



# TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Planning for People in the Greater Lansing Region Since 1956

## TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

### 2011 OFFICERS

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#### VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Howard Pizzo, Eaton County

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Carol Wood, City of Lansing

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##### **Michigan Department of Transportation**

Denise Jackson

#### EX-OFFICIO

City of Lansing Mayor

Clinton, Eaton and Ingham

County Chairpersons

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Susan M.C. Pigg, CEcD

Date: July 27, 2011 (Wednesday) at 7:30 p.m.  
Place: Ingham County Human Services Building, Conference Room A  
5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing MI 48910

#### CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – ROLL CALL

Ch/Pohl called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 p.m. and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Approval of Agenda and Minutes of June 29, 2011

It was MOVED by C/Bauerle, SUPPORTED by C/Baker, to approve the agenda as modified to allow for public comment after approval of the agenda and minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

It was MOVED by C/McGrain, SUPPORTED by C/Tennis, to approve the minutes of June 29, 2011. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

In response to questions raised at the TRC meeting, Ch/Pohl clarified that the Michigan Flyer application qualifies under the public/private partnership criteria and will receive public oversight by MDOT. C/Veenstra suggested that the Commission be fully briefed by allowing Michigan Flyer and the Capital Region Airport Authority time to present. Ch/Pohl said he is prepared for a 3-5 minute comment period and will allow more time if necessary.

D. Moore, Michigan Flyer Sales Manager, commented on her experience as a travel agent. Prior to 2002, travel agencies arranged limousine service for travelers to get to and from airports. Then, Okemos Travel with Indian Trails created Michigan Flyer in 2006. She shared that Michigan Flyer clients' biggest critique is frequency and hopes the agency receives the grant to expand their services.

O. Norkin, Michigan Flyer Vice President, said people will still commute to and from Detroit Metro Airport even if his service expands. He asked members to support the project. He noted that no local funds are requested. He thanked the transportation committees, TCRPC staff and the Commission for the opportunity to present their application for regional support.

B. Coughlin, Clinton County Economic Alliance, said the Capital Region Airport is the region's largest economic supporter. He does not support taking passengers from the region's airport to benefit Detroit and/or an Owosso company. He doesn't think we should risk the region's economic development for the benefit of another county.

G. McKay, Indian Trails, Inc. said Indian Trails' office is in Owosso, Michigan. They recently celebrated 100 years of providing essential transportation services to the area. He said they were invited by Representative Camp to apply for the TCSP grant and Representatives Rodgers and Stabenow also support the application. The TCSP program is geared to attract

(Over)

public/private partnerships to help solve transportation problems. MDOT is the legal applicant and is sponsoring the application. About 92% of Michigan Flyer clients support the new route. Supporters believe they have a business model that will help the community prosper. Mr. McKay requested that TCRPC carefully examine their reasons for opposition.

R. Selig, Executive Director, Capital Region International Airport Authority, distributed copies of his comments. The Airport recommends that TCRPC decline to support the \$1.5 million grant application. They believe that retention and expansion of passenger airline services is essential to the economic growth of the region and to continued success of the Airport.

J. Powers, Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council, said they support this grant application and believe that any expansion of mass transit is good for the environment and that multi-modal options should be encouraged. She commented on her experience flying around the country as a small business owner and said the Capital Region Airport is not always a feasible option due to cost and scheduling. She encouraged the Commission to support this application to provide a travel alternative. *[C/Yorko arrived]*

C. Holman, Chair of the Capital Region Airport Authority and Greater Lansing Business Monthly, commented that from a business perspective, he supports public/private partnerships. He said Michigan Flyer shared successful portfolios of their business in an earlier presentation, which proves that federal grant assistance is not needed to sustain their business. He said we should not support subsidizing risks for a private entity. Federal funds are desperately short all over the country and the overall benefit of this application is uncertain.

L. Hladki, Greater Lansing Convention & Visitor's Bureau, said the GLCVB position is that federal funds should not be used to support private enterprise expansion that could enhance other communities and potentially have a detrimental impact on the Greater Lansing community.

