

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE and POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, October 21, 2024
9:30 am

In Person: Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
374 W Main Street, Suite 130, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Web: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9489277047?pwd=RzkydIFacGFHNkVWeURpak1kSEcxUT09>

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 July 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes (*Action*) pg. 2
5. SWMPC Staff Report
6. Local Road Agency Updates pg. 5
 - 6.1. Local Project Updates
 - 6.2. Discussion about an NFC Request from the City of Bridgman
 - 6.3. Carbon Reduction Program Amendment Requests (*Action*) pg. 13
7. Transit Updates (TCATA)
8. MDOT Updates
 - 8.1. MDOT Project Updates pg. 11
 - 8.2. MDOT Amendment Requests (*Action*) pg. 13
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, July 15, 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		V					
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners	Ray Bell		x	V		A	A	A		A					
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Paul Gillespie	x		A		P	P	P		P					
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	(Vacant)		x	A											
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	Mark Heyliger		x	A						P					
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	Kevin Stack	x		P		A	A	P		P					
City of Benton Harbor	(Vacant)		x	A		A	A								
City of Benton Harbor	Tim Drews	x	Alt	P		P	P	P		P					
City of Bridgman	Juan Ganum	Alt	x	V		A	V	V		V					
City of Bridgman	(Vacant)	x	Alt												
City of St. Joseph	John Hodgson		x	A		V	A	A		A					
City of St. Joseph	Tim Zebell (TAC V. Ch.)	x		V		P	P	A		V					
Cornerstone Alliance	Vacant	x	x												
Disability Network of SW Mich.	Cindy Gray	x		A		P	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		P					
Lincoln Charter Township	Terrie Smith	x		V		P	P	V		V					
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	V		V	P	P		P					
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Richard Bayus	Alt	Alt	A		A	A	A		A					
MDOT – Southwest Region	Adrian Stroupe	x	x			P	P	P		P					
MDOT – Southwest Region	Josh Grab	Alt	Alt	V		P	A	A		A					
MDOT – Trans. Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	V		V	V	A		V					
Royalton Township	Steve Tilly	x	x	V		A	A	A		A					
Sodus Township	David Chandler	x	x	A		A	A	A		A					
Southwest Mich. Regional Airport	Vince Desjardins	x	x	A		A	V	V		A					
St. Joseph Charter Township	Denise Cook		x	P		P	P	P		P					
St. Joseph Charter Township	Roger Seeley	x		P		P	P	P		P					
	Jonathan Fisk	Alt		P		V	A	P		P					
Twin Cities Area Trans. Authority	Rufas Adams	x	x	P		A	P	P		A					
Village of Grand Beach	(Vacant)	x	x												
Village of Shoreham	Mike Allard	x	x	V		V	V	V		A					
Village of Stevensville	Kacey Dominguez		x	V		P	P	P		A					
Village of Stevensville	Tim Drews	x	Alt	P		P	P	P		P					
Federal Highway Administration	Andrew Sibold	x	x	A		A	A	A		A					
Federal Transit Administration	Kathleen Russel	x	x	V		A	A	A		A					
MDOT - Modeling	Katie Beck	x		A		A	A	A		A					
MDOT - Passenger Division	Fred Featherly	x		V		V	V	A		V					
Northwestern Ind. Reg. Plan. Comm.	Scott Weber	x	x	P		A	A	A		A					
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	x	x	P		P	P	P		P					
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Brandon Kovnat			P		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**

None.

3. **Public Comment**

None.

4. **Approval of The May 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from the April 15th, 2024, TwinCATS combined Policy and Technical Advisory Committee meeting as included in the meeting packet. Made by Jim Sturdevant and seconded by Roger Seeley.

Motion approved.

5. **SWMPC Staff Report**

Gallagher gave an update on the 2026-2029 TIP development process. The Call for projects was emailed to all TwinCATS members the last week of June. Applications are due on Friday September 27th. The CMAQ and Carbon Reduction call for projects will be sent out at the end of July or early August. MDOT should have funding estimates for all programs by the end of August, but they expect the funding to be similar to previous years.

