



TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Planning for People in the Greater Lansing Region Since 1956

TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

2011 OFFICERS

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Susan M.C. Pigg, CEcD

Date: April 27, 2011 (Wednesday) at 7:30 p.m.

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

CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ch/Pohl called the meeting to order at approximately 7:35 p.m. and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL (see attached attendance record) - APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was MOVED by C/Veenstra, SUPPORTED by C/McGrain, to approve the agenda as printed. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was MOVED by C/Bauerle, SUPPORTED by C/Martin, to approve the minutes of March 23, 2011 as printed. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMUNICATIONS

Executive Director Pigg said public comment communications received prior to the meeting were compiled into one packet and distributed. In addition, communications submitted at this meeting are at each seat.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ch/Pohl said there are two opportunities for public comment. He asked that all review the public participation guide, register with the Clerk, adhere to a 3 minute limit and identify yourself prior to speaking.

Comments on Michigan Avenue Extension

Phil Chisholm, 1132 Vail Court, Lansing, urged the Commission to support this project given that it's been part of the planning process for a number of years and the Township spent several hundred thousands of dollars to build a bridge in anticipation of a Michigan Avenue extension.

Doug Kosinski, 7305 S. Glen Terra Drive, Lansing, respectfully noted that the issue is not to question the merits of the project, but rather a funds transfer from the St. Joe project to the Michigan Avenue project. He said that removing funds from the St. Joe project has not followed a transportation planning process nor was there an opportunity for public comment. He urged the Commission to return this project to Delta Township for notice and hearing. He stated that there are merits to the St. Joe project vs. the increased cost of Michigan Avenue to place a sound wall no more than 30 ft. from residents' bedrooms. Mr. Kosinski displayed an aerial photo of the project areas. He encouraged the Commission not to sacrifice a much more worthwhile project (St. Joe).

Carl Bond, 7119 Glen Terra Drive, Lansing, expressed concerns with public safety on St. Joe Hwy. He said if funding is maintained for the St. Joe project, the residents will have an improved link from Lansing across the Township and County that Michigan Avenue will not provide.

Richard Watkins, Delta Township Manager, provided a project summary sheet with a map of the area. He said this project has been on the books since 1973 and has continually been acted upon over the years. The project went from priority #5 to #1 and development has occurred since 1973 assuming that this road would be extended. The Township continued to acquire right of way and a bridge costing about \$600 was built in anticipation of this project. He said several meetings have been held over the years. Delta Township Board supports this project and funds are available to provide the match.

Blair Ballou, Eaton County Road Commission, stated that he concurred with Mr. Watkins' statements.

Sarah Crispin, 7311 Glen Terra Drive, disputed the cost of the culvert and suggested that if funds were transferred to the Michigan Avenue extension project, \$1.6 million is not sufficient and asked where the rest of the funds would come from.

Comments on Waverly Road Sidewalk Project

Michael Unsworthy, Mid-Michigan Active Transportation Coalition said he represents a group of volunteers concerned with providing alternative transportation opportunities. He indicated that 30-40% of the tri-county area does not or cannot drive. He feels this project will link up facilities in a multi-jurisdictional area and is needed. The Coalition supports the proposed Waverly Road improvements.

Bill Ballenger, 2029 S. Waverly Road, President of Waverly Hills Association, said he has not seen any accidents along the road in the last 40 yrs. The Association collected signatures opposing the project with the notion that this is a waste of public money. He said he will not see the sidewalk from his property if it goes through, but wishes to express citizen opposition on behalf of the Waverly Hills community. He also stated that Lansing Township's Board voted (6-1) to remove their support of this project.

Leonard Provencher, Mid-Michigan Active Transportation Coalition, said TCRPC thinks in terms of "community" in the sense of bringing completeness to the community at-large and feels that action of the Commission should be inclusive of needs of the entire community. He noted two pedestrian/cyclist deaths in the area that could be prevented in the future. He asked the Commission to move forward with adding this project to the illustrative list.

