

**TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
**TECHNICAL ADVISORY and POLICY COMMITTEES MEETING**  
**Monday, July 15, 2024**  
**9:30 am**

---

**In Person:** Kinexus (Michigan Works!) **Anchor Room A**  
499 W Main St, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

**Web:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9489277047?pwd=RzkydlFacGFHNkVWeURpak1kSEcxUT09>

**Audio:** Call in Number: 1 (312) 626-6799  
Meeting ID: 948 927 7047  
Passcode: 000619

---

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Changes to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of May 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes *Enclosed (Action)* Pg 2
5. SWMPC Staff Report
6. Local Road Agency Updates
7. Transit Updates & Amendment *Enclosed (Action)* Pg. 6
8. MDOT Project Updates Pg. 7
9. Amendment Request *Enclosed (Action)* Pg. 9
10. Non-motorized Project Amendments *Enclosed (Action)*
  - Lakeshore Trail Pg. 10
  - S. Roosevelt Multi-Use Path Pg. 11
11. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment
12. Adjournment

Comments can be sent prior to the meeting to Brandon Kovnat at [kovnatb@swmpc.org](mailto: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](mailto:gallagherk@swmpc.org)

**TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**  
Monday, May 20, 2024 Meeting Attendance

TWINCATS MEMBER	MEMBERS	TAC	POL	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Benton Charter Township	Richard Royal	x	x	V		V	V	A							
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners	Ray Bell		x	V		A	A	A							
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Paul Gillespie	x		A		P	P	P							
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	(Vacant)		x	A											
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	(Vacant)		x	A											
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	Kevin Stack	x		P		A	A	P							
City of Benton Harbor	(Vacant)		x	A		A	A								
City of Benton Harbor	Tim Drews	x	Alt	P		P	P	P							
City of Bridgman	Juan Ganum	Alt	x	V		A	V	V							
City of Bridgman	(Vacant)	x	Alt												
City of St. Joseph	John Hodgson		x	A		V	A	A							
City of St. Joseph	Tim Zebell (TAC V. Ch.)	x		V		P	P	A							
Cornerstone Alliance	Vacant	x	x												
Disability Network of SW Mich.	Cindy Gray	x		A		P	P	P							
Hagar Township	(Vacant)	x	x												
Lake Charter Township	(Vacant)	x	x												
Lincoln Charter Township	Dick Stauffer (Pol. Ch.)		x	P		P	A	P							
Lincoln Charter Township	Terrie Smith	x		V		P	P	V							
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	V		V	P	P							
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Richard Bayus	Alt	Alt	A		A	A	A							
MDOT – Southwest Region	Adrian Stroupe	x	x			P	P	P							
MDOT – Southwest Region	Josh Grab	Alt	Alt	V		P	A	A							
MDOT – Trans. Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	V		V	V	A							
Royalton Township	Steve Tilly	x	x	V		A	A	A							
Sodus Township	David Chandler	x	x	A		A	A	A							
Southwest Mich. Regional Airport	Vince Desjardins	x	x	A		A	V	V							
St. Joseph Charter Township	Denise Cook		x	P		P	P	P							
St. Joseph Charter Township	Roger Seeley	x		P		P	P	P							
	Jonathan Fisk	Alt		P		V	A	P							
Twin Cities Area Trans. Authority	Rufas Adams	x	x	P		A	P	P							
Village of Grand Beach	(Vacant)	x	x												
Village of Shoreham	Mike Allard	x	x	V		V	V	V							
Village of Stevensville	Kacey Dominguez		x	V		P	P	P							
Village of Stevensville	Tim Drews	x	Alt	P		P	P	P							
Federal Highway Administration	Andrew Sibold	x	x	A		A	A	A							
Federal Transit Administration	Kathleen Russel	x	x	V		A	A	A							
MDOT - Modeling	Katie Beck	x		A		A	A	A							
MDOT - Passenger Division	Fred Featherly	x		V		V	V	A							
Northwestern Ind. Reg. Plan. Comm.	Scott Weber	x	x	P		A	A	A							
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	x	x	P		P	P	P							
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Brandon Kovnat			P		P	P	P							

Pol. Ch. - Policy Chair; TAC Ch. - TAC Chair; Alt – Alternate; P – Present in person; V – Participating remotely; A – Absent; A blank spot means the position is vacant.

