



## SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN PLANNING COMMISSION

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

Phone: 269-925-1137 • Website: [www.swmpc.org](http://www.swmpc.org)

March 11, 2011

### Twin Cities Area Transportation Updates

#### 1. Transportation & the Environment workshop

**Tuesday March 22, 2011**

**1:30 PM – 4:30 PM**

Andrews University, Lincoln Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Campus Center)  
Berrien Springs, MI



*Note: This workshop replaces the regular Twin Cities Area Transportation Study meeting that would have been held on Monday, March 21, 2011 at the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport.*

**Purpose of workshop:** for local government officials, engineers, and anyone with an interest in the environment to come together to discuss the following topics:

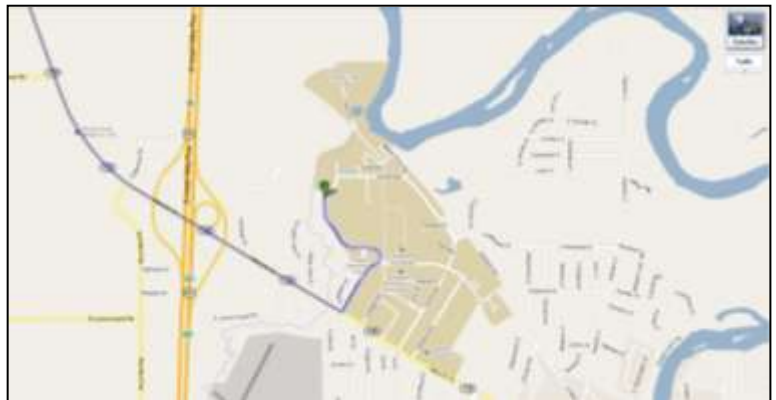
- What impact does the transportation system have on our water resources?
- What approaches and solutions are available to better protect water quality and reduce flooding risk?
- Help identify opportunities and action items for southwest Michigan!

Please distribute the enclosed flyer to encourage others to attend.

RSVP to Anna Rahtz or Trevor Thomas at the contact information below. No cost to attend. Lunch can be purchased prior to the session in the adjacent cafeteria for \$7. The meeting room will be open for eating lunch before the session begins at 1:30 PM.

#### ***Directions to Campus Center:***

From M139, turn onto Campus Boulevard, the main gateway entrance to campus. Go around the roundabout to turn left onto Westwood Drive. Park in the unrestricted lot on the corner just past the roundabout and walk around to the front entrance of the Campus Center. Lincoln Room is on second floor next to the cafeteria.



[Click here to view the Campus Map.](#) (CC is the Campus Center, and parking is allowed in the blue unrestricted lots.)

## 2. Transportation Funding 201 workshop - postponed

The sequel to the November 22, 2010 Transportation 101 workshop had previously been advertised for March 28, 2011 but is being indefinitely postponed. More information will follow.

## 3. Southwest Michigan Trails Workshop Series

### *Construction and Engineering: Get Your Project Built*

**April 14, 2011**

**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

MDOT Southwest Region Office, 1501 Kilgore Rd., Kalamazoo MI 49001

### *Funding – How to Get It!*

**April 28, 2011**

**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

MDOT Southwest Region Office, 1501 Kilgore Rd., Kalamazoo MI 49001

### *Promoting Your Trails Successfully to the Public*

**May 12, 2011**

**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

MDOT Southwest Region Office, 1501 Kilgore Rd., Kalamazoo MI 49001

Cost to register - \$10 per workshop or \$25 for all three

To register, contact Sharon Nunnelee at [director@wmtrails.org](mailto:director@wmtrails.org) or (616) 485-7805

Or download the registration form at <http://swmpc.org/trailsworkshop.asp>.

## 4. 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](mailto:mcfarland@landpolicy.msu.edu) or call 517.884.3957.

## 5. Bike to Work Week is May 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Please join us in celebrating Southwest Michigan Bike to Work week (in recognition of National Bike to Work Week) May 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 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](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 16<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm – 4:00pm, Lincoln Township Hall
- May 17<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm – 7:00pm, St. Joseph Public Library
- May 18<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm – 7:00pm, Michigan Works! Benton Harbor
- May 19<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm – 7:00pm, Bridgman Public Library

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

## 6. Community Needs Assessment Survey

The Disability Network of Southwest Michigan is conducting a survey to find out about issues facing residents of Southwest Michigan and how well their needs are being served. The survey applies to people with or without disabilities. Please take a few minutes to [fill out this survey](#)!

## 7. New Pothole Reporting Tool

The Drive Michigan Coalition is asking you to report locations where you have seen potholes in the road, by visiting <http://www.drivemi.org/ReportaPothole.aspx>. This information will be used to demonstrate the need for investment in preserving the condition of roads across the State of Michigan.

## 8. New Resources in Online Library

Please visit [http://swmpc.org/trans\\_library.asp](http://swmpc.org/trans_library.asp) for a comprehensive listing of resources and best practices tools related to transportation planning and transportation funding. The **Transportation 101 guide** (in the Transportation Planning section of the library) was recently released by Transportation 4 America to help citizens navigate federal transportation policies, through past, present, and future. There are also multiple resources in the Transportation Funding section related to the current funding situation for roads and transit.

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For more information about the Twin Cities Area Transportation Study, visit <http://swmpc.org/twincats.asp> or contact Anna Rahtz or Trevor Thomas at the contact information above.

Follow TwinCATS on [facebook](#).

Please feel free to contact us for more information about any of the above events.

Sincerely,

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