Tom Masseau, Lansing Township Trustee (representing himself), is supportive of regional cooperation, but at a time when revenues are declining, individual communities need to look at the overall. He said the Township was told on December 10, 2010 by the City, that to collaborate on this project would cost \$2 million. The City of Lansing asked for a letter of agreement by April 4. He said the Township Board never formally discussed this project or adding it to the illustrative list. He said the Township generally does not have sidewalks. He asked how a township facing layoffs can make this project a priority. He asked that the TCRPC respect the Township vote (6-1), to not place the project on the illustrative list, and to support the Township's decision without allowing other municipalities to dictate the use of allocations.

Rory Neuner, 907 Britten Avenue, Lansing, spoke as a resident of Moores River Park in favor of the project and noted safety issues along the corridor. She provided information and comments from the March, 2009 Lansing Walk and Bike Task Force, where this project was identified as a priority corridor for non-motorized improvements since 1981. She indicated that there have been accidents and the "goat trail"

indicates a need for a walkable facility. She urged the TCRPC to support this project and add it to the illustrative list.

Kathy Dunbar, City of Lansing Council, but speaking as Director of the South Lansing Community Development Association, a non-profit organization. They have been actively involved in neighbourhoods since 2002. In their citizen engagement process, the neighbourhoods expressed a strong desire for sidewalks along Waverly and passage along the River. She said there have been 3 pedestrian-vehicle accidents within 50 yards of that intersection since 1995. She said putting this project on the illustrative list will allow the municipalities to apply for grant money. She urged the TCRPC to put this project on the list.

Chad Gamble, City of Lansing Director of Public Service, discussed the opportunities this project will provide, such as a safe passage way for children, creating a regional non-motorized transportation facility with connection to city parks and a link to a regional recreational facility (YMCA), and it will allow the City to gain leverage for funding that otherwise goes to other communities. He hopes the TCRPC will consider this opportunity for funding to create a safe place for non-motorized travelers along the corridor.

There were no further comments.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Susan Pigg provided a brief update on TCRPC staff activities over the past month.

- Environmental Planner, Christine Spitzley, has been working with MSU students to review the region's groundwater protection plans. Preliminary results were presented to the Groundwater Management Board (GMB) and will be available at the end of the month. Christine also sent groundwater model recharge data to White Oak Township and offered to assist them with the distressing gasoline spill situation.
- Information Systems Planner, Daniel Dillinger, continues to receive 2010 Census data as it is released. Dan provided a presentation to the St. Johns Rotary on the new Census statistics.
- Land Use Planner, Harmony Gmazel, hosted another brown bag luncheon as part of our efforts to improve the professional capacity of planners in the region. This month's topic was Complete Streets legislation. Harmony has also been working with MSU students to assess the progress of the Regional Growth Initiative. Preliminary results of their review will be presented to the Regional Growth Steering Committee meeting on May 3.
- Economic Development Planner, Christine Hnatiw, is hosting Agricultural Business Economic Development planning meetings. Public comments and review of ideas will be compiled to develop a plan to support and encourage agricultural based economic development in our region.
- Transportation Planning Technician, Paul Dionne, participated in a GIS conference in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
- Transportation Analyst, Hary Prawiranata, developed new computer applications for office coordination.
- Transportation Planner, Steve Skinker, facilitated a successful ADA Training session.

Michigan Avenue/Grand River Corridor Study – Jason Ball, Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA)

Ms. Pigg introduced Jason Ball who presented the Michigan Avenue/Grand River Corridor Study. Mr. Ball explained that CATA has engaged in alternatives analysis for transportation improvements for this corridor over the last two years. CATA evaluated possible transit modes for the corridor based on basic

engineering assumptions focusing on the corridor as a whole. The alternatives analysis is complete and the Modified Bus Rapid Transit alternative has been adopted as the locally preferred alternative. This modified alternative will add stations to increase ridership and reduce cost. Benefits include ridership, economic development and environmental impacts. Mr. Ball described the public involvement process and the priorities identified by the steering committee. They estimate a project cost of \$194 million. This project will require a variety of funding sources. CATA asks to amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Long Range Plan (LRP) so they can apply for funding through the "Small Starts" federal transit program. CATA will adjust the ridership model and begin project scoping to apply to FTA in fall 2011. This will require Commission action in May and will be taken through the Committee process. Additional information is available at the project website www.migrtrans.org.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive/Personnel Committee – Ch/Pohl reported on the April 20, 2011 meeting. The Committee discussed the public comment guidelines. They discussed more with regard to moving the TCRPC offices. Staff will seek locations and the Committee will evaluate 3-5 possible sites and will provide a recommendation to the full Commission.