R. Woodstock, Mid-Michigan Business Travel Coalition, said their mission is to support air service in this region and recognize that the Airport is a major economic driver. They support private sector growth, but do not feel it is good policy to use tax dollars to support private entities at the expense of the region's airport. He said this will also hurt efforts to attract new airlines. *[C/Houghton arrived]*

R. Rasmussen, Retired President & CEO of the Michigan Millers Insurance Company, urged the TCRPC not to support the Michigan Flyer application because it is a misuse of federal funds.

T. Damon, President & CEO of the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, said they represent over 1,100 businesses in the Lansing area and support public/private partnerships, but they cannot support Michigan Flyer's application. He encouraged Michigan Flyer to continue seeking private investment for the growth and expansion of their business.

D. Robinson, a visually handicapped citizen, spoke on behalf of Michigan Flyer. He has used Michigan Flyer services for a number of years. He said many individuals without access to transportation use their service, including MSU students. Michigan Flyer provides an affordable alternative that is not otherwise available, and he thinks it is critical to expand their service for citizens in the community.

D. Collier, citizen supporting Michigan Flyer. He is a tax paying citizen who has not found the Capital Region Airport to be an affordable option. He said Michigan Flyer is an affordable, safe option that is environmentally friendly.

Ch/Pohl offered the opportunity for closing comments on the requested TIP illustrative list amendment from

Mr. Norkin and Mr. Selig.

Mr. Norkin encouraged TCRPC to carefully review their application. Michigan Flyer is not just an airport shuttle, they are intercity public transportation (open door bus) and are not supported by state, federal or county dollars. He said this region has supported Amtrak, Greyhound and CATA, as transportation options. Michigan Flyer should also be supported. Mr. Norkin thanked the Commission.

Mr. Selig said Michigan Flyer is not their direct competition. Detroit Metro Airport is their #1 competitor. He said air transportation is our only access to world-wide transportation and Capital City Airport feels they are meeting the majority needs of this region. He asked the Commission to confirm their support for regional air transportation.

D. Kosinski, Citizens Against Extending Michigan Avenue (CAEMA), commented on the Michigan Avenue Extension project. He noted it is not an agenda item but he sent the Commission a communication on what they believe a valid Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Michigan Avenue project needs to include. CAEMA is adamant about having all alternatives included. He noted that the alternative proposal addresses public safety, provides for better pedestrian access, allows for sufficient development of Michigan Avenue, and fosters connectivity in providing alternative routes in emergency scenarios. He said extending Michigan Avenue is not a good option. He believes the St. Joe project would provide a more viable transportation option.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Executive Director Pigg explained that all public comments were before each Commissioner.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

TCRPC staff has been very active with innumerable projects and programs and Ms. Pigg encouraged members to review them in the minutes. She distributed draft legislation prepared by the Michigan Association of Planning (MAP) that could have significant implications for regions. The Michigan Association of Regions (MAR) has not supported the draft and her memo highlights key concerns.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Transportation** – C/Monsma reported on the July 27, 2011 meeting.

- 1) TIP Amendment – Clinton County Small Urban Program  
**2012 deletion: St. Johns – Oakland St. from Sturgis St. to Railroad St.**  
**2012 replacement: St. Johns – Sturgis St. from Scott Rd. to the west .11 mile, and Scott Rd. from Sturgis St. to Jones St. Adjust length: .57 mile to .35 mile**  
**2014 deletions: Clinton Transit bus purchase and St. Johns – Gibbs St. (Lansing St. to US 127 BR) and Spring St. (M-21 to Railroad St.)**  
**2014 replacement: CCRC – Townsend Rd. (US 127 BR to US 127) Adjusted length: .20 mile to 1.3 miles**

It was MOVED by C/Monsma, SUPPORTED by C/McGrain, to approve the Clinton County Small Urban program amendments to the 2011-2014 TIP. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 2) TIP Illustrative List Amendment – Michigan Flyer  
**Michigan Flyer seeks operating assistance to start expanded service from the Lansing area to Detroit metro Airport by way of I-96 and US 23 with stops in Howell, Brighton and Ann Arbor areas. They applied for one year of funding to start November, 2011. Funding source: FHWA's Transportation, Community, and System Preservation (TCSP) Program; Project cost: \$1,563,660 Federal + \$390,915 private sector = \$1,954,575**

C/Monsma said this project would be added to the TIP illustrative list if approved. Projects placed on the illustrative list are not funded projects. He explained that the TCRPC has two recommending bodies: the Transportation Review Committee (TRC) and the Capital Area Regional Transportation Study (CARTS) Committee. C/Monsma said CARTS recommends approval, but the TRC motion to recommend failed.

