



The mission of the Traverse Transportation Coordinating Initiative (TTCI) is to provide coordinated leadership and direction for the development and conduct of the continuing, cooperative & comprehensive transportation planning process for the Traverse City urban area.

TTCI Policy Board Agenda

Wednesday June 25th, 2025 at 3:00 PM

In-Person at the MI Works! Conference Room
1209 S Garfield Ave # C, Traverse City, MI 49686

Or via zoom at:

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89883563184>

Meeting ID: 898 8356 3184

- 1) Introductions and Roll Call of Voting Members (See **attached, Page 2**)
- 2) May 28th, 2025 Policy Board Meeting Minutes (See **attached, Page 3-7**)
- 3) Public Comment
- 4) New Jobs/ Change Requests – BATA Transit Project Forms (See **attached, Pages 8-11**)
- 5) New Business
 - a) TART – Support use of Railroad Line for a Multi-Use Non-Motorized Trail (See attached, **Pages 12-13**)
 - b) FY 2026 Meeting Schedule DRAFT (See attached, **Page 14**)
- 6) Continuing Business – FY 2025 MTP – Consideration (see attached, **Page 14-15** and [visit TTCI Public Input Page for updates](#))
- 7) Public comment
- 8) Member Comments/Discussion of future agenda items
- 9) Next Meeting: August 27th, 2025 at 3:00 PM
- 10) Adjourn

TTCI POLICY BOARD VOTING MEMBERS						
Name	Title	Organization	Email	Phone	Officers	Voting Member
Don Mayle	MDOT SPS Supervisor	MDOT	MayleD@michigan.gov	517-243-8589		Yes
Dan Watkins	Manager	GTCRC	dwatkins@gtcrc.org	231-929-4849		Yes
Brendan Mullane	Manager	LCRC	bmullane@leelanauroads.org	231-271-3993	Secretary	Yes
Fern Spence	County Commissioner	Grand Traverse County	fspence@gtcountymi.gov	231-409-4960		Yes
Rick Robbins	County Commissioner	Leelanau County	rrobbins@leelanau.gov	231-409-1140		Yes
Doug White	Supervisor	Acme Township	dwhite@acmetownship.org	231-938-1350		Yes
Midge Werner	Supervisor	Bingham Township	jmw202@gmail.com			Yes
Nicole Blonshine	Supervisor	Blair Township	supervisor@blairtownshipmi.gov			Yes
Beth Friend	Supervisor	East Bay Township	bfriend@eastbaytwp.org	231-947-8719	Chair	Yes
Jeff Shaw	Supervisor	Elmwood Township	supervisor@elmwoodmi.gov	231-946-0921		Yes
Chuck Korn	Trustee	Garfield Township	cbarsheff@garfield-twp.com		Vice Chair	Yes
Andy Marek	Treasurer	Green Lake Township	treasurer@greenlaketownship.org			Yes
Ron Lemcool	Supervisor	Long Lake Township	Supervisor@LongLakeTownship.com	231-946-2249		Yes
Maura Sanders	Supervisor	Peninsula Township	supervisor@peninsulatownship.com	231-223-7323		Yes
Elizabeth Vogel	City Manager	Traverse City	evogel@traversecitymi.gov			Yes
Shaughn Handley	Procurement & Grant Specailist	BATA	handleys@bata.net	231-941-2324	Treasurer	Yes
TTCI POLICY BOARD ALTERNATE VOTING MEMBERS						
Alternatives	Title	Organization	Email	Phone	Officers	Alternate Voting Member
Haider Kazim	Board Chair	GTCRC	hkazim@gtcrc.org	231-922-1888		Yes
Krista Phillips	MDOT TC TSC Operations Engineer	MDOT	phillipsK7@michigan.gov	989-245-2173		Yes #2
Richard Bayus	Transportation Planning Manager	MDOT	BayusR@michigan.gov			Yes
Craig Brown	Engineer	LCRC	cbrown@leelanauroads.org	231-271-3993		Yes
Laurie Lapp	Trustee	Garfield Township	llapp@garfieldmi.gov			Yes
Lauren Flynn	County Commissioner	Grand Traverse County	lflynn@gtcountymi.gov	231-922-4550		Yes #1
Nate Alger	County Administrator	Grand Traverse County	nalger@gtcountymi.gov			Yes #2
Deborah Allen	Assistant City Manager	Traverse City	dallen@traversecitymi.gov	231-922 4444		Yes #1
Mitchel Treadwell	City Commissioner	Traverse City	mtreadwell@traversecitymi.gov	231-492 6943		Yes #2
Steve Patmore	Zoning Administrator	Bingham Township	zoningadmin@suttonsbaytwp.com			Yes
Lynette Wolfgang	Clerk	Blair Township	clerk@blairtownship.org	(231) 276-9263		Yes
Tracey Bartlett	Treasurer	East Bay Township	tbartlett@eastbaytwp.org	231-947-8647 x 101		Yes
John Sych	Planning Director	Garfield Township	jsych@garfield-twp.com	231-225-3155		Yes
Justin Weston	Finance Director	BATA	westonj@bata.net	231-941-2324		Yes
TTCI POLICY BOARD COMMUNITY PARTNERS						
Alternatives	Title	Organization	Email	Phone	Officers	Voting Member
Bob Neleson	Airport Engineer	Cherry Capital Airport	bob.nelesen@tvcairport.com			No
Mark Bishop	Chief Financial Officer	Cherry Capital Airport	mark.bishop@tvcairport.com			No
Andy Pickard	Transportation Planner	FHWA	Andy.Pickard@dot.gov			No