Others Present: Alan Smaka, St. Joseph Township; Alex Austin, City of St. Joseph; terry Martin, Carrier & Gable Inc.

**TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE  
Monday, May 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes

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

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

2. **Changes to the Agenda**

Gallagher suggested that due to the numerous items requiring approval, the committees could vote on all business items with a single motion, if there was no dissent.

3. **Public Comment**

None.

4. **Approval of The April 15, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

**Motion** to approve the minutes from the April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, TwinCATS combined Policy and Technical Advisory Committee meeting as included in the meeting packet. Made by Jim Sturdevant and seconded by Denise Cook. **Motion approved.**

5. **SWMPC Staff Report**

Gallagher gave a presentation on the Michigan Infrastructure Office (MIO), Technical Assistance Center (TAC). The TAC offers support for grant identification, grant writing, and match assistance. She highlighted the Safet Streets for All grant, a federal program aimed at reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries. To be awarded funding for safety improvement under this program, agencies need a safety action plan, which the grant can also fund.

6. **Local Road Agency Updates**

All FY 2024 projects, except the Colfax Ave. reconstruction in Benton Harbor, have been obligated. Details on construction timelines will be presented when available.

Tim Drews reported that the Colfax Ave. Reconstruction still requires SHPPO approval, which he expects to occur in about a month.

7. **Transit Updates and Amendments**

Gallagher presented the latest Berrien County transit service map, highlighting that 22% of the county falls within an urban area without transit service. Paul Gillespie stressed the seriousness of this issue, noting that he must deny service to many potential riders.

Rufas Adamas presented three amendments for TCATA (*See Meeting Packet page 5 for amendment details*).

8. **MDOT Project Updates and Amendments**

*See Meeting Packet page 7 for details on MDOT projects.*

Stroupe gave an update about the M-63/I-94BL/Main Street Rebuilding Project in St. Joseph. The most recent public meeting, held last Thursday, had 27 attendees. The plan includes converting Port and Ship Streets from one-way to two-way traffic and eliminating street parking on Main Street. For bicycle accommodation, Main Street will have Sharrows, not a dedicated bike lane. However, there was support for bike lanes to be added along Church Street, which runs parallel to Main Street a block east. The next public meeting for the project will be late this year or early next year. Construction is expected to occur in 2027.

Stroupe provided a brief update on the I-94 Reconstruction project, stating that bridge beams were laid at Exit 23. Details about road closures and detours will be emailed to the committee.

9. **Update to the TwinCATS Policy Committee and Technical Advisory Committee Bylaws**

Gallagher presented the proposed bylaw changes. The TwinCATS Planning area was expanded to cover the entire 2020 Adjusted Census Urban Area, resulting in the addition of three new member communities. She then explained the reasoning for the removal of three non-voting members. The Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition has been inactive for several years, although she hopes to start a similar group again. Disability Network fulfills the role of the Regional Interagency Consumers Committee. The TCATA Local Agency Committee is being removed because it is uncommon for a LAC to be a member of an MPO committee.

Gallagher further explained that the quorum clause is being revised for clarity. Although the bylaws do not explicitly state whether members must be present in person, the Open Meetings Act states that only members attending in person are counted for voting.

10. **2026-2029 Project Prioritization Criteria**

Kovnat discussed the major changes between the 2023-2026 Project Prioritization Criteria and the proposed 2026-2029 Project Prioritization Criteria. The biggest change is to the safety section, which will now prioritize addressing fatal and serious injury crashes, instead of scoring based on the total number of crashes.

Gallagher added that the prioritization criteria is a valuable in the selection process, but other factors can also be considered.

11. **TwinCATS FY 2025 Unified Work Program**

Gallagher discussed the Unified Work Program, stating that much of the content is required language with similar tasks each year. A new task for 2025 will be the review of functional classifications for roads, which could change some local roads to federal aid eligible. Classification changes will need to be supported by the MPO committees.

12. **Approval of New Business**

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the following:

- The Amendments to the TwinCATS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program as included in the meeting packet
- The Draft TwinCATS Technical Advisory Committee Bylaws as posted online
- The Draft TwinCATS Policy Committee Bylaws as posted online
- The 2026-2029 Project Prioritization Criteria as posted online
- The TwinCATS FY 2025 Unified Work Program, as posted online, with any minor changes requested by MDOT.