It was MOVED by C/Monsma, SUPPORTED by C/Veenstra to approve adding the Michigan Flyer TCSP application to the TIP illustrative list.

C/Rodgers said the Commission should support bringing in federal dollars. She mentioned that TCRPC approval is not required for entities to request federal dollars. She recognizes the concerns of the Airport and asked for clarification on why TCRPC is being asked to amend these projects to the TIP rather than provide a letter of support. Hamilton said in order to fund a federal aid project it must be in the TIP and an amendment expresses our support. Ms. Pigg said TCRPC has traditionally added these types of projects into the TIP illustrative list in lieu of offering letters of support to demonstrate that the Commission recognizes the regional significance of the transportation project and its role in the Transportation Plan.

C/Veenstra supports the proposal. He said this should not be characterized as an airport shuttle, since it is an intercity bus and 80% of their clients are from our region. He believes the project will not harm the Airport and added that the Airport uses subsidized tax dollars.

C/Wood said she will not support this proposal. Though she would like to see federal dollars come to Michigan, she does not believe this proposal will have a positive impact on our region. As a TCRPC Commissioner, she must look at what is best for the entire region.

C/Holman is supportive of the proposal. She believes that we need to move forward in looking at mass transit and what is good for our society and this will provide another option for travelers.

C/Yorko questioned why supporting this proposal would be detrimental to the region's airport. She does not think support for this indicates that our region doesn't support air travel. She commented on how the name Michigan "Flyer" can be construed as competing with the airport. She said our region needs all modes of transportation.

C/Tennis said Michigan Flyer invited a consultant to the TRC meeting to share observations of how expanded bus service was detrimental to the Chicago Rockford International Airport. This presentation convinced C/Tennis of the potential threat to our Airport. C/Tennis will not support this proposal.

C/Pizzo opposed for the same reasons as C/Tennis. He is also concerned that the Airport Authority and major businesses of the community view this proposal as a threat. He thinks if this community is going to be successful and grow jobs, it needs a strong international airport.

C/Rodgers asked if anyone has looked to see if this proposal fits with the Regional Growth and Long Range Transportation plans. CARTS discussed this and Hamilton said both plans include goals for supporting a strong international airport, accessibility and mobility options, and providing intermodal connections at intermodal facilities. He said both proposals are consistent with the transportation plan, but there are also conflicts which must be balanced by policy makers.

C/Bauerle said he would love to fly out of Lansing when traveling. However, he cannot afford to do that due to high air-fare costs there. He enjoys Michigan Flyer's service and will vote in favor of the proposal.

C/Jackson asked Ms. Jean Ruestman to explain MDOT's support for this project. Ms. Ruestman said that MDOT determined that the Flyer application meets aspects of the grant criteria. It supports MDOT's Long Range Plan goal of integrating the transportation system and responds to Michigan citizens wanting more modal choices. It is consistent with supporting private/intercity transportation and encourages private sector investment. MDOT believes this proposal supports a strong partnership to enhance a transportation network throughout the state.

C/Baker asked why this money is not being used for road repairs. He feels the #1 priority should be roads. He will not be supporting this proposal and would not want to do anything detrimental to the airport.

C/McGrain said he heard several times that people are not flying out of Lansing because there are no air connections. He suggested that we might not have the air connections because people are not flying out of Lansing. He is inclined to listen to groups such as the airport, Chamber, LCVB and will be voting no.

C/Monsma said based on Michigan Flyer's survey results, he doesn't feel Michigan Flyer needs additional funding to expand. He said there are still pending issues, such as how the will be used and where their station will be located. He said he doesn't want to hurt the airport and believes Michigan Flyer is a viable business practice. He will be voting no.

C/Yorko said if TCRPC does not support this proposal she would like to continue the conversation in the future. She appreciates that there is another option for people to get to other cities and feels it is important for the non-vehicle population.