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

1) Financial Reports – March 2011

C/Wood indicated that half way through the fiscal year, the finances are on track. She reviewed the financial report noting that pass through funds were from payment on the aerial photos and this bank account has now been closed. C/Wood MOVED, C/McGrain SUPPORTED, to receive and place the March financial report on file. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Program & Grant Committee – C/Holman reported on the April 13, 2011 meeting.

1) Applications to the Natural Resource Trust Fund

C/Holman said the Committee reviewed the Natural Resources Trust Fund grant applications and recommended that projects move forward with favorable reviews. A resolution was distributed for the Commission to support these projects moving forward. The motion was MOVED by C/Holman, SUPPORTED by C/Martin, to approve sending a letter informing the MNRTF and applicants of this resolution of support. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2) Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Project List

No action required on this item. The EDC rescinded their request to include the City of Lansing project in the CEDS at this time.

Regional Growth Steering Committee – C/Martin reported on efforts of the Urban and Rural Service Boundary Committee (URSD/USB) and noted that they met jointly with the Regional Growth Steering Committee last month to review the 2011 Tri-County Urban Service Management Study. Both Committees support the study's recommendations. The Commission is *only* being asked to adopt the recommendations of the study, *not* to adopt a physical boundary line for municipalities. It was MOVED by C/Martin, SUPPORTED by C/Veenstra, to adopt the Tri-County Urban Service Management Study Recommendations and encouraged area municipalities to identify and adopt their part of a regional service boundary. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C/Veenstra said the boundary line shown in the preliminary report was based on outdated information for Meridian Township. The Township will begin the process of adopting the urban service boundary following state law when amending master plans, which takes approximately 6 months. At that point, the

Township will submit their revised boundary to the URSD/USB Committee. Ch/Pohl said the intention is to have each jurisdiction review and refine their boundaries.

Transportation Review Committee – C/Monsma reported on the April 13, 2011 Transportation Review Committee (TRC) meeting.

1) TIP Amendment – Waverly Road Sidewalk Project

C/Monsma said this project received support from the Capital Area Regional Transportation Study (CARTS) Technical Committee, but the TRC motion to recommend Failed. C/Monsma explained that both CARTS and TRC are advisory to the Commission. The TRC had extensive discussion on the committee process and what it means to have projects listed on the illustrative list. Staff provided responses to frequently asked questions about the illustrative list. It was MOVED by C/Monsma, SUPPORTED by C/McGrain, to put this project before the Commission to add the project to the 2011-2014 TIP illustrative list.

Ch/Pohl invited Paul Hamilton, TCRPC Chief Transportation Planner, to comment. Based on concerns, Hamilton explained that the intent of the illustrative list is to expedite the public process, not to avoid it. Staff has *not* been in the practice of administratively expediting contentious projects. Hamilton reminded the Commission that their role is to look at the regional significance of the projects and how they relate the adopted Long Range Transportation Plan (LRP). In reviewing the Regional Growth portion of the LRP, Hamilton sees the adopted goal of connecting recreational centers and communities with one of the highest regional priorities to complete the river trail system and its connections. He recommends that this project be placed on the illustrative list consistent with the adopted Long Range Transportation Plan.

C/Yorko said she would have supported this project at TRC if had been able to attend. C/Yorko represents the 4th Ward and a number of citizens have expressed concerns about safety there. She disclosed that she is the Environmental Justice Coordinator for the Ingham County Health Department and stressed the importance of equitable access to environmental benefits and protections across race, income, gender and other differences. She provided a summary of comments from the Non-Motorized sessions on March 30, 2009, where numerous concerns were expressed about the corridor. C/Yorko strongly supports adding this project to the illustrative list.

