a local ordinance;
- Tools and resources that can be used to implement Complete Streets in a community; and
- Funding opportunities.

Cost to register - \$55, or \$45 for Michigan Citizen Planners.

To register, visit <http://citizenplanner.msu.edu/>. For more information contact Jessica McFarland by email at mcfarland@landpolicy.msu.edu or call 517.884.3957.

6. Bike to Work Week is May 16th – 20th, 2011

Please join us in celebrating Southwest Michigan Bike to Work week (in recognition of National Bike to Work Week) May 16th – 20th, 2011. Communities throughout Southwest Michigan are passing resolutions supporting Bike to Work Week in their communities. Download a sample resolution at http://swmpc.org/twincats_fy_11.asp.

Stay tuned for a listing of events throughout the region during that week. Part of the week's events will include public input meetings for the Walk & Roll TwinCATS initiative. The dates for the open house-style meetings will be as follows:

- May 16th, 1:00pm – 4:00pm, Lincoln Township Hall
- May 17th, 4:00pm – 7:00pm, St. Joseph Public Library
- May 18th, 4:00pm – 7:00pm, Michigan Works! Benton Harbor
- May 19th, 4:00pm – 7:00pm, Bridgman Public Library

For more information about the Walk & Roll TwinCATS initiative, visit <http://swmpc.org/walkbiketwincats.asp>.

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