Traverse Transportation Coordinating Initiative (TTCI)

The mission of the Traverse Transportation Coordinating Initiative (TTCI) is to provide coordinated leadership and direction for the development and conduct of the continuing, cooperative & comprehensive transportation planning process for the Traverse City urban area.

TTCI Policy Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 28th, 2025 at 3:00 pm

1209 S Garfield Avenue Suite C, Traverse City, MI or Via Zoom

DRAFT - MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Call to Order

Chair Friend called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm on Wednesday, May 28th, 2025.

1. Roll Call of Voting Members

Roll Call: Voice introduction of membership was accepted as roll call.

Board Members Present:

Beth Friend (East Bay Twp); Brendan Mullane (LCRC); Don Mayle (MDOT); Nicole Blonshine (Blair Twp.); Midge Werner (Bingham Twp); Ron Lemcool (Long Lake Twp.); Andy Marek (Green Lake Twp.); Maura Sanders (Peninsula Twp.); Fern Spence (GT Co.); Dan Watkins (GTCRC); Liz Vogel (City of TC); Jeff Shaw (Elmwood Twp.); Chuck Korn (Garfield Twp.); Rick Robbins (Leelanau Co.); Justin Weston (BATA)

Staff Present:

Barry Hicks (NN); Isha Pithwa (NN); Emma Kelly (NN); Cassidy Robarts (NN)

Others Present: Laurie Lapp (Garfield Twp.); Wayne Shoonover (OHM Advisors); Alisha Busitill (OHM Advisors); Dan Wagner (MDOT)

Online: none.

It was noted by Chair Friend that because Korn was present, Lapp wouldn't be able to vote today as the alternative.

2. Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes

Chair Friend presented the meeting minutes of April 23, 2025 for review and approval.

Motion: Lemcool moved, supported by Marek, to approve the April 23, 2025 Policy Board meeting minutes.

Result: Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote

3. Public comment was opened, but no comments were received, so the meeting moved forward.

4. New Jobs/Change Requests - BATA Transit Project Forms

Hicks and Pithwa presented updates to Beta Transit Project forms.

- Two new projects were proposed using leftover funds:
 - \$104,274 – New job creation project
 - \$467,038 – FY26 new job project
- Additional changes in funding and scope were discussed.
- Absence of BATA representatives was noted

Motion: Marek moved, supported by Vogel, to approve the additional jobs and change requests for 3.8 million.

Result: Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote

5. Continuing Business

A. Draft FY 26 UWP Review

Hicks explained that the Unified Work Program (UWP) is one of three key planning documents currently in development, focusing on how planning funds will be allocated for the upcoming fiscal year.

Key Updates:

- **Maps (Pages 7–8):** Updated to reflect accurate MPO jurisdictional boundaries and 2020 Census-defined urbanized areas. These updates align with those made in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- **Budget (Page 14):**
 - Shift away from TIP program funding toward data collection and long-term planning efforts.
 - Emphasis on determining future planning priorities, such as region-wide complete networks.
 - Overall expenditures have increased slightly—approximately \$2,000 to \$3,000 over the previous year.
- **Administrative Tasks (Page 28):**
 - Includes updates for equity and fairness alignment.
 - There is some uncertainty as to whether the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will require revisions.
- **Project Overview (Page 48):**

Outlines proposed uses for planning funds, listing four initial projects, which may be subject to change based on further feedback or developments.
- **Process and Deliverables (Page 49):**
 - This section has been entirely rewritten, providing a clearer framework for planning activities, including timelines and deliverables related to newly proposed plans and ongoing initiatives.

Friend asked if the board will receive updates if changes are made. Hicks stated that any comments received from FHWA that require revisions will be posted to the website to ensure all changes are tracked and shared.

Motion: by Marek, supported by Friend, to approve the UWP for FY26. Mayle made a comment that most of the comments that are incorporated from MDOT will be slight language changes.

Result: Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

B. Draft FY 26-29 TIP Review

Hicks presented the **TIP updates** to the board.

- **Page 9 (Project Years 2026–2029):**

- Two projects were swapped between FY 2026 and FY 2027:
 - Cherry Bend moved to FY 2027 from FY 2026
 - Cass Road moved to FY 2026 from FY 2027
- These changes were made to align with the TAP grant application submitted by the Road Commission.