C/Dravenstatt-Moceri said on December 20, 2010, the ICRC voted unanimously (5-0) to support this project and he would have voted in favor of the project at the TRC meeting had he been in attendance. He apologized for missing the meeting held while he was out of town.

C/McGrain noted the regional significance of this project since it touches three municipalities. He said that not adding the project would preclude the opportunity offered by a regional asset. He agreed that there are issues that need to be resolved, but feels comfortable supporting this project to allow discussion to continue and to seek funding.

C/Wood explained she does not support this project due to the municipal mixed feelings about the project. She encouraged the City and Township to resolve issues prior to action by the Commission.

C/Holman said she would like to see a municipal sign-off requirement before placing projects on the illustrative list to validate their support since projects are easily expedited once they've been placed on the illustrative list.

C/Veenstra is supportive of the proposed project based on safety issues and he believes it is needed. In recognizing both citizen opposition and support for the project, and its regional significance, the project should be added to the illustrative list to pursue funding opportunities.

C/Pizzo concurred with C/Holman that all municipalities should be in support of the project. Since Lansing Township is not in support of the project, he will not vote in favor.

C/Martin made a friendly amendment to make sure that this project be brought back through the full Committee process for review and approval of the Commission prior to advancing this project into the TIP. C/Veenstra SUPPORTED the friendly amendment. MOTION CARRIED (C/Wood and C/Pizzo – Opposed)

Discussion continued and Hamilton explained the advantages of applying for enhancement funds collaboratively. He also explained that the Township is not an eligible recipient of these funds like the City and the Road Commission. C/Boles suggested that the municipalities work through issues prior to the 2013 funding year.

A vote was called on the motion to approve adding the proposed Waverly Road sidewalk project to the TIP illustrative list with a condition that the project must be brought back through the full Committee process and to the Commission for review and approval prior to addition to the TIP. MOTION CARRIED 13-4 (Opposed – C/Pizzo, C/Osieczonek, C/Holman, C/Wood)

- 2) TIP Amendment – Michigan Avenue Extension – It was MOVED by C/Monsma, SUPPORTED by C/Dravenstatt-Moceri, to amend the Michigan Avenue Extension project costs by reducing the Eaton County St. Joe Highway project scope and delaying it until 2012.

C/Yorko asked for a quick summary of the changes to the St. Joe Highway project. C/Monsma explained that the ECRC request is to move \$650,000 of 2011 federal funding from the St. Joe project to the 2011 Michigan Avenue extension project, and to modify the project limits for the 2012 St. Joe project from Canal - Broadbent to Canal - I-96 bridge, and also to change the description of the 2012 St. Joe project to “add curb and gutter, turn lanes, and resurface.”

C/Houghton asked if approving this amendment would eliminate funding for the St. Joe project. C/Monsma explained that this action will not remove the St. Joe project, it will only transfer funds amongst planned years.

C/Holman asked about the sound wall for the Michigan Avenue extension project. C/Pizzo said Delta Township is working with general cost estimates. He said the Township has supported this project since 1973, has matching funds available, and this is listed as the priority. C/Pizzo referred to the map of the proposed extension to highlight the spaces with development plans that will need access through the Michigan Avenue extension.

C/Osieczonek asked if the Commission has response to the citizen comment regarding the lack of public input if this has gone through the appropriate process. He described errors in the fact sheet provided by the Township. He said it is critical to note that the Glen Terra Subdivision was developed in the 90's. He questioned whether Township planners knew the extension was on the books or would have prevented the development. He expressed concerns with the sound wall proximity to residents' homes and believes the houses should be removed.

Hamilton said this project is in an air-quality conforming LRP and TIP and explained that there are air quality conformity impacts if projects in the LRP are not built. Removing projects will result in a non-conforming Plan, which will cost anywhere from \$35,000 to \$50,000 to remodel. That will take 180 days minimum, which will impact all other regional projects since the entire Plan could be shut down with no projects funded until FHWA authorizes the whole plan as conforming.

