

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/INFORMATION PROGRAM

Federal law (including the SAFETEA-LU, predecessor legislation and implementing regulations contained in 23 CFR 450) requires the metropolitan transportation planning process include a proactive public involvement process that provides complete information, timely public notice, full public access to key decisions and supports early, often and continuing public involvement in developing transportation plans and programs which meet certain criteria.

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission has a long history of proactive efforts to involve the public in the transportation planning process. In February, 1994 the Commission adopted a public involvement plan (published under separate cover) that outlines and summarizes activities TCRPC uses to address public participation requirements of federal law. In September, 2002 the Commission approved amendments to this public participation plan which identify additional efforts to involve low income and minority populations in the planning process, consistent with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the 1994 Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, the Department of Transportation Order on Environmental Justice (published in the April 15, 1997 Federal Register) and added a mechanism for evaluating effectiveness of public participation efforts. The Commission, in approving these amendments, also re-endorsed the plan as amended.

The remainder of this section summarizes key public involvement opportunities pertaining to this Regional 2030 Transportation Plan.

Plan Development Activities

As mentioned, some materials in this Regional 2030 Transportation Plan have been under development for a number of years.

For example, TCRPC held a series of public Town Hall Forums in 1990-1991 which involved over 200 people in identifying issues to be addressed in regional transportation goals and objectives. Results were adopted in May, 1995 as part of the Regional 2015 Transportation Plan. These adopted goals and objectives were again extensively reviewed and revised by various TCRPC advisory committees as part of the “**Regional Growth: Choices for Our Future**” project to integrate the region’s transportation goals and objectives with the regional land use vision adopted as a result of the Regional Growth project.

Similarly, an initial set of long term and short term transportation investment strategies (included in draft form in the Interim 2020 Regional Transportation Plan adopted in June, 2000) were also extensively refined through the “**Regional Growth: Choices for Our Future**” project and adopted as part of the Regional 2025 Transportation Plan in March, 2003.

As part of this process, TCRPC conducted:

- Random public opinion and leadership surveys;
- An extensive public outreach campaign, including, by way of examples, a toll free hotline, project information business cards, talking point cards and approximately 60,000 placemats placed in nearly 30 local restaurant chains and individual eateries throughout the region;
- A speakers bureau;
- A series of 13 Town Hall Forums, with over 775 participants, each including facilitated nominal group style involvement exercises and opportunities, electronic real time voting and a varied menu of other techniques to gather input;
- A proactive media involvement plan and program;
- Web based information and review and comment activities;
- A project newsletter was distributed to approximately 3500 individuals, organizations and government officials throughout the region;
- A series of leadership briefings for local elected and appointed officials; and
- A variety of other techniques and methods.

Many of these activities and materials are documented and discussed elsewhere in this document, including Chapters 2 and 14.

In addition, draft transportation goals and objectives and investment strategies were updated interactively in many open public meetings by numerous advisory committees, through review and comment by local governments, transportation agencies and individuals and extensively reviewed in a variety of public committee and Commission meetings over many years. Documentation of these review opportunities is in meeting records and minutes and are not reiterated here for brevity. Similarly, many other sections of this plan (or technical elements they are based on) were subject to numerous other local or public review and comment opportunities throughout the planning process. Examples include:

- socio-demographic forecasts;
- alternative land use scenarios;
- development of the travel forecasting model;
- land use alternatives analysis;
- principles/action and poster plans for the Regional Growth project;
- State Long Range Plan goals, objectives and strategies; and
- other elements.

Additionally, many of these same items were also presented, reviewed and discussed in open local governmental meetings throughout the region by participating agencies, local governments, private organizations and in the media throughout the plan development process.

Public Notice

Public notice of availability of the draft Regional 2030 Transportation Plan and other public involvement activities was published on Monday, September 12, 2005. Notice was also given related to the air quality conformity determination contained in Chapter 16 and the conformity determination made on the 2006-2008 TIP consistent with this Regional 2030 Transportation Plan. This notice also announced dates of meetings and other public involvement opportunities throughout the plan adoption process. A copy is reproduced at the end of this chapter.