C/Beard said he voted against this proposal at TRC, but now has better understanding of the project. He said TCSP projects will be funded with federal dollars based on MDOT's recommendations. He commented on discussions about the impact of Michigan Flyer's services. He looked at their ridership and noticed that several passengers are traveling to places besides Detroit Metro. He said Michigan Flyer is providing a private transit system and alternative transportation options. He commented that this connection has to bring economic vitality to the region. He will vote in favor of the proposal.

MOTION FAILED 8-11: (Opposed: C/Pohl, C/Pizzo, C/Baker, C/Boles, C/Osieczonek, C/Tennis, C/McGrain, C/Dravenstatt-Moceri, C/Wood, C/Monsma, C/Rodgers).

C/Veenstra requested a short recess. Ch/Pohl granted a 5 minute recess and called the meeting back to order at 9:20 p.m.

3) TIP Illustrative List Amendment – City of Lansing TCSP Application

**The City of Lansing's TCSP application is for the Washington Ave. corridor from Barnes St. to Malcolm X St. in Reo Town, the location of an existing 2012 resurfacing project. The City seeks to supplement \$1,180,000 in 2012 Urban STP funds with TCSP funding to allow a more complete reconstruction to include wider sidewalks, landscaped medians, pedestrian bump-outs and mid-block crossings, dedicated bicycle lanes and installation of extensive green infrastructure for stormwater management and other pedestrian amenities. Length: .74 mile: Funding source: TCSP; Project costs: \$500,000 Federal TCSP + \$600,000 local + \$1,180,000 in Urban STP (already in TIP) = \$2,280,000 total related costs.**

It was MOVED by C/Monsma, SUPPORTED by C/Veenstra, to approve placing the City of Lansing's TCSP application for the Washington Ave. project on the TIP illustrative list. MOTION CARRIED (Opposed: C/Rodgers)

It was MOVED by C/Monsma, SUPPORTED by C/Tennis, to make the Lansing project the #1 priority for TCSP funding in this region. MOTION CARRIED (Opposed: C/Veensta, C/Rodgers, C/Jackson, C/Wood)

**Executive Committee** – Ch/Pohl reported on the July 20, 2011 meeting.

1) Resolution for Authorization to Bind Property Contract for 30 Days

The most significant item discussed was relocation of the office. Ch/Pohl noted one correction on page two of the minutes (“staff will ~~not~~ begin seeking estimates” – eliminate “not”). Three finalist locations were identified within a reasonable price range. The Committee will visit sites on Pinetree Rd., Edgewood Blvd. and Keystone. Ch/Pohl said the Committee is requesting adoption of the proposed resolution, to pursue negotiations on a suitable location.

It was MOVED by C/Tennis, SUPPORTED by C/Rodgers to adopt the resolution to authorize and empower the Executive Committee to negotiate a lease agreement for a new location and to bind that agreement until September 30, 2011 or before in order to secure a location, and that execution of a lease agreement for a new office location will be contingent upon Commission approval. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Finance Committee** – C/Wood reported on the July 27, 2011 Finance Committee meeting.

1) Financial Report – June 2011

It was MOVED by C/Wood, SUPPORTED by C/Baker, to receive and place on file the June 2011 financial report. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Comment

No public comment.

**Other** – C/Monsma asked for the status of the Michigan Avenue Extension project. Hamilton reviewed requests for information, spoke with staff, and two minor responses were sent to the ECRC for FHWA and MDOT.

C/Rodgers, attended the MAR annual meeting in St. Ignace with Ch/Pohl and Ms. Pigg. She said MAR provided input to MAP on the draft legislation discussed earlier. She explained that there are three pieces of legislation in Michigan that govern regions, and MAP’s desire is to condense them into one. C/Rodgers will vote on recommending/not recommending the draft legislation on behalf of the Commission so she encouraged member comments and feedback. MAR also updated their bylaws, which now includes a provision to reimburse officer expenses. C/Rodgers voted no on this as advised by the Commission. She explained that MAR began contacting state agencies last year to offer assistance from regions and these efforts are continuing. She announced that she was re-elected as MAR Treasurer.

C/Martin said funds have been approved to update Hazard Mitigation plans. TCRPC is a sub-grantee and will be working with the Michigan State Police on this project for our region.