C/Veenstra expressed opposition to the request. C/Boles said this project has already had funds committed to it and the action tonight is to transfer funds, which he will vote in favor of. C/Osieczonek said an alternative was proposed by citizens that would extend the road only half way to Creyts. This could give access to some developments and the church. C/Boles questioned the validity of only building half of a road.

The vote was called to take action to transfer \$650,000 from the St. Joe project to Michigan Avenue project and to reduce the St. Joe project scope and delay it until 2012. MOTION CARRIED 11-6 (Opposed: C/Osieczonek, C/Holman, C/McGrain, C/Veenstra, C/Houghton, C/Yorko)

Public Comment

Doug Kosinski, Delta Township resident, commented on the cost of the Michigan Avenue extension project and suggested that the estimate provided was authenticated by an MDOT staff member who plans, builds and funds roads. Building a half mile road would provide direct access to the south portion of the Eyde development property and to the condominiums proposed by the church. He said there are better, cheaper more responsible ways to accomplish these objectives.

Tom Massuea, Lansing Township Trustee, thanked the Commission for the discussion and expressed disappointment. He said he has a contract and letter from the City with an agreement that says the Township agrees to provide funds and the City will invoice the Township for maintenance costs. As an elected official, he believes that municipalities need to come together to decide how to resolve this issue with all of the information in front of them.

Ch/Pohl said thanked the public for participating in a very professional and courteous manner and noted that all comments are looked at and considered. C/McGrain commended staff for preparing materials and fact sheets for the Commission.

It was MOVED by C/Martin, SUPPORTED by C/Houghton, to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 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									
	Larry Martin	X	X	X	X									
	David Pohl	X	X	X	X									
Eaton County	Howard Pizzo	X	X	X	X									
	Daryl Baker	X	X	X	X									
	John Boles	X		X	X									
	Jim Osieczonek	X	X	X	X									
	Darrell Tennis	X	X	X										
Ingham County	Dianne Holman	X	X	X	X									
	John Veenstra	X	X	X	X									
	Kevin Beard		X		X									
	James Dravenstatt-	X	X	X	X									
	Brian McGrain	X	X	X	X									
City of Lansing	Tina Houghton	X			X									
	Ralph Monsma	X			X									
	Jessica Yorke			X	X									
	Shirley Rodgers	X	X											
	Carol Wood	X	X	X	X									
MDOT	Denise Jackson	X	X	X	X									
TOTAL	19	17	15	15	17									

Others:

January 27, 2011: Jon W. Coleman, Susan M.C. Pigg, Greg Hoffman, Maria Habba, Kathy Donahue, Paul Hamilton, Steve Skinker, Laura Tschirhart, Paul Dionne, Hary Prawiranata, Christine Spitzley, Erin Campbell, Christine Hnatiw, Dan Dillinger, Harmony Gmazel; Outgoing Commissioner, Marsha Small	February 23, 2011: Susan M.C. Pigg, Greg Hoffman, Maria Habba, Paul Hamilton; John Forell, Eaton County; Jason Ball, CATA; Paul Lott, MDOT, James Canham, Alfred Benesch & Company
March 23, 2011: Susan M.C. Pigg, Greg Hoffman, Maria Habba, Paul Hamilton, Harmony Gmazel; Bob Kittle, Munetrix; Jason Ball, CATA	April 27, 2011: Susan M.C. Pigg, Greg Hoffman, Maria Habba, Paul Hamilton; Harmony Gmazel; Chad Gamble, City of Lansing; Citizens: Rick Kibbey, Doug and Shelagh Kosinski, Dean Crispin, Carolyn Bond, Carl Bond, Sarah Crispin, Don Skittenhelm, Duane Eldred, Michal Unsworth, Leonard Provencher, William Ballinger, Jeanne Wright, Kathie Dunbar, Ody Norkin, Rory Neuner, Julie Schubel; Richard Watkins, Delta Township; Tom Masseur, Lansing Township; Blair Ballou, ECRC; Andy Balaskoritz, City Pulse.