Environmental Justice Initiatives

As noted earlier, in September, 2002 the Commission formally amended the public participation plan to address special efforts undertaken to involve low income and minority residents and interest groups in the transportation planning process. Examples of activities included such techniques as:

- Updating our mailing list to assure members or advocates for protected classes got notices of meetings and involvement activities;
- Direct mail notices;
- Personal phone calls and outreach activities;
- Providing copies of the plan to libraries;
- A proactive media campaign;
- Community partnerships;
- Location mapping, using the latest census data in a geographic information system and a variety of measures to identify locations and/or concentrations of members of protected classes (examples of these maps are shown in Chapter 14);
- Targeted outreach techniques;
- Customized information, media plans and directed outreach strategies, including a multi-page checklist of potential techniques for engagement of persons in protected classes at each step of the Regional Growth project;
- A speakers handbook;
- Project information business and talking point cards;
- Project newsletters;
- Special Task Forces;
- Leadership briefings;
- Updating our media lists to assure media directed to protected classes received media advisories and other project information; and
- Numerous other techniques identified in the Public Involvement Plan.

Materials documenting these and other efforts on Environmental Justice and related analysis and involvement opportunities may also be found in Chapters 14 and 2.

Public Information Meetings

TCRPC held a series of four Town Hall Forums in July, 2001 on regional land use and transportation goals and objectives. These forums also were used to obtain input on TCRPC's draft investment strategies, State Long Range Plan goals and objectives and state investment strategies. TCRPC also held four Town Hall Forums in December, 2001 related to land use alternatives analysis (discussed in Chapter 2), four more Town Hall Forums related to land use principles and the action plan in May, 2002, a Town Hall Forum on coordination of regional transit services in June, 2002 and leadership briefings on November 8, 2001, and March 13, 2002.

The Commission also sponsored public information meetings Tuesday, October 4 at 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, October 12 at 4:00 p.m. and at 6:30 p.m. on October 26, 2005 immediately prior to action on this plan.

Focus Groups

In May, 2004 the Commission also held a series of five focus groups to further gather public input on products of the **“Regional Growth: Choices for Our Future”** project. Three groups consisted of randomly selected citizens stratified by urban, suburban/fringe and rural areas of the region. Two groups represented elected, appointed and other opinion leaders. These focus groups included a visual choice poll consisting of over 275 alternative design images related to growth project themes and principles, including numerous transportation design options. Some high level results of these focus groups are shown in Chapter 2. A full report on results is available under separate cover. Focus groups and the visual choice poll represented additional steps in the continuous and cumulative process of public involvement opportunities associated with TCRPC's ongoing land use/transportation planning process which continues to inform the plan development/update process.

Press Releases/Special Mailings/Other Public Involvement Activities

Examples of press releases, special mailings, print media articles and other public involvement activities are also contained at the end of this chapter.

TCRPC distributed draft copies of this plan to public libraries throughout the region with an announcement of the October 26 and other public information meetings and announcing other dates, times and places when this draft would be reviewed and acted on and identified additional ways which comments or other input could be provided, as well as where additional information concerning the plan could be obtained.

In addition, TCRPC distributed a press release to all known regional media outlets which announced availability of the plan, dates of various meetings and similar information on involvement and comment opportunities.

Further, TCRPC prepared a direct mail letter containing similar information which was transmitted to about 2500 individuals or organizations throughout the region. Special efforts were also taken to assure this direct mail announcement and invitation for public comment or involvement also included representatives of low income and minority communities and advocacy organizations throughout the region.

Copies of these materials are also contained at the end of this chapter.

Response to Comments

All comments concerning this document received prior to Commission adoption were provided and summarized or presented to the Commission prior to action.

Copies of any written comments and a written response to each comment may be found at the end of this chapter.

In accord with federal regulations, if substantive changes are were made to this document from the draft made available for public comment prior to adoption, the Commission may act on the plan and provide an additional public comment period. No substantive changes were made, and the plan was adopted subject to editing and corrections.

