



50 Years of Service
1956 - 2006

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

913 West Holmes Road, Suite 201
Lansing, Michigan 48910
Telephone: (517) 393-0342
Web Page: www.mitrpc.org
Email: tcrpc@acd.net
Fax: (517) 393-4424

COMMITTEE REPORT

TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Date: October 14, 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

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Howard Pizzo

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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

It was MOVED by C/Tennis, SUPPORTED by C/Luna, to approve the minutes of September 9, 2009 as printed. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

II. TIP Amendments

A. MDOT Bridge

Hamilton said a request from MDOT to add a project listing for a railroad bridge over Oakland Avenue (M-43) to the 2008-2011 TIP was enclosed. CARTS recommends approval.

It was MOVED by C/Monsma, SUPPORTED by C/Pohl, to recommend approval of MDOT's bridge request. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Clinton County Bridges

A request from Clinton County was enclosed to add bridges recently selected by the Bridge Committee. These bridge projects need to be amended into the TIP. CARTS recommends approval. Hamilton said these projects have also been added to the preserve project list which will be reviewed later on the agenda.

It was MOVED by C/Pohl, SUPPORTED by C/Monsma, to recommend adding Clinton County's bridge requests to the TIP. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

(Over)

C. Eaton County Rural

Hamilton said the Committee previously reviewed and approved a number of chip seal project revisions for existing rural ARRA and conventional Rural STP projects. The Eaton County Road Commission is requesting to make further minor adjustments to their list to refine chip seal project costs in the TIP using the same amount of funding that was previously approved. CARTS recommends approval.

It was MOVED by C/Tennis, SUPPORTED by C/Luna, to recommend approval of Eaton County's amended seal coat project list. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. Regional 2010-2014 Preserve Program

Hamilton said the 2010-2014 preserve program is an element of the Transportation Plan. The enclosed list of projects was developed last year and received preliminary approval for inclusion in the 2010-2013 TIP in February, which never came to fruition as a result of a statewide decision to delay TIP development for one year. The new preserve list includes projects that were previously approved, new 2014 projects, and other adjustments that may have occurred within the last year. Hamilton said these projects will be easy to change if necessary. We try to include a five year list of preserve projects in the Plan, even though it is not required. CARTS recommends approval.

It was MOVED by C/Monsma, SUPPORTED by C/Pohl, to give preliminary approval to add the 2010-2014 Preserve Program lists to the Regional 2035 Transportation Plan. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. Status of Projects

Skinker distributed an update of the ARRA and regular program projects, which has been updated to reflect MDOT's current balance sheets. Hamilton said there was discussion at the September Commission meeting related to the region losing approximately \$600,000. Hamilton reported on the two projects that did not receive obligational authority as follows: Ingham County lost approximately \$200,000 in STP funding and Eaton County lost approximately \$400,000 in CMAQ funding.

Hamilton explained that our region is always fully programmed and projects are typically obligated early. Staff for years, has consistently encouraged members to "get projects in early." Hamilton noted that most municipalities in our region have indicated that they'd like to continue the "first come – first serve" opportunity to receive federal funding. Michigan has always used 100% of obligational authority before August 1st. As of August 1st, there is usually a nationwide redistribution of obligational authority where Michigan receives additional obligation authority from other states, and our region has typically been prepared to receive. However, the region has lost funding the last couple of years.

Hamilton discussed the idea of having a policy in place (at the desire of the Commission) on how to avoid losing funds in the future. He also mentioned efforts staff has put in place to avoid losing funds. Staff requests updates on status of projects at monthly CARTS meetings. Hamilton noted that CATA is listed as a contingency CMAQ recipient in the event a project is not ready to go; however, the flexing process typically takes three months.

Over the years, Hamilton has heard locals express concerns with the complication of designing projects before the arbitrary October 2nd submittal target without having a funding commitment in place. To complicate matters even further, Hamilton mentioned recent discussions with MDOT who is now proposing to only process TIP amendments quarterly. This concept would hinder our flexibility of processing TIP amendments in a timely fashion.

Hamilton offered to coordinate educational opportunities, similar to the joint Commission/CARTS work session with MDOT that was held in 2007. This work session was held at the request of the Commission. MDOT staff provided a detailed overview of the transportation process and the complexity of moving projects forward at the work session.