The motion was made by Kevin Stack and seconded by Roger Seeley. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation for the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Jim Sturtevant and seconded by Juan Ganum. Motion Approved.

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

Stack mentioned that he had given a tour of the non-motorized projects on Red Arrow Highway to MDOT TAP coordinators. He explained that they had a TAP project this year, and were not doing a non-motorized project in 2025 but were going to apply for a large TAP grant for 2026.

There was a question about whether the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) would be available for the 2027-2029 Cal for Projects. Kovnat explained that the CRP was part of the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Like all transportation bills, it has a 5-year time frame, and the IIJA will expire at the end of FY 2026. This means that officially, the CRP funding is not authorized beyond FY 2026, but it is possible for the next transportation law to include CRP, and historically it has also been common for transportation laws to be extended beyond 5 years.

14. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 AM. The next TwinCATS meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 17, 2024, at 9:30 AM.

*Minutes Compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Planner*

DRAFT

Requested Changes

	<b>Last Approved by TwiNCATS</b>	<b>Current/Requested</b>
Year	2023	2024
Description	Van Purchase	Bus Replacement

Budget		FY 2024 Transit GPA	
Source	Amount	Current	
FTA 5307	\$180,000	Add	\$590,201
CTF Match	\$45,000	New Total	\$225,000
Total Estimate	\$225,000	Increase	\$815,201
			38.1%

The cost of the project will remain the same but moving it from 2023 to 2024 will cause an increase to the 2024 GPA greater than 25% requiring an amendment.

# Michigan Department of Transportation Projects

## Within the TwinCATS Planning Area

Updated June 26, 2024 by Jon Smith, MDOT Coloma TSC Engineer – [smithj29@michigan.gov](mailto:smithj29@michigan.gov)

### Projects Completed

#### Hagar Township

**Project:** I-196 from Coloma Rd. to Central Ave. –HMA Overlay (JN 216907)

**Status:** Construction in progress.

**Est. Con:** May 6, 2024 – May 25, 2024

#### City of St. Joseph

**Project:** M-63 - I-94BL/ Main St. and Port St. – Install pedestrian signals at intersection (JN 208843)

**Status:** This is a non-let force account project.

**Est. Con:** Unknown

### Projects Currently Under Construction

#### St. Joseph and Lincoln Township

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

**Status:** Construction in progress.

**Est Con:** Dec. 17, 2023 – Oct. 31 2024

#### Chikaming Township

**Project:** I-94 at Sawyer Exit 16 – Wrong way movement prevention (JN 209467)

**Status:** Construction in progress.

**Est con:** Jan. 18, 2024 – Dec. 13, 2024

#### Lincon, St. Joseph, and Benton Township

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

**Status:** Construction in progress. Currently working on WB I-94 from Exit 23 to Washington Ave.

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

#### Sodus Township

**Project:** US-31 in Sodus Township – Bridge structural maintenance (JN 212705)

**Status:** Construction will begin soon.

**Est. Con:** Apr. 1, 2024 – Oct. 31, 2024

#### Royalton Township

**Project:** M-139 North of Tanglewood Trl. – Culvert reconstruction (JN 208843)

**Status:** Tree Work Completed. Detour implemented on May 1<sup>st</sup> for culvert work. Closure is expected to last through Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Est. Con:** Jan 22, 2024 – Sep. 13, 2024

### Projects Scheduled for Construction in 2025

#### Benton Township

**Project:** I-94 from Pavement Change east of I-196 to Hennessey Road – HMA Overlay (JN 128907)

**Status:** Design in progress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Final Project Coordination Review held. December 2024 letting.

## **Projects Scheduled for Construction in 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:** Base plans (30%) are anticipated in late-June. Resubmitted for federal MPDG grant (Rural/INFRA).

### **City of St. Joseph**

**Project:** M-63 & I-94BL Bridges over St. Joseph River – Reconstruction (JN 211989)

**Status:** Design in progress.

### **Various Location in Berrien County**

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

**Status:** Design in Progress

## **Projects Scheduled for Construction in 2027**

### **City of St. Joseph**

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

**Status:** Early Preliminary engineering (EPE) public outreach completed with completion of EPE report in progress.  
Preliminary engineering phase starting soon.