Public Involvement Summary

In summary, TCRPC uses an extensive ongoing and continuing process to proactively encourage, promote and respond to public participation throughout the transportation planning process, including development of this Regional 2030 Transportation Plan.

In conjunction with the regional growth project, TCRPC staff estimate over 1500 people directly participated by attending public meetings, participating in surveys, serving on advisory committees or other means. In addition, thousands of others were kept informed during the process through special presentations, newsletters, media coverage, special mailings, web based information, leadership briefings, focus groups or by contacting our toll free hotline.

Numerous additional opportunities were provided for multiple types of review, comment and input options during the adoption of Regional 2025 Transportation Plan. Numerous additional opportunities were made available during preparation of this updated Regional 2030 Transportation Plan.

As this plan is reviewed, updated and further refined by future planning activities and studies in coming years, TCRPC will also continue to review and refine the ongoing public participation activities as necessary to assure full, open access, early and often public involvement opportunities and multiple methods of providing input are continued in future plan updates and related planning activities.

The TCRPC is committed to ongoing public participation in these activities. Additional information concerning ongoing activities and opportunities may be obtained by contacting the Commission offices at the address and phone numbers on the cover.

LANSING STATE JOURNAL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2005

NOTICE
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT
OPPORTUNITY

- **Regional 2030 Transportation Plan** and related
air quality conformity determinations, including conformity
of the **2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program**
(TIP)

THE TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
GIVES NOTICE of opportunity for public involvement, review
and/or comments and input from interested parties on these items.

1. A draft Regional 2030 Transportation Plan (along with a conformity determination on it and the adopted 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program) for Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties and cities or villages, which consists of all federally funded transportation projects between 2005 and 2030, will be available to interested parties on request on September 29, 2005. Copies will be forwarded to public libraries throughout the region. The plan addresses requirements of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) for all regionally significant road construction and public transit projects in the region between 2005 and 2030. In addition, the Commission will make determinations that the plan and the adopted 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program meet applicable conformity requirements of the Clean Air Act (as amended) and that projects contained in the plan and TIP do not have adverse impacts on the region's air quality.
2. Review, comments and questions on the plan and conformity determinations can be presented in a variety of ways, as summarized below.
 - A. Committee review process: Location of all meetings in this announcement is the: Ingham County Human Services Building, 5303 South Cedar St. in Lansing in Conference Rooms listed below. The draft **Regional 2030 Transportation Plan** and conformity determinations will be reviewed and acted on at the following open public meetings:
 - LONG RANGE PLAN TASK FORCE: Conference Room D/E, 8:30 a.m., October 4, 2005 (Tuesday);
 - CAPITAL AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CARTS): Conference Room D/E, 9:30 a.m., October 4, 2005 (Tuesday);
 - TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE (TRC) Conference Room B, 4:00 p.m., October 12, 2005 (Wednesday);
 - TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION: Conference Room A, 7:30 p.m., October 26, 2005.
 - B. Public informational meetings: open public information meetings will also be held as follows:
 - Beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 4, 2005 immediately prior to CARTS in Conference Room D/E.
 - Beginning at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 in Conference Room B; and
 - Beginning at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 26, 2005 in Conference Room A.

At these meetings staff will present the plan, answer questions and accept additional input.

LANSING STATE JOURNAL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2005

- C. Commission action: at the conclusion of the final public information meeting on October 26, 2005, the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission will convene in open session at 7:30 p.m. Any last additional public comments will be accepted. The Commission will act on the Plan.
- D. Oral and Written Comments: All meetings of the Commission and its advisory committees are open to the public. Reasonable opportunity to present comments, ask questions or provide input will be accepted at any of these meetings consistent with rules of these respective bodies. In addition, any written comments submitted prior to plan adoption will be considered by the Commission at the time of action.
3. Notices and materials for Commission or advisory committee meetings will be provided to interested parties on receipt of a request which includes the complete name and mailing address of the interested party. TCRPC will furnish reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities upon 48 hours notice. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact TCRPC at the address below or the TDD Michigan Relay Center at 1 (800) 649-3777.

