



# TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Planning for People in the Greater Lansing Region Since 1956

## MINUTES

### Transportation Review Committee (TRC)

#### 2011 OFFICERS

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David Pohl, Clinton County

##### VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Howard Pizzo, Eaton County

##### TREASURER

Carol Wood, City of Lansing

##### SECRETARY

Dianne Holman, Ingham County

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###### **City of Lansing**

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Ralph Monsma

Shirley M. Rodgers

Carol Wood

Jessica Yorko

###### **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 20, 2011 (Wednesday) at 4:00 p.m.  
Place: Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Offices - Southwind Conf. Rm.  
913 W. Holmes Road, Suite 201, Lansing MI 48910

Attendance: See attached attendance sheet.

Staff Present: Susan M.C. Pigg, Paul Hamilton, Steve Skinker, Maria Habba

The meeting was called to order by Ch/Monsma at approximately 4:00 p.m.

#### I. Introductions/Minutes

It was MOVED by C/Dravenstatt-Moceri, SUPPORTED by C/Pizzo, to approve the June 11, 2011 minutes as printed. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Introductions were made and Ch/Monsma asked any who wished to make public comments to identify themselves, to make comments clear and limited to 3-5 minutes, and he explained that the TRC is a policy committee making recommendations to the full Commission which will meet on July 27, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ingham County Human Services Building (Conference Room A) 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing MI 48910.

#### II. TIP Amendments

##### A. Michigan Flyer – TCSP Application

**Michigan Flyer seeks operating assistance to startup 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 seek one year of funding to start November, 2011. If approved, the project will be placed in the TIP illustrative list pending award. Funding source: FHWA's Transportation, Community, and System Preservation (TCSP) Program; Project cost: \$1,563,660 Federal + \$390,915 private sector = \$1,954,575**

##### 1. Michigan Flyer Representative Comments:

Chad Cushman, Vice President, Indian Trails, Inc./Michigan Flyer, shared their objective and asked for consideration of adding their project to the TIP illustrative list based on the merits of the application. Michigan Flyer provides public transportation service and has served 400,000 passengers. They seek federal funding through a TCSP grant to expand services between East Lansing and the Detroit Metropolitan Airport. The TCSP program encourages public/private partnerships. He noted that private operators often receive public funding and gave examples. He also stated that he attempted to reach the Capital Region Airport to discuss cooperation as suggested by a CARTS member but got no response.

## 2. Comments from Other Interested Agencies

Robert Selig, Executive Director of the Capital Region Airport Authority, introduced Robert O'Brien who retired from the Chicago Rockford International Airport. Mr. O'Brien shared observations of the similarities between the Chicago and Lansing airports and noted the impacts of bus service in Illinois (attached). He said that doubling private bus service with a public subsidy that purposely takes away from one community in favor of another is troubling.

Tim Damon, President & CEO of the Lansing Regional Chamber, said he represents over 11,000 businesses in the tri-county area including Michigan Flyer. While they support the private sector in the region, they cannot support the proposed subsidy of one firm. He asked the Committee to consider if this project would be an effective decision for the region.

Ross Woodstock, Mid-Michigan Business Travel Coalition, explained that they are a coalition of business and governments committed to developing the best possible air service in the region. He said if we are going to grow our economy, we need air hubs. They support Michigan Flyer, but feel it is inappropriate to support the Detroit Metropolitan Airport and feel that the region should keep tax payer dollars to build air service in this region.

Ody Norkin, Vice President of Michigan Flyer, said they are asking for a one-time grant to assist with expanding service routes that will be self-sustaining after a year. He said there would not be public transportation without support. Mr. Norkin said there is room for inter and intra city transportation and asked the Committee consider the expertise of CARTS.

Jeff Hicks, Delta Township, commented from a consumer and business perspective. He said Michigan Flyer is an alternative for travelers who are already traveling to Detroit Metro Airport. And consumers will typically factor in the air cost, bus or parking costs, etc. when making travel arrangements. He concurred that Michigan Flyer will reduce carbon footprint. However, the effort will divert tri-county dollars to the Howell, Brighton (SEMCOG) area and create a new service for those residents.

## 3. Committee Discussion/Action

Hamilton clarified the recommendation from CARTS that all TCSP applications be added to the illustrative list and prioritized. Staff contacted the City of Lansing to request their application, which was enclosed.

Ch/Monsma noted that CARTS is a technical committee and is charged with looking at projects from that perspective. TRC is policy body to consider regional concerns and to keep the transportation program moving. This Committee's recommendation will go to the Commission.

