



Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

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COMMITTEE REPORT

TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Date: September 9, 2009 (Wednesday)
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Place: Southwind Conference Room
(Down the hall from TCRPC offices)
913 W. Holmes Road, Suite 201
Lansing, MI 48910

OFFICERS

CHAIRPERSON

Carol Wood

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Dianne Holman

TREASURER

Larry Martin

SECRETARY

Howard Pizzo

COMMISSIONERS

Russel Bauerle
Kevin Beard
James Dravenstatt-Mocerri
Glenn Freeman, III
Eric Hewitt
Tim Kaltenbach
Art Luna
Brian McGrain
Ralph Monsma
David Pohl
Shirley M. Rodgers
Marsha Small
Carol Strachan
Darrell Tennis
John Veenstra

EX-OFFICIO

LANSING MAYOR

Virgil Bernero

COUNTY BOARD

CHAIRPERSONS

Joseph Brehler
Debbie DeLeon
Larry Martin

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jon W. Coleman

MINUTES

Attendance: See attached attendance sheet.

Staff Present: Paul Hamilton, Steve Skinker, Maria Habba

Ch/Bauerle called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.

I. Minutes

Ch/Bauerle said C/Pohl was erroneously listed as chairing the August meeting. Staff had corrected the error on the first page of the minutes and distributed replacement pages.

It was MOVED by C/Hewitt, SUPPORTED by C/Pizzo, to approve the minutes of August 12, 2009 as corrected. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Hamilton said information was distributed to CARTS members and the Commission on the upcoming rescission. Summary information was also distributed on the need for Congress to fill the approximate \$8 billion dollar rescission nationwide and either extend SAFETEA-LU or initiate a continuing resolution. Hamilton said Michigan is due to lose \$262 million dollars by October 1, 2009. In most cases, this money is sitting in an account where there hasn't been obligational authority to spend the money. Due to the nature of the rescission and because it's at the end of the current bill there could be impacts into the next fiscal year. Hamilton summarized the implications of this rescission (handouts were distributed of what was emailed to members). Amounts to be rescinded were shown on the handout. C/Hewitt asked which years are to be rescinded. Hamilton explained that for each program year (once the funds are obligated), there are three years to spend the money.

(Over)

Hamilton gave the following example of what obligational authority is. *If TCRPC is given \$1 dollar, with the obligation authority to spend 81 cents – the difference of 19 cents is the “limitation on obligational authority.” The 19 cents is placed in “reserve” and accumulates over the years.* Limits on obligational authority are used by Congress to make up for shortages in the trust fund.

Hamilton was notified that Michigan will receive \$29 million dollars in additional obligational authority from other states.

Hamilton said an extension of the current law will allow funds to be distributed across the various programs, and a continuing resolution would allow us to only spend funds out of balances on hand. Either way, Hamilton said something must be done. Hamilton provided the distributed information in an effort to educate members on the potential impacts of this rescission. He encouraged members to speak to their congressional delegations to encourage the passage of an extension of the current transportation bill that includes new apportionments and eliminates the rescission. Hamilton offered to address any questions. Eric Mullin, MDOT, may also be contacted with questions.

II. TIP Amendments

A. Clinton County Stimulus Projects

Hamilton said enclosed in packets was a request from Clinton County to add a stimulus project on Howe Road based on bid savings. Clinton County would like to shift ARRA funds into force account projects in order to add an additional seal coat project. CARTS recommends approval.

It was MOVED by C/Pohl, SUPPORTED by C/Tennis, to recommend approval of Clinton County’s new ARRA projects. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Eaton County Rural Stimulus Projects

Hamilton said enclosed in packets was a request from Eaton County to replace a resurfacing project on Five Point Highway with up to seven chip seal projects. Staff distributed a replacement page from Eaton County showing recalculations due to mileage limitations with force accounts. CARTS recommends approval of the rural adjustments.