For additional information on opportunities for public involvement in the **Regional 2030 Transportation Plan**, related conformity determinations on it or the **2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program**, contact the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, 913 W. Holmes Rd., Suite 201, Lansing, MI 48910, phone (517)393-0342, fax 393-4424, email: sskinker@mitcrpc.org

Non-local telephone inquiries, short comments or requests for additional information may also be made by calling the Commission's toll free hotline at 1 (517) 393-6386 or 1-800-619-6676. TCRPC is an EOE organization.



TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jon W. Coleman

September 29, 2005

Dear Friend:

Re: Availability of Draft Regional 2030 Transportation Plan and Public Involvement Opportunities

This letter is to inform you a draft Regional 2030 Transportation Plan for Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties and respective cities and villages is now available for review and comment from the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission. Copies will be provided on request to (517) 393-0342 or our toll free hotlines at (517) 393-6386 or (800) 619-6676. The Plan identifies major transportation system investments in the region between 2006 and 2030. The Plan also includes analysis of air quality impacts and demonstrates conformity as required by the Clean Air Act.

Review, comments and questions on this plan can be presented in a variety of ways, as summarized below.

The Commission is scheduled to act on this plan at 7:30 p.m. on October 26, 2005. A listing of committee actions and public information meetings follows.

Location of all meetings in this announcement is the: **Ingham County Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Street in Lansing** in Conference Rooms listed below.

The draft Regional 2030 Transportation Plan and conformity determinations will be reviewed and acted on at the following open public meetings:

- **Long Range Plan Task Force:**
Conference Room D/E, 8:30 a.m., October 4, 2005 (Tuesday);
- **Capital Area Regional Transportation Study Technical Advisory Committee (CARTS):** Conference Room D/E, 9:30 a.m., October 4, 2005 (Tuesday);
- **Transportation Review Committee (TRC):** Conference Room B, 4:00 p.m., October 12, 2005 (Wednesday);
- **Tri-County Regional Planning Commission:** Conference Room A, 7:30 p.m., October 26, 2005 (Wednesday).

September 29, 2005
Dear Friend
Page 2

Public Information Meetings: open public information meetings will also be held as follows:

- Beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 4, 2005 immediately prior to CARTS in Conference Room D/E;
- Beginning at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 in Conference Room B; and
- Beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 26, 2005 in Conference Room A.

At these meetings staff will present the plan, answer questions and accept additional input.

Commission Action: at the conclusion of the final public information meeting on October 26, 2005, the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission will convene in open session at 7:30 p.m. Any last additional public comments will be accepted. The Commission will act on the Plan.

Oral and Written Comments: All meetings of the Commission and its advisory committees are open to the public. Reasonable opportunity to present comments, ask questions or provide input will be accepted at any of these meetings consistent with rules of these respective bodies. In addition, any written comments submitted prior to plan adoption will be considered by the Commission at the time of action.

Notices and materials for Commission or advisory committee meetings will be provided to interested parties on receipt of a request which includes the complete name and mailing address of the interested party.

TCRPC will furnish reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities upon 48 hours notice. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact TCRPC at the address below or the TDD Michigan Relay Center at (800) 649-3777.

For additional information on opportunities for public involvement in the Regional 2030 Transportation Plan, related conformity determinations on it, to obtain a copy of the plan or if I or my staff can be of any assistance to you in reviewing this important document please contact the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, 913 W. Holmes Rd., Suite 201, Lansing, MI 48910, phone (517)393-0342, fax 393-4424, email: sskinker@mitcrpc.org

Non-local telephone inquiries, short comments or requests for additional information may also be made by calling the Commission's toll free hotline at (517) 393-6386 or 1-800-619-6676.

Sincerely,



Jon W. Coleman
Executive Director

JWC/PH/mh

TCRPC is an EOE organization.