6. **Local Road Agency Updates**

All 2023 projects have been constructed. The Berrien County Road Department is scheduling construction dates for their 2024 projects.

Drews gave an update on the City of Benton Harbor's projects:

Colfax Avenue Reconstruction: The project is being held up by the MDOT archeologist who has classified the area as an archeologically and tribally sensitive. They require a fulltime archeologist present during construction which will cost the city approximately \$80,000, which the city does not have.

Empire and Colfax Signal: Construction will start in the fall. Delivery times for mast arms is 6 months, so construction should be completed next spring.

Jefferson Street Rehabilitation: Construction will begin shortly

7. **Transit Updates**

Gallagher gave an update for TCATA. Rufus Adams, the director of TCATA, has resigned. Todd Schurn, a Howard University professor who had worked on the University of Michigan plan for TCATA, will serve as interim director for 6 weeks. Leadership after this is uncertain. The FTA triennial audit will occur in September, and the state has offered to assist TCATA with this.

Gallagher presented ridership and financial trends for TCATA's Dial A Ride service from 2019-2023, highlighting the impacts of COVID-19 and subsequent recovery efforts. She emphasized that the system has not yet regained its pre-pandemic ridership levels. Service hours have fallen by 25% while total ridership dropped by 52%, leading to a 124% increase in the cost per passenger.

Gillespie commented again that this further supports the need for a single countywide transit system. He highlighted that there is now 22% of the county which is in an urban area without transit service.

8. **TCATA Amendment Request**

See meeting packet page 6 for amendment details

Gallagher briefly explained the amendment, explaining that by switching a project from 2023 to 2024, it increases the cost in 2024 by over 25%.

9. **MDOT Project Updates**

See meeting packet page 7 and 8 for MDOT project updates.

M-139 Project Update: Jon Smith reported that the base plans for the M-139 project were completed and sent to stakeholders. MDOT is seeking a grant for this project. If the grant is awarded, the entire project from I-94 to I-94BL/Main Street will be constructed in 2026. If the grant is not received, only the section from Napier to I-94BL/Main Street will be constructed in 2026, with the southern portion planned for 2030 or 2031.

Main Street/M-63 project in St. Joseph: Smith reported that the EPE phase for the project is wrapping up and the plans were sent to the city for approval.

10. **MDOT Project Amendments**

See meeting packet page 9 for amendment details

Gallagher noted that the hydraulics for the Bicentennial Bridge, which carries I-94BL/Main Street over the St. Joseph River, require urgent repairs. This is why approving the project now is critical. Smith added that plans would be turned in in about 2 weeks, with letting occurring in October.

11. **Non-motorized Project Amendments**

See meeting packet page 9 and 10 for amendment details

Roosevelt Path: Dick Stauffer explained that the project began in 2017, with designs completed and bids in 2019. But costs came in too high and the project didn't move forward. Congressman Tim Walberg was looking for shovel ready projects to award earmark funds, and Stauffer presented this project. The high cost is due to the design standards required for the bridge over Hickory creek. Stack added that the existing plans and permits from 2019 have not expired, and MDOT approval should be simple.

Lakeshore Trail: Gallagher mentioned that there was a cost increase for the project, with statewide TAP funding increasing proportionally, to remain at 80% of the total.

12. **Amendment Approvals**

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the amendments to the TwinCATS 2023-2026 transportation Improvement Program as contained in the meeting packet. Made by Kevin Stack and seconded by Tim Drews. **Motion approved.**

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

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

Stack mentioned that he had given a tour of Red Arrow Highway to MDOT TAP staff. The Road Department will be applying for TAP funding for the next phase of the Red Arrow Path, and will work with Bridgman and Stevensville. Getting a connection through the City of St. Joseph will be the next hurdle.

14. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM. The next TwinCATS meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 19, 2024, at 9:30 AM.

Minutes Compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Planner

Colfax Avenue Project Update

Job Number: 215936

Filled out by: Tim Drews

Date: 09/30/2024

Project Details

Fiscal Year	2024
Responsible Agency	Benton Harbor
Project/Road Name	Colfax Ave
Limits	Market Street to Main Street (I-94 BL)

Work Description

Reconstruction

Programed Cost

Total Participating Estimate	\$1,420,357	100%
Federal STBG 2024	\$975,271	68.66%
Federal STBG 2025 ACC	\$187,291	13.19%
Total Federal Funds	\$1,162,562	81.85%
Local Match	\$257,795	18.15%
Non Participating	\$850,000	NA
Total with Non Participating	\$2,2730,357	

Revised Project Costs

	Amount	Percent Increase
Latest Estimate	\$2,568,750	+13%
Accepted Bid		

Explanation for cost changes: Factors in recent bid pricing and includes non-participating water and sanitary sewer items

Project Timeline

Project Milestone	Est. Date	Actual Date Completed	Comments
Request ProjectWise folder			
Submit Sec. 106 Cultural Resources form		11/10/23	
Submit NEPA form 5323		11/10/23	
Receive SHPO approval			
Receive NEPA approval			
Submit Grade Inspection package		1/8/24	
Hold Grade Inspection meeting		1/19/24	
Receive final property acquisition certification			
Submit complete biddable package			
Letting date	12/6/24		
Construction start	Spring 2025		
Construction end			

Additional Comments on project Status: Project required an Inadvertent Discovery Plan (IDP) due to Tribal consultation.

Botham Avenue

Date: 9/30/2024

To: TwinCATS Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee
 From: Tim Zebell on behalf of the City of St. Joseph

Project Details

Fiscal Year:	2025	MDOT Job Number:	215937
Responsible Agency	St. Joseph		
Project/Road Name	Botham Ave		
Limits	South State Street to Niles Avenue (M-63)		

Work Description

Reconstruction

Programed Project Cost

Total Participating Estimate	\$840,000	100.00%
Federal STBG- Rural	\$687,540	81.85%
Local Match	\$152,460	18.15%
Non Participating	\$577,000	
Total with Non Participating	\$729,460	

Revised Project Costs

	Amount	Percent Change
Latest Estimate		
Accepted Bid		
Explanation for cost changes: <i>[enter a brief explanation for why the cost has changed such as if it was due to a change in work/scop or due to revised material/labor estimates]:</i>		

Project Timeline

Project Milestone	Estimated	Actual Date	Comments
Submit program application to LAP			
Submit program NEPA form 5323 to LAP			
Receive NEPA Approval			
Receive SHPO Approval			
Submit Grade Inspection packages to LAP			
Grade Inspection meeting date		08/30/2024	
Submit Final ROW Certification to LAP			
Submit the Complete Biddable Package to LAP	10/18/2024		
Letting Date	January 2025		
Construction Start			

Additional Comments on project Status: Consulting engineer ROWE is working on the final plan submittal

Cleveland Avenue Project Update

Job Number: 221088

Filled out by: Tim Zebell

Date: 09/30/2024

Project Details

Fiscal Year	2025
Responsible Agency	St. Joseph
Project/Road Name	Cleveland Ave
Limits	Hilltop Rd to Lakeshore Dr

Work Description

Mill and resurface

Programed Cost

Total Participating Estimate	\$647,500	100.00%
Federal STBG 2025	\$238,542	36.84%
Federal STBG 2026	\$280,000	43.24%
Total Federal Funds	\$518,542	80.08%
Local Match	\$128,958	19.92%
Non Participating	\$300,000	
Total with Non Participating	\$947,500	