It was MOVED by C/Tennis, SUPPORTED by C/Veenstra, to recommend approval of Eaton County’s rural project adjustments. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Eaton County Rural STP

Hamilton said this request is similar to Item B. Eaton County is requesting to pull two resurfacing projects with a proposal to do additional chip seal projects instead. Their estimated figures may still need minor recalculations. CARTS recommends approval.

It was MOVED by C/Tennis, SUPPORTED by C/Veenstra, to recommend approval of Eaton County's Rural STP projects. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. Clinton County High Risk Rural Road (HRRR) Project

Hamilton said information was enclosed in packets on Clinton County's request to add a 2011 HRRR project on North County Line Road for vertical curve modifications to improve sight distance based on a recent MDOT award. CARTS recommends approval.

It was MOVED by C/Pohl, SUPPORTED by C/Pizzo, to recommend approval of Clinton County's High Risk Rural Road project. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. Regional 2035 Transportation Plan

Hamilton reminded members of the information distributed last month on the proposed capital program for public transit. Hamilton addressed C/Veenstra's question with regard to CATA's totals. Hamilton noted that some of their column headers are mislabeled. The left column should read "Total" in order to be accurate. The ratio is 80% federal (center column) and often the state will match or apply toll credits (right column). Hamilton also explained that CATA's in-years are based on requested earmarks. Hamilton explained the mechanism for generating revenue assumptions. Hamilton noted that the \$125,000,000 for the Michigan Avenue/Grand River Corridor project is simply a place holder for the project, since revenues have not yet been committed to this study. The project will be placed on the illustrative list until funding is received. This prompted discussion on the "New Start Program" that was previously distributed to members. Hamilton provided hypothetical examples of what the proposed study might include in an effort to demonstrate rationale behind the cost of the study.

It was MOVED by C/Pohl, SUPPORTED by C/Hewitt, to recommend preliminary approval of each of the three transit components to be included in the draft Regional 2035 Transportation Plan. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. National Functional Classification (NFC) Map Amendment

Hamilton explained the enclosed request from Eaton County to amend the NFC map to include the Michigan Avenue extension. Hamilton noted that the extension project has been reviewed and approved by Delta Charter Township and the Eaton County Road Commission is proceeding. Therefore, in order for federal funds to be spent the project must be placed on the NFC map. CARTS recommends approval.

It was MOVED by C/Tennis, SUPPORTED by C/Pizzo, to recommend approval of amending the NFC map to include the Michigan Avenue extension. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. Status of Projects

Skinker distributed an excerpt of the September 8, 2009 CARTS draft meeting minutes to provide an update on members' status of projects. Staff has been following the ARRA projects through MDOT's bid letting website. Skinker noted that staff has been making conservative assumptions that final estimates will be 10% over advertised bid amounts. Definite amounts will most likely be unknown until January lettings occur. At this time, it is certain that everything has been funded that was on the original list, and the Lansing Holmes Road project will be funded in the amount of \$475,000. Staff will keep the Committee updated.

VI. Status Reports/Other

- Updated TIP Schedule – Enclosed in packets was a generic TIP schedule prepared by MDOT. This schedule has been agreed to by the MPO Directors Association, MDOT, Federal Highways, etc. Staff has completed a draft schedule for TCRPC based on the broad schedule. Hamilton anticipates having a new 2011-2014 TIP adopted by June. Members can look forward to project selection day near the end of January. Staff will ask for preliminary approval during the February meeting cycle. Hamilton reminded members that the current 2008-2011 TIP stays in effect until the new TIP is approved.
- Other Long Range Plan (LRP) Status – Hamilton said LRP technical work is wrapping up. A minor do over will need to be done on conformity – this will be done in-house. Consultants will be training staff on the model this week at CATA's offices. Hamilton noted that the consultant's work is winding down. Hamilton will discuss two additional minor task orders with the Executive Committee.
- Long Range Plan Task Force – Hamilton said the task force is currently looking at compiling the five year program for the Plan 2010-2014 and the 2011-2014 TIP. We're still looking at adding an additional year of projects as opposed to what was looked at earlier in the year. There is one additional meeting scheduled to be held later this month. The task force will wrap up looking at the project lists and the goals and objectives. Once this is complete, staff will begin mapping. Hamilton anticipates having a draft Plan available for public review in November with action possibly in December.
- Non-Motorized Plan Update – Hamilton noted that the last Non-Motorized Task Force meeting was cancelled. One or two more meetings will be scheduled in early October. The task force was able to get two-thirds of the way through the text of the document. Hamilton noted that the Lansing, East Lansing and Clinton County all have non-motorized plan updates in progress.
- Freight Survey – Approximately 50 responses have been received to date. Staff has written software to assist with summarizing the data in-house. This summary will be included in the LRP along with other freight issues.