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jon W. Coleman

September 29, 2005

Dear Librarian:

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission recently completed this Draft Regional 2030 Transportation Plan for all of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties and respective cities and villages. The plan includes an analysis of air quality impacts and demonstrates conformity as required by the Clean Air Act. A copy is enclosed with this transmittal.

To encourage and stimulate public review and comment on the region's future transportation system needs, copies are being forwarded to all public libraries in the Tri-County region.

The Commission is scheduled to act on this plan at 7:30 p.m. on October 26, 2005. A listing of committee actions and public information meetings follows.

Location of all meetings in this announcement is the: Ingham County Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Street in Lansing in Conference Rooms listed below.

The draft Regional 2030 Transportation Plan and conformity determinations will be reviewed and acted on at the following open public meetings:

- **Long Range Plan Task Force:**
Conference Room D/E, 8:30 a.m., October 4, 2005 (Tuesday);
- **Capital Area Regional Transportation Study Technical Advisory Committee (CARTS):**
Conference Room D/E, 9:30 a.m.,
October 4, 2005 (Tuesday);
- **Transportation Review Committee (TRC):** Conference Room B, 4:00 p.m., October 12, 2005 (Wednesday);
- **Tri-County Regional Planning Commission:** Conference Room A, 7:30 p.m., October 26, 2005 (Wednesday).

September 29, 2005
Librarian
Page 2

Public Information Meetings: open public information meetings will also be held as follows:

- Beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 4, 2005 immediately prior to CARTS in Conference Room D/E;
- Beginning at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 in Conference Room B; and
- Beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 26, 2005 in Conference Room A.

Please place this document in your public documents section, or in an appropriate location where it may be reviewed and inspected by the public, and **please post this list of meetings** related to action on the plan in a place accessible to the public.

Any questions, written or oral comments, requests for additional copies or other information should be referred to me or Paul Hamilton of my staff, at the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, 913 W. Holmes Rd., Suite 201, Lansing, Michigan 48910 or by phone (517) 393-0342 or fax (517) 393-4424, respectively, or at our toll free hotlines at (517) 393-6386 or (800) 619-6676.

Thank you for your assistance in disseminating this important public document. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jon W. Coleman
Executive Director

JWC/PH/mh

Enclosure: Draft Regional 2030 Transportation Plan



NEWS RELEASE

TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
913 W. Holmes Rd., Suite 201, Lansing, Michigan 48910 • Area Code 517/393-0342

Tuesday, October 4, 2005

For More Information Contact:
Jon Coleman or Paul Hamilton
Phone: (517) 393-0342
Fax: (517) 393-0342

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission announced today that copies of the Draft Regional 2030 Transportation Plan covering major transportation investments throughout Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties and cities and villages is available for public review and comment.

The Draft Regional 2030 Transportation Plan includes the following major elements:

- Regional transportation goals and objectives;
- A summary of the “**Regional Growth: Choices for our Future**” project, which resulted in adopting a preferred regional land use pattern;
- Official population and employment growth forecasts for all areas of the region;
- An overview of existing transportation facilities;
- Results of analysis showing where future roadway congestion problems are likely to occur during the forecast period;
- Analysis of various revenues available to meet the region’s future transportation needs;
- Identification of proposed projects and other recommendations to address regional transportation needs; and
- Analysis showing the plan reduces air pollution and conforms to requirements of the Clean Air Act.

Copies of the Draft Plan have been forwarded to public libraries in the region and will be provided to interested parties on request to the Commission, located at 913 W. Holmes Road, Suite 201, Lansing, MI 48910 or by calling the Commission at (517) 393-0342. Non-local telephone inquiries, short comments or requests for additional information may also be made by calling the Commission’s toll free hotline at (517) 393-6386 or 1-800-619-6676.

M O R E

In addition, the Commission announced today a schedule of meetings where the Draft Plan will be reviewed or acted upon by the Commission or its advisory committees, as itemized below.

Review, comments and questions on this plan can be presented in a variety of ways, as summarized below.

The Commission is scheduled to act on this plan at 7:30 p.m. on October 26, 2005. A listing of committee actions and public information meetings follows.