Hamilton said the TCSP is federal discretionary fund and both projects are eligible and could bring more dollars to Michigan. He noted that the TCRPC is responsible for taking care of what's in our MPO and he always encourages applicants to seek regional support when applying for federal funds. Hamilton said it is always helpful to have local and congressional support of projects when applying for competitive federal dollars.

**It was MOVED by C/Veenstra, SUPPORTED by C/Dravenstatt-Moceri, to support the Michigan Flyer TCSP proposal and recommend placing it on the TIP illustrative list.**

There was discussion on where the buses would leave from. Michigan Flyer now leaves from the East Lansing Marriott. They have invested in other property on Michigan Avenue and hope to move service

there to complement the Michigan Avenue corridor. Ball said CATA has not expressed support for the proposed facility and it is not planned in the corridor study. Ball also noted the recently approved TIP amendment for a new AMTRAK station with support from East Lansing, MSU and other regional partners. Michigan Flyer's operating location was discussed.

C/Osieczonek asked why Michigan Flyer's application is being made through the TCRPC vs. SEMCOG. Mr. Norkin said they are mitigating for one of the worst air pollutants in Wayne County, but they serve tri-county residents. Ch/Monsma said that Flyer is not designated as a public transportation agency and discussed concerns. Ch/ Monsma called for a vote.

**MOTION FAILED 5-3 (Opposed: C/Beard, C/Tennis, C/Monsma, C/Pizzo, C/Osieczonek); (Favor: C/Veenstra, C/Dravenstatt-Moceri, McBurrows)**

Ch/Monsma invited the members to comment on their reason for their vote. McBurrows said MDOT supports the Michigan Flyer application because the project is consistent with Michigan's State Long-Range Plan and with FTA's Section 5311 program, which requires state support for intercity bus service. McBurrows also said the proposed project has a public/private partnership, later clarifying, the public sector/private sector partnership was for funding the project. C/Beard said he voted against the project because he believes the public/private partnership aspect should be a demonstrated need by MDOT to serve a particular route or community in a particular fashion. He said it is unclear how the route was determined, if they will be offering subsidies to low income riders, and wondered if any state or local governments demonstrated a need for this additional service. C/Monsma voted no because he does not believe the application improves intercity services, does not have an intermodal hub, and feels more information is needed. C/Veenstra voted in favor because there is capacity for the airport to accommodate additional flyers. C/Dravenstatt-Moceri supported because he feels we need to support various options for travel. C/Tennis voted no because of concerns that it may damage the Regional Airport and he cannot support public money that may harm our airport. C/Pizzo voted no based on discussions with the Delta Township Board where there was not consensus to use public funds for a for-profit firm. C/Osieczonek voted no because he does not see the great benefit to the tri-county area and because of the Airport concerns, though he supports public/private partnerships.

**B. City of Lansing – TCSP Application**

**The City of Lansing's TCSP application is for the Washington Avenue corridor from Barnes to Malcolm X 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 the installation of extensive green infrastructure for stormwater management and other pedestrian amenities. If approved, the project will be placed in the illustrative list pending award. 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**

Andy Kilpatrick, City of Lansing, said the City is planning to work in conjunction with development of the Lansing Board of Water & Light site. The City does not have adequate STP funding for this project and so applied. He recommends giving this project #1 priority.

**It was MOVED by C/Pizzo, SUPPORTED by C/Veenstra, to recommend placing the City of Lansing's TCSP application for the Washington Avenue project on the TIP illustrative list. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**It was MOVED by C/Tennis, SUPPORTED by C/Pizzo, to make the Lansing project the #1 priority for TCSP funding in this region.**

Discussion: Ball would like MDOT to explain why they do not respect the priorities of the regional transportation process. Hamilton said an MDOT committee scored the TCSP applications on their criteria. Commissioners asked staff to see if MDOT can address this issue. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. Clinton County Small Urban Program

**2012 deletion:** St. Johns – Oakland Street from Sturgis St. to Railroad St.

**2012 replacement:** St. Johns – Sturgis St. from Scott Rd. to the west .11 mile, and Scott Road from Sturgis St. to Jones St. **Adjusted length:** .57 mile to .35 mile

**2014 deletions:** Clinton Transit bus purchase and St. Johns – Gibbs Street (Lansing Street to US 127 BR) and Spring Street (M-21 to Railroad Street)