Revised Project Costs

	Amount	Percent Increase
Latest Estimate		
Accepted Bid		

Explanation for cost changes: *[enter a brief explanation for why the cost has changed such as if it was due to a change in work/scope or due to revised material/labor estimates]:*

Project Timeline

Project Milestone	Est. Date	Actual Date Completed	Comments
Request ProjectWise folder			
Submit Sec. 106 Cultural Resources form			
Submit NEPA form 5323		09/09/2024	
Receive SHPO approval			
Receive NEPA approval			
Submit Grade Inspection package	01/06/02025		
Hold Grade Inspection meeting			
Receive final property acquisition certification			
Submit complete biddable package			
Letting date	June 2025		
Construction start			
Construction end			

Additional Information on project Status: Design kickoff meeting was conducted on August 29,2024

Project Status

Date: 10/03/2024

For: TwinCATS

From: Berrien County Road Department

Currently Programed Project Information

Fiscal Year:	2024	MDOT Job Number:	215931
Responsible Agency	Berrien County Road Department		
Project/Road Name	Lincoln Ave.		
Limits	M-63 to Maiden Ln.		

Programed Project Cost

Work Description: HMA mill and fill.

Total Participating Cost:	\$300,000
Federal TwinCATS STBG:	\$241,500
Local Match:	\$58,500
Non-Participating:	NA

Revised Project Costs

	Amount	Percent Increase
Latest Estimate	<i>If same as programed enter NA</i>	
Accepted Bid	471,871.46	NA

Explanation for cost changes: *[enter a brief explanation for why the cost has changed such as if it was due to a change in work/scope or due due to revised material/labor estimates]:*

Project Status

Project Milestone	Estimated Date	Actual Date Completed	Comments
Submit program application to LAP		12/08/2023	
Submit program NEPA form 5323 to LAP		09/20/2023	
Receive NEPA Approval		11/17/2023	
Receive SHPO Approval		11/17/2023	
Submit Grade Inspection packages to LAP		10/20/2023	
Grade Inspection meeting date		10/20/2023	
Submit Final ROW Certification to LAP		12/08/2023	
Submit the Complete Biddable Package to LAP		12/08/2023	
Letting Date		03/2024	
Construction Start		9/2024	

Additional Comments on project Status:

Project Status

Date: 10/2/2024

To: TwinCATS Committee

From: Lincoln Charter Township on behalf of the Berrien County Road Department

Current Project Information

Fiscal Year:	2025	MDOT Job Number:	215348
Responsible Agency	Berrien County Road Department / Lincoln Township		
Project/Road Name	John Beers Rd		
Limits	S. Roosevelt Rd. to Demarrow Rd.		

Programed Project Cost

Work Description: Construct 6 ft. sidewalks on both sides of the road

Total Participating Cost	\$927,300
Federal CMAQ 2026	\$400,000
Federal CRP 2024	\$72,506
Federal CRP 2026	\$31,594
State Rep Special Grant	\$400,000
Local Match	\$23,200

Revised Project Costs

	Amount	Percent Increase
Latest Estimate	NA	
Accepted Bid		

Explanation for cost changes: [enter a brief explanation for why the cost has changed such as if it was due to a change in work/scope or due to revised material/labor estimates]:

Project Status

Project Milestone	Estimated Date	Actual Date Completed	Comments
Submit program application to LAP	4/8/24	8/30/2024	
Submit program NEPA form 5323 to LAP	3/8/24	8/29/2024	First Submitted on 12/18/2023
Receive NEPA Approval	8/26/24	9/3/2024	
Receive SHPO Approval	8/26/24	6/20/2024	
Submit Grade Inspection packages to LAP	4/8/24	4/9/2024	
Grade Inspection meeting date	5/8/24	4/23/2024	
Submit Final ROW Certification to LAP	6/7/24	8/2/2024	
Submit the Complete Biddable Package to LAP	6/21/24	7/12/2024	
Letting Date	11/1/24		
Construction Start	6/5/25		

Additional Comments on project Status: Funding was obligated on September 16, 2024. The project will be in the November or December MDOT letting.