Location of all meetings in this announcement is the: **Ingham County Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Street in Lansing** in Conference Rooms listed below.

The draft Regional 2030 Transportation Plan and conformity determinations will be reviewed and acted on at the following open public meetings:

- **Transportation Review Committee (TRC):**
Conference Room B, 4:00 p.m., October 12, 2005 (Wednesday);
- **Tri-County Regional Planning Commission:**
Conference Room A, 7:30 p.m., October 26, 2005 (Wednesday).

Public Information Meetings: open public information meetings will also be held as follows:

- Beginning at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 in Conference Room B; and
- Beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 26, 2005 in Conference Room A.

At these meetings staff will present the plan, answer questions and accept additional input.

Commission Action: at the conclusion of the final public information meeting on October 26, 2005, the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission will convene in open session at 7:30 p.m. Any last additional public comments will be accepted. The Commission will act on the Plan.

Oral and Written Comments: All meetings of the Commission and its advisory committees are open to the public. Reasonable opportunity to present comments, ask questions or provide input will be accepted at any of these meetings consistent with rules of these respective bodies. In addition, any written comments submitted prior to plan adoption will be considered by the Commission at the time of action. Notices and materials for Commission or advisory committee meetings will be provided to interested parties on receipt of a request which includes the complete name and mailing address of the interested party.

M O R E

The following examples are representative of projects in the Regional 2030 Transportation Plan.

- Widening portions of Willow Highway in Eaton County from two to three lanes and adding right turn lanes at intersections.
- Widening Abbott from Lake Lansing Road to the Clinton County line from two to four lanes in East Lansing.
- Widening Farm Lane from two to four lanes between Mt. Hope and Trowbridge and constructing an underpass beneath two railroad tracks on the MSU campus.
- Widening and replacing the Hagadorn Road bridge over the Red Cedar River from four to six lanes by Ingham County.
- Reconstruction of the intersection at Clark and Airport Road and signaling the intersection of DeWitt and Herbison in Clinton County.
- Resurfacing Cavanaugh between Cedar and Stabler and Miller Road between Pleasant Grove and Washington in Lansing.
- Resurfacing M-36 from US-127 to the Mason City limits by MDOT.

In addition, the Draft Plan includes a future Regional Non-Motorized System Plan for pedestrians and bicyclists, future public transit system improvements and airport improvements for Capital City Airport.

TCRPC Executive Director, Jon W. Coleman, in announcing availability of the Draft Plan and meetings for public review and comments, stated:

“The Regional 2030 Transportation Plan is a key document which addresses federal laws and local needs for planning the regional transportation system, consistent with federal transportation funding eligibility requirements and the Clean Air Act as amended.

“In order for any major road or public transportation project to be constructed in the three county region using federal funds, it must be drawn from this transportation plan.

“While this plan addresses these requirements, it clearly shows there are many more future congestion problems facing the region than we are financially able to solve. Addressing unfunded regional congestion deficiencies will be a key issue as this plan is revised and updated in the future.

“On behalf of the Commission, I urge any interested parties to review the Draft Plan and submit comments concerning this plan to local elected officials as we move through its adoption process in the next several weeks.”

M O R E

Additional information on the Regional 2030 Transportation Plan or public involvement opportunities in its review and adoption process can be obtained by contacting the:

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
913 W. Holmes Road, Suite 201
Lansing, MI 48910
Phone: (517) 393-0342
Fax: (517) 393-4424
Toll Free: (517) 393-6386 or 1-800-619-6676
Email: sskinker@mitcrpc.org

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MEETING NOTICE

REGIONAL 2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

DATE: October 12, 2005 (Wednesday)

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Ingham County Human Services Building
Conference Room B
5303 S. Cedar Street
Lansing, MI 48910

AGENDA

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Jon W. Coleman, Executive Director
- II. Regional 2030 Transportation Plan and Related Conformity Demonstrations - Public Information Meeting

Staff Presentation:

- A. Staff will present the plan and give an overview of the document.

Question and Answers:

- B. Staff will respond to any questions by Commission members or the general public.