C/Beard shared upcoming construction projects taking place on campus and on Harrison Rd.

It was MOVED by C/Wood, SUPPORTED by C/Martin, to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## 2011 Commission Attendance Record

X = Present C = Cancelled

Commissioner		MEETING DATE												Total
		1/26	2/23	3/23	4/27	5/25	6/29	7/27	8/24	9/28	10/26	11/17	12/14	
Clinton County	Russel Bauerle	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
	Larry Martin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
	David Pohl	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Eaton County	Howard Pizzo	X	X	X	X		X	X						
	Daryl Baker	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
	John Boles	X		X	X	X		X						
	Jim Osieczonek	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
	Darrell Tennis	X	X	X		X	X	X						
Ingham County	Dianne Holman	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
	John Veenstra	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
	Kevin Beard		X		X	X	X	X						
	James Dravenstatt-Moceri	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
	Brian McGrain	X	X	X	X		X	X						
City of Lansing	Tina Houghton	X			X	X		X						
	Ralph Monsma	X			X	X	X	X						
	Jessica Yorko			X	X	X		X						
	Shirley Rodgers	X	X			X		X						
	Carol Wood	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
MDOT	Denise Jackson	X	X	X	X		X	X						
<b>TOTAL</b>	19	17	15	15	17	16	15	19						

**Others:**

<p>January 27, 2011: J. Coleman, S. Pigg, G. Hoffman, M. Habba, K. Donahue, P. Hamilton, S. Skinker, L. Tschirhart, P. Dionne, H. Prawiranata, C. Spitzley, E. Campbell, C. Hnatiw, D. Dillinger, H. Gmazel; Outgoing Commissioner, M. Small</p> <p>March 23, 2011: S. Pigg, G. Hoffman, M. Habba, P. Hamilton, H. Gmazel; B. Kittle, Munetrix; J. Ball, CATA</p>	<p>February 23, 2011: S. Pigg, G. Hoffman, M. Habba, P. Hamilton; J. Forell, Eaton Co; J. Ball, CATA; P. Lott, MDOT, J. Canham, Alfred Benesch &amp; Company</p> <p>April 27, 2011: S. Pigg, G. Hoffman, M. Habba, P. Hamilton; H. Gmazel; C. Gamble, City of Lansing; Citizens: R. Kibbey, D. and S. Kosinski, D. Crispin, C. and C. Bond, S. Crispin, D. Skittenhelm, D. Eldred, M. Unsworth, L. Provencher, W. Ballinger, J. Wright, K. Dunbar, O. Norkin, R. Neuner, J. Schubel; R. Watkins, Delta Twp; T. Masseur, Lansing Twp; B. Ballou, ECRC; A. Balaskoritz, City Pulse.</p> <p>June 29, 2011: S. Pigg, G. Hoffman, M. Habba, P. Hamilton; J. Day-LaBo, MDOT-DBG; P. Lott, MDOT; J. Ball, CATA; M. Unsworth, Mid-Michigan Active Transportation Coalition.</p>
<p>May 25, 2011: S. Pigg, G. Hoffman, M. Habba, P. Hamilton; C. Hudson, G. Puente, D. McBurrows and P. Lott, MDOT; K. Zachary and D. Williams, FHWA; J. Ball, CATA; O. Norkin, Michigan Flyer/Indian Trails.</p> <p>July 27, 2011: S. Pigg, G. Hoffman, M. Habba, P. Hamilton; M. Brinkley, Lansing Township; D. and S. Kosinski, C. Bond, S. and D. Crispin, J. Pearl-Wright, CAEMA; B. Coughlin, CCEA; J. Ruestman, P. Lott, D. McBurrows, MDOT; G. Mackay, O. Norkin, D. Moore, K. James, D. Robinson, M. Holoweiko, D. Collier, Indian Trails/MI Flyer, Inc.; J. Ball, CATA; J. Powers, Mid-MEAC; L. Hladki, GLCVB; T. Daman, B. Case, LRCC; B. Selig, M. Daigle, CRAA; C. Holman, GLBM; R. Rasmussen, citizen; R. Woodstock, Mid-Michigan Bus Travel.</p>	