Roosevelt Road Path Project Update

Filled out by: Brandon Miras on behalf of Lincoln Charter Township

Date: 10/03/2024

Project Details

Fiscal Year:	2025	MDOT Job Number:	221509
Responsible Agency	Lincoln Township / Berrien County Road Department		
Project/Road Name	S. Roosevelt Road		
Limits	Hidden Pines Trail to Marquette Woods Rd.		

Work Description:

Construct a non-motorized shared use path

Programed Project Cost

Total Participating Estimate	\$2,165,000	100.00%
Federal Earmark	\$1,500,000	69.28%
Local Match	\$665,000	30.72%

Revised Project Costs

	Amount	Percent Change
Latest Estimate		
Accepted Bid		

Explanation for cost changes: *[enter a brief explanation for why the cost has changed such as if it was due to a change in work/scope or due to revised material/labor estimates]:*

Project Timeline

Project Milestone	Est. Date	Actual Date	Comments
Request ProjectWise folder	7/16/2024	7/30/2024	
Submit Sec. 106 Cultural Resources form	8/15/2024	8/15/2024	
Submit NEPA form 5323	8/7/2024	8/7/2024	
Receive SHPO approval	8/16/2024	8/16/2024	
Receive NEPA approval	10/31/2024		
Submit Grade Inspection package	11/04/2024		
Hold Grade Inspection meeting	12/4/2024		
Receive final property acquisition certification	1/03/2025		
Submit complete biddable package	1/17/2025		
Letting date	04/04/2025		
Construction start	06/01/2025		

Additional Comments on project Status:

Michigan Department of Transportation Projects

Within the TwinCATS Planning Area

Updated October 8th, 2024 by Jon Smith, MDOT Coloma TSC Engineer – smithj29@michigan.gov

Projects Completed in FY 2024

Hagar Township

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

Status: complete.

Est. Con: Apr. 15, 2024 – May 25, 2024

Chikaming Township

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

Status: Complete

Est con: Apr. 15, 2024 – Jun. 30, 2024

Benton Township

Project: I-94 over Roslin Road – Bridge maintenance (JN 215059)

Status: Complete

Est con: Jun 08, 2024 – Sep. 30, 2024

Sodus Township

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

Status: Complete

Con: Apr. 29, 2024 – Oct. 1, 2024

Projects Currently Under Construction

Royalton Township

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

Status: Construction ongoing, completing road work items now that the settlement period has concluded.

Est. Con: May 1, 2024 – Nov. 15, 2024

Lincon, St. Joseph, and Benton Township

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

Status: Construction ongoing on I-94 EB between Exit 23 and Washington Ave. I-94 WB at M-139 ramp closures should be complete by 10/12/2024. Awaiting bridge beams for I-94 EB Exit 23 bridge. I-94 WB ramps at Exit 23 and Red Arrow Hwy under I-94 is currently 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: Construction in progress.

Est Con: Dec. 17, 2023 – Oct. 31 2024

Michigan Department of Transportation Projects

Within the TwinCATS Planning Area

Updated October 8th, 2024 by Jon Smith, MDOT Coloma TSC Engineer – smithj29@michigan.gov

Projects Scheduled for Construction in FY 2025

Benton Harbor/St. Joseph

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

Status: Let Oct. 4th, with bid 25.48% over Engineer's Estimate.

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

Benton Township

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

Status: Project on schedule for submittal in October for the December letting.

Est Con: Mar. 01, 2025 – Aug. 15, 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. Base plan review held 08/08/24. Public open house scheduled for 10/16/24. Plan review plans expected later this year.

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.

Bridgman

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

Status: Design will begin soon.

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: EPE phase report is nearly complete, all initial early stakeholder engagement is completed. CMGC delivery method contractor selection in progress.

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 will begin soon.