Public Comments:

- C. Opportunity will be provided for public comment, subject to rule of the chair. Members of the public wishing to comment must present a written sign in sheet to the chair prior to this agenda item.

(Over)

Discussion:

D. At conclusion of the public comment period, staff will provide initial responses or discuss comments, concerns or respond to any additional questions on any other aspects of the Regional 2030 Transportation Plan and/or related conformity determination as appropriate.

III. Other

- Closing remarks – Jon W. Coleman, Executive Director
- Other

IV. Adjourn: Approximately 4:00 p.m.



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Jon W. Coleman

REGIONAL 2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN **PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: October 26, 2005 (Wednesday)
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Ingham County Human Services Building
Conference Room B
5303 S. Cedar Street
Lansing, MI 48910

ATTENDANCE: *TCRPC Members:* David Pohl, Dianne Holman, Mark Smuts, Russel Bauerle, Larry Martin, Fred Marquardt, Al Kempf, Susan McGillicuddy

TCRPC Staff: Jon Coleman, Executive Director
Paul Hamilton, Steve Skinker, Carrie Clinkscales
Public: Leonard Provencher, Haslett

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Jon W. Coleman, TCRPC Executive Director, opened the public information meeting at approximately 6:38 p.m. Mr. Coleman said this is an informational meeting for those interested in discussing the Transportation Plan. Those present introduced themselves. Mr. Coleman reviewed the agenda and stated that this is the third public information meeting to be held and the final meeting before the Commission acts on the Plan later this evening.
- II. Regional 2030 Transportation Plan and Related Conformity Demonstrations - Public Information Meeting

Staff Presentation:

- A. Paul Hamilton gave a brief history and stated the primary purpose of this update is to address the new air quality requirements. Notice was published in the Lansing State Journal on September 12 and 2500 individual letters of invitation for all of the public information meetings were mailed. A press release was mailed and copies of the plan were sent to libraries. The toll free hotline was reactivated. A number of calls were received from people requesting copies of the plan.

Hamilton said this is not a major update. He presented the plan and highlighted changes from the 2025 plan noting that two new program categories have been added to address safe routes to school and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality. The deficiency analysis has been updated and some numbers may change in the final document due to some additional model runs and analysis. Safe routes to schools was identified as the region's highest safety priority, so specific language has been added in the safety section to reflect the safe routes to schools program. The inventory of non-motorized facilities, existing and proposed, has been updated. Hamilton commented on changes to the project lists in Chapter 13 and additions and corrections on an errata sheet.

Question and Answers:

B. Staff responded to questions by Commission members and the public. Fred Marquardt complimented staff on finishing the plan, noting problems and setbacks in getting the work done. Mr. Marquardt asked if there has been an increase or decrease in public transportation. Hamilton replied that ridership is going up. Chapter 10 contains figures for the last several years (a nine-year history). He said information from local transit agencies and from around the country indicates ridership is increasing as the price of gasoline goes up. Mr. Marquardt commented that in reading about some of the problems of mass transit he has read that one is we don't have a central business district anymore. Hamilton replied that dispersion of employment once in the central business district makes it more difficult to serve suburban to suburban or cross-town type service. Mr. Coleman commented that some larger metropolitan areas have developed a loop system that circles the urban area with connections to feeder routes that go into the center.

Susan McGillicuddy asked if the illustrative list had changed since printing of the document. Hamilton replied that there have been some changes in the illustrative list which are listed on the errata sheet. Steve Skinker noted that there are some replacement pages for CATA which are attached to the errata sheet. Hamilton said Clinton and Ingham Counties submitted small urban area projects for Urban STP funds that were not eligible because Urban STP funds cannot be used in small urban areas. Since these projects were not eligible for that funding source, they were moved into the Illustrative List on the errata sheet. Hamilton said he is discussing with the counties the possibility of using Category F funds for these projects.