V. 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Schedule

Hamilton reviewed the TIP schedule that was enclosed in packets. He said staff will release a call for projects by November 30th. Project submittals will be due January 12th. Project selection day will be held on Friday, January 29th. The draft TIP will be presented to the Commission for action at their regular June meeting.

VI. Freight Survey

Raw results of the freight surveys were enclosed in packets. Hamilton said approximately 500 surveys were distributed throughout the region and roughly 35 were returned. Elements of these results will be included in the Transportation Plan. Hamilton said FHWA is using this survey as an example to others in the state on meeting federal freight planning requirements. This effort continues to be a federal priority. Updates to the survey will likely be made with each Plan update, which occurs every four years under the current law.

VII. Long Range Plan Status

Hamilton said he is in the process of writing Plan chapters. Most of the technical work has been completed. Staff anticipates presenting a draft Plan at the December Commission meeting for action. Hamilton noted his discussions with the Executive Committee relative to public participation. As staff has done in the past, public information meetings will be held in conjunction with the Long Range Plan Task Force, CARTS, TRC and Commission meetings in December. It is possible that two additional public meetings will be held towards the end of November. Hamilton said the Plan will be distributed 28 days prior to action in accordance with TCPRC's policies.

Hamilton said some concerns have been expressed with regard to taking comments on the Plan up until the time of action, which unfortunately can't be avoided. Hamilton explained that air quality work is in the process of being finalized. He also explained that under federal law, if there are any substantive changes between the draft that is presented and what is adopted, the process will have to start all over again beginning with public participation. This would definitely delay TCRPC having a federally approved Plan by March 7, 2010, which is FHWA's deadline.

Staff will continue to provide major elements of the Plan up until action is taken. Most major elements are acted on by the Committee and the Commission prior to insertion in the Plan.

C/Luna inquired about the possibility of high speed rail in our region and if this has been part of discussions in transportation planning. Hamilton explained recommendations of the Mid-West Regional Rail Study. It was determined that the rail connection from Detroit to Chicago would be a fundable, buildable high speed corridor. Recommendations also indicated that gradual improvements to peripheral tracks or bus services to serve as feeders to that main line should be considered when this becomes feasible. Hamilton mentioned the Michigan Avenue/Grand River Corridor study.

VIII. Status Reports/Other

- Clean Commute Update – Cathleen Edgerly, CATA, will be present at the Commission meeting to provide an update on the Clean Commute program.
- County Transportation Summits – The following transportation summits will be held at the following dates, times and locations.
 - Clinton County: October 27, 1:00 p.m. at the CCRC
 - Ingham County: October 30, 9:00 a.m. at the ICRC
 - Eaton County: October 30, 1:00 p.m. at the ECRC

Hamilton said road agencies and jurisdictions meet at these summits to review progress of projects in the past year, projects to be conducted in the next year, and discuss issues that may require coordination. This is also an opportunity for MDOT and the road agencies to take note of problem locations, comments and suggestions. These summits have been held with the TSC and MDOT for the past eight or nine years.

- Non-Motorized Plan Update – Hamilton said the non-motorized plan update is in progress. A Non-Motorized Task Force meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 23 at the Hannah Center. The task force will be looking at revisions to the text and maps that will be inserted in the Plan. Hamilton noted that Clinton County, the City of East Lansing and Lansing are all working on non-motorized updates within their communities.

- Michigan Avenue/Grand River Corridor Study – Hamilton said business cards on the study were distributed at the September Commission meeting. Hamilton encouraged members to participate in a survey on their website regarding the future of the corridor. C/Veenstra encouraged staff to continue making the survey available in hard copy at meetings to assure maximum response.
- Greening Mid-Michigan – Hamilton distributed copies of the Phase II report. Phase III is in progress. Focus groups are being held that will lead up to a charette in January.
- Other/Adjourn – 5:00 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	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	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	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	X X		
MDOT:	McBurrows		X	C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
TOTAL VOTING MEMBERS		8	12	C	8	12	8	10	9	9	8		
NON VOTING MEMBERS:													
CATA: D Alexander J Manzella N Wilson (A-1)		X	X	C C	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	9		

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