- Michigan Avenue/Grand River Corridor Study – Staff emailed members the “New Starts Handbook.” This handbook provides background information on the processes a transit agency would need to go through in order to receive federal aid funding. Various partners in the process are administering surveys about the corridor. Hamilton noted that an origin and destination study needs to be completed by the consultants, which they will have to use to take our model and recalibrate it to meet the FTA “New Starts” requirements, which was not included in the original scope of work. CATA consultants will also do the alternatives analysis for this study. The LRP will need to be amended based on the conclusion of this study to reflect the results of the alternatives analysis (modeling) in a manner that meets the “New Starts” requirements and to allow the Plan to continue to demonstrate conformity based on any new transit system or other improvements that may be identified. Work is in progress and staff will keep the Committee updated.

- Greening Mid-Michigan – Hamilton reported that Phase II is complete. CDs and printed copies will be ready for focus groups to be held in October and early November. Two focus groups will be held in each of the three counties. Announcements will be mailed accordingly. Hamilton noted that Phase III has been fully funded through a PAL grant through LEAP. A regional charette will likely be held in late January to put all the pieces together of a regional green infrastructure plan based on all three phases of this project.

- Power of We Transit Needs Survey – Results have been distributed to transit agencies and the Power of We Consortium. Staff is waiting on direction on what types of cross tabs would be appropriate in analyzing this data. No immediate meeting has been scheduled.

- Other/Adjourn – Hamilton distributed an opt-in form for Commissioners interested in receiving Committee packets via email.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:10 p.m.

COMPOSITE ATTENDANCE RECORD
TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE 2009

C=Cancelled
A=Alternate
A1=1st Alternate
A2=2nd Alternate
A3=3rd Alternate

GOVERNMENTAL UNIT/AGENCY	MONTH/DAY												TOTAL
	2/11	2/25	3/11	4/15	5/13	6/10	7/22	8/12	9/9	10/14	11/10	12/9	
Clinton County: Clinton County Road Commission Clinton County Board of Commissioners	Bauerle Pohl	X X	X X	C C	X X	X X	X X		X X	X X			
Eaton County: Eaton County Road Commission EATRAN	Pizzo Tennis Luna	X X X	X X X	C C C	X X X	X X X	X X X	X X X	X X X	X X X			
Ingham County: Ingham County Road Commission	Beard McGrain Veenstra Dravenstatt-Moceri	X X X X	X X X X	C C C C	X X X X	X X X X	X X X X	X X X X	X X X X	X X X X			
Lansing City: CATA	Hewitt Monsma	X X	X X	C C	X X	X X	X X	X X	X X	X X			
MDOT:	McBurrows		X	C	X	X	X	X	X	X			
TOTAL VOTING MEMBERS		8	12	C	8	12	8	10	9	9			
NON VOTING MEMBERS:													
CATA: D Alexander J Manzella N Wilson (A-1)		X X X	X X X	C C C	X X X	X X X	X X X	X X X	X X X	X X X			
EATRAN:	Webb			C									
CRAA:	Otto	X		C	X	X	X	X	X				
FHWA:	Tupica			C									
MDNR:	Rusch			C									
TOTAL		10	13	10	10	13	10	11	11	9			

Others in attendance: Date: 2/11/09 - Bill Conklin, Ingham County Road Commission
 Date: 2/25/09 - Ch/Wood, C/Holman