Dianne Holman commented that she thinks people want to look up projects in the document and this can be difficult. She suggested that the next document have an index by road. Paul Hamilton said this is a very good idea and it will be done. Ms. Holman said she would also like to see a schedule of how a project gets into the plan. She said she has questions about how much public input there is on a project before it comes through CARTS and TRC. Paul Hamilton said the schedule is printed in the TIP and the schedule is sent out months in advance and provided to the Commission. He said the call for projects that goes out to all jurisdictions can also be made available to anyone who wants it. He said the information provided varies by program type. There is an application process that is different depending on funding source. He said the public involvement at the local level is local and varies. He said all projects that end up in the plan are local in the beginning. Holman asked for an

explanation of “conversion” on several projects in the plan. Hamilton replied that these are advance construct projects which is a funding tactic whereby a federal project is started with local funds, built to meet federal standards and is converted later to a federal aid project and the jurisdiction is reimbursed at that time.

Public Comments:

- C. The floor was opened to public comment. Leonard Provencher from Haslett asked to speak regarding the plan, bicyclists and Okemos Road between Central Park Drive and Haslett Road. Mr. Provencher said he is an active bicyclist commuting seven miles each way to and from work, four to six months a year. He commented that he believes Ingham County has done well within the rural areas in particular in the way roads are marked two to five feet or more. Mr. Provencher spoke favorably of the curbed areas in East Lansing and Meridian Township along Burcham where a contiguous bike lane is provided. He also commented favorably on the accommodation on Grand River between Frandor and where Saginaw runs in to Michigan. Mr. Provencher said that although he has supported Meridian Township’s pathway system, his personal preference is on-road contiguous lanes. Mr. Provencher said he thinks the philosophy as set by ASHTO standards should be adopted and incorporated in MDOT’s cdrom of accommodations for cyclists.

Mr. Provencher said he sees that TCRPC rates roads by deficiencies based on user volume and asked what happens when because of a natural occurrence the roadway becomes unavailable. He said he is referring to Okemos Road where the Pine Lake Drain, Lake Lansing and Mudd Lake come through. Mr. Provencher said that over the last few years this portion of the road has been closed several times due to flooding. He commented on the priorities of this road when the other end of Okemos Road is being widened and there is talk, as identified in the plan, of an aesthetic median for that portion of the road. Mr. Provencher said he thought these priorities should be changed and asked when the plan will be updated again. Hamilton said the new law says four years so the next target will be January 1, 2010. Hamilton said once this plan is acted on we immediately start again. Mr. Provencher thanked the Commission for the opportunity to comment.

Discussion:

- D. Dianne Holman asked about amendments during the next five years. Hamilton said the plan can be amended. If any of the capacity improvement jobs change we would have to re-do conformity and modeling. If there is no change in scope, amendments can be done administratively.

III. Other

- Closing remarks – Jon W. Coleman, Executive Director
- Other – Hamilton provided staff’s response to the comment concerning Okemos Road, indicating there are different kinds of deficiencies and issues raised by Mr. Provencher concerning Okemos Road were a drainage and condition deficiency. Hamilton said these things are considered by local road agencies when considering the need for reconstruction and resolving specific problems which tend to be more short term than long term. Mr. Provencher said he considers patching a band aid approach and it does not address the problem on Okemos Road. Hamilton said the typical transportation plan until recently only dealt with capacity deficiencies. Mr. Provencher said his understanding of how government functions is that the governing body,

city or village or a township has a certain amount of money that it can spend through its road agency and they make requests, and that organization in conjunction with this organization, if they want federal money, has to come up with a plan. He asked if prioritization for the work initiates with the governing body. Hamilton replied the responsible road agency. In Michigan townships have no responsibility for roads and the relationships between townships and the road agencies varies. C/McGillicuddy said that typically the road commission tells the township what roads they are going to work on. The township has to match funds for subdivision streets, but have no authority over the other roads in the township. Phil Chisholm, Delta Township said Delta Township has an excellent relationship with the Eaton County Road Commission. Delta Township prioritizes projects in the township and for the most part, the road commission goes along with the township's priorities. Mr. Coleman thanked Mr. Provencher and the Commission members for their comments and suggestions.

IV. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.