**2014 replacement:** CCRC – Townsend Road (US 127 BR to US 127) **Adjusted length:** .20 mile to 1.3 miles

**It was MOVED by C/Tennis, SUPPORTED by C/Pizzo, to recommend approval of the Clinton County Small Urban amendments to the 2011-2014 TIP. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

III. Cancellation of August Meeting

**It was MOVED by C/Veenstra, SUPPORTED by C/Pizzo to cancel the August meeting subject to call of the chair.** C/Osieczonek expressed concern with cancelling the meeting in the event action needs to be taken related to project obligation. Hamilton explained the project selection committee's public process. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IV. Status of 2011 Urban STP and CMAQ Projects

Staff distributed the status of 2011 Urban STP and CMAQ projects. ECRC has provided responses to FHWA regarding Michigan Avenue Extension. Correspondence between citizens and FHWA is attached. Carl Bond, CAEMA, asked questions about the EA status. Hamilton clarified misunderstandings regarding obligation of funds and C/Tennis confirmed that the 4<sup>th</sup> alternative was considered and part of the EA. Mr. Bond commented for the record that residents on the southside of the road will significantly be impacted by this extension. C/Monsma said City of Lansing and ICRC updated him. They are progressing on right-of-way issues for a roundabout. C/Tennis thanked TCRPC for their expedient assistance in providing information to FHWA. Hamilton reiterated that this project will continue to move forward unless ECRC notifies us otherwise. C/Osieczonek said he would like to see funds put to the St. Joe project if Michigan Avenue Extension isn't obligated. Hamilton said CARTS discussed this and so intends to depending on obligation readiness.

V. Status Reports

- Reauthorization Update – There is discussion to reduce the program back to revenue in the trust fund, which would cut the program by 1/3 in some states.
- Safe Routes to Schools – This task has been in the Work Program and LRP for a number of years. Staff submitted a draft proposal to MDOT for a grant for a full-time Safe Route to Schools coordinator.
- MTPA Conference – The conference was held in Flint this year and was successful.

VI. Other/Adjourn - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

COMPOSITE ATTENDANCE RECORD  
TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE 2011

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

GOVERNMENTAL UNIT/AGENCY	MONTH/DAY												
	1/12	2/9	3/9	4/13	5/11	6/22	7/20	8/10	9/14	10/12	11/9	12/7	TOTAL
Clinton County: Clinton County Road Commission Bauerle	C	X	C	X	X	X							
Eaton County: Eaton County Road Commission Pizzo Tennis	C C	X X	C C	X X	X X	X X	X X						
EATRAN Osieczonek	C	X	C	X	X	X	X						
Ingham County: Ingham County Road Commission Beard McGrain Veenstra Dravenstatt-Moceri	C C C C	X X X X	C C C C	X X X X	X X X X	X X X X	X X X X						
Lansing City: CATA Wood Yorko Monsma	C C C	X X X	C C C	X X X	X X X	X X X	X X X						
MDOT: McBurrows	C	X	C	X	X	X	X						
<b>TOTAL VOTING MEMBERS</b>		12		9	12	8	8						
<b>NON VOTING MEMBERS:</b> CATA: D Alexander J Ball (May 2010) N Wilson (A-1)	C	X	C	X	X	X	X						
EATRAN: Webb	C		C										
CRAA: Daigle	C		C			X	X						
FHWA: Pickard	C		C										
MDEQ: Rusch	C		C										
<b>TOTAL</b>		13		10	13	10	10						

Others in attendance: 4/13/11 – C/John Boles, Eaton County; Chad Gamble, Andy Kilpatrick, City of Lansing; John Daher, Steve Hayward, Lansing Township; R. Douglas Kosinski, Citizens Against Extending Michigan Avenue; William S. Ballanger, Waverly Hills Association; Bob Pugh, Waverly Hills Subdivision. 6/22/11 – David Pohl, TCRPC Chair/Clinton County; Nicole Wilson, CATA; Blair Ballou, ECRC. 7/20/11 – Dave Pohl, TCRPC Chair/Clinton County; Tim Damon, Lansing Regional Chamber; Bob Selig, Mike Daigle and Bob O’Brien, Lansing Regional Airport Authority; Carl Bond, CAEMA; Gordon Mackay, Chad Cushman and Ody Norkin, Indian Trails/Michigan Flyer; Ross Woodstock, Mid-Michigan Bus Travel Coalition; Paula Cunningham, Capitol National Bank; Jeff Hicks, Delta Township; Andy Kilpatrick, City of Lansing.