### **Lincoln Township**

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

**Status:** Design will begin in 2024

### **Hagar Township**

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

**Status:** Design will begin in 2024. Surveys completed.



# MDOT Amendment Requests

As of July 8, 2024

**Fiscal year:** 2024 **Phase:** CON **Job Number:** 221347  
**Project:** Rehabilitate 7 hydraulic Cylinders on the Bicentennial Bascule Bridge  
**Location:** I-94 Business Loop over St. Joseph River  
**Amendment:** Add CON phase for a new project

	Federal BFP	State	Total
<b>CON</b>	\$429,713	\$95,288	\$525,00

**Fiscal year:** 2025 **Phase:** PE & CON **Job Number:** 219294  
**Project:** Overband Crack Fill or asphalt crack treatment on I-94 and US-131 locations  
**Location:** Sixteen trunkline locations in Southwest Michigan  
**Amendment:** Change Length to add a segment outside of the Twins Area (US-12 in Coldwater)

	Current	Proposed
<b>Length</b>	55.333 miles	56.392

**Fiscal year:** 2025 **Phase:** PE & CON **Job Number:** 209624  
**Project:** Special pavement markings in southwest region  
**Location:** All trunkline routes in the Southwest Region  
**Amendment:** Abandoning project to combine longline and special marking projects into one job (JN 209623).

**Fiscal year:** 2025 **Phase:** PE & CON **Job Number:** 209623  
**Project:** Longitudinal and special pavement marking application on trunklines in Southwest Region  
**Location:** All trunkline routes in the Southwest Region  
**Amendment:** Cost increase to add in the work from JN 209624.

	Current		
	Federal HSIP	State	Total
<b>PE</b>	\$1,278	\$142	\$1,420
<b>CON</b>	\$210,290	\$23,366	\$233,655
<b>Total</b>	\$211,568	\$23,508	\$235,075

	Proposed		
	Federal HSIP	State	Total
	\$2,556	\$284	\$2,840
	\$288,711	\$32,079	\$320,790
	\$291,267	\$32,363	\$323,630

# South Roosevelt Road Shared Use Path

Date: 7/8/2024

To: TwinCATS TAC and Policy Committees

From: Brandon Miras on behalf of Lincoln Charter Township

## Project Details

Fiscal Year:	2024/2025	MDOT Job Number: TBD
Responsible Agency	Lincoln Charter Township / Berrien County Road Department	
Project/Road Name	Roosevelt Road Non-motorized Path	
Limits	Hidden Pines Trail to Marquette Woods Road	

## Work Description

Extend the non-motorized path on Roosevelt Road over Hickory Creek to Marquette Woods Rd.

## Programmed Project Cost

<b>Total Participating Cost</b>	\$2,165,000
Federal HIP Earmark	\$1,500,000
Local Match	\$665,000

## Project Timeline

Project Milestone	Estimated Date	Actual Date Completed	Comments
Submit program application to LAP		3/13/2020	
Submit program NEPA form 5323 to LAP	7/20/2024		
Receive NEPA Approval	8/12/2024		
Receive SHPO Approval		5/29/2019	
Submit Grade Inspection packages to LAP	8/12/2024		
Grade Inspection meeting date	9/11/2024		
Submit Final ROW Certification to LAP	8/26/2024		
Submit the Complete Biddable Package to LAP	10/18/2024		
Letting Date	1/10/2025		
Construction Start	5/1/2025		

**Additional Comments:** This project was originally programmed for 2020 using CMAQ funding but was abandoned due to increasing costs resulting in no acceptable bids.

# Lakeshore Trail Cost Change

Date: 7/8/2024

To: TwinCATS TAC and Policy Committees

From: SWMP Staff

---

## Project Details

Fiscal Year:	2025	MDOT Job Number: 218839
Responsible Agency	Berrien County Road Department	
Project/Road Name	Lakeshore Trail / Along M-63	
Limits	Monte Road to Higman Park Road	
Work Description	Construct a 2.5 mile path along M-63 from Higman Park Rd. to the Whirlpool headquarters.	

## Cost Change

	Last Approved	Current/Proposed
Statewide TAP	\$1,608,766	\$2,109,649
Local Match	\$402,191	\$527,412
<b>Total Estimate</b>	<b>\$2,010,957</b>	<b>\$2,637,061</b>

**Notes:** TAP funding remains at 80% of the total construction estimate.