14th Street Project:

- Remains listed under FY 2028, but the City is exploring moving it to FY 2027 via advance construct funding.
 - Friend asked how construct funding worked and if it was similar to a reimbursement.
 - Mayle responded saying it's similar, and affects the fiscal constraint in the year the project is actually constructed.

Presenter: Isha

- **Page 34:**

- The primary update was made after switching Cherry Bend and the Traverse City project, which resulted in updated figures in the corresponding table.
- The largest change was the inclusion of operational and maintenance costs:
 - Data provided by MDOT
 - Combined figures for Traverse City, Grand Traverse County, and Leelanau County

Friend questioned Table 12 shows a value of 0s.

Isha clarified that MDOT does not have projects scheduled for FY 2027 in that category.

Motion: by Sanders, supported by Shaw to approve the changes to the TIP document (yeas: Mayle, Watkins, Mullane, Spence, Robbins, Werner, Blonshine, Friend, Shaw, Korn, Marek, Lemcool, Sanders, Vogel. Nays: none.)

Result: Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

C. FY 2025 MTP - Update

Hicks referenced the memo included in the meeting packet, specifically located on the second-to-last page, which outlines updates related to the public input website for the MTP.

- Board members were informed that they would receive email notifications as updates become available.
- The draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is scheduled to:
 - Be reviewed by the Technical Committee on June 12, 2025
 - Go before the Policy Board for adoption on June 25, 2025
- Hicks noted that the next five years will be focused on developing and implementing the planning concepts and ideas outlined in the MTP.

Questions: No questions were raised by board members.

6. New Business - FY 2026 Meeting Schedule DRAFT

- Hicks presented the draft Fiscal Year 2026 meeting calendar and explained the intent to share it early for review.
- Emphasized that no vote was required today.
- Noted that if the calendar is approved with no substantial changes, it may not return for further discussion until September 2025.
- Discussed the importance of meeting timing:
 - Proposed that scheduling both meetings within the same month would allow for more efficient processing of TIP amendments, reducing partner wait times from 8 weeks to potentially 4 weeks.
- Acknowledged uncertainty about how this scheduling approach aligns with established processes and asks for feedback.

Friend recommended that the board review the proposed calendar and bring it back in the next meeting packet for further discussion and potential approval.

7. Public comment was opened, but no comments were received, so the meeting moved forward.

8. Member Comments/Discussion of future agenda items

Sanders: Extended a formal acknowledgment and appreciation to Hicks and the team at Networks Northwest for their efforts in compiling and organizing materials and related planning efforts.

Spence: Provided a brief project update on Frank Road, confirming that the project is progressing as planned. It was noted that Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS) conducted on-site observations both yesterday and today as part of the project evaluation process.

- 9. Reminder:** Next Meeting: June 25th, 2025 at 3:00 PM at the Networks Northwest Conference Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37pm by Chair Friend with thanks to the participants.

Sincerely,

Emma Kelly
Administrative Specialist

Memorandum

DATE: May 21, 2025

TO: Traverse Transportation Coordinating Initiative Policy Board

FROM: Isha Pithwa, Transportation Planner

SUBJECT: Item 4 BATA New Jobs/Change Requests – BATA Transit Project Forms

BATA received additional guidance from the Federal Transit Administration, and needed to add/update 1481 forms for BATA's 5307 Operating for Fiscal Year 2025 and add a new Job for FY2026.

BATA will need to eventually update some of the Job numbers for Sections 5307 & 5339 in JobNet based on the apportionments sent from MDOT in an official Split letter. No dates specified.

Job Type	FY	Notes/Desc	Scheduled obligation date
New Job	FY25 5307 Operating	Leftover FY24 Section 5307	9/30/25
Change request	FY25 5307 Operating	Job #224053	9/30/25
New Job	FY26 5307 Operating	Leftover FY25 Section 5307	09/30/26

Attached: BATA new jobs and change requests

Action Requested:

- Motion to approve new BATA jobs and change requests as presented.

**TRANSIT PROJECT DATA SHEET FOR TIP
(TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM)**

INSTRUCTIONS: Submit completed form to the MPO and a copy to your OPT Project Manager for each project.

FILL OUT A SEPARATE FORM FOR OPERATING OR CAPITAL PER PHASE FINANCIAL CODE.

ALL ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETED.

ALL ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETED.			JOB NUMBER	
NEW PROJECT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OR PROJECT CHANGE <input type="checkbox"/>			CHANGE TYPE <input type="checkbox"/> FY <input type="checkbox"/> COST <input type="checkbox"/> SCOPE <input type="checkbox"/> SUSPENDED <input type="checkbox"/> ABANDONED	
FISCAL YEAR 2025		COUNTY Grand Traverse	TRANSIT AGENCY - LEGAL NAME Bay Area Transportation Authority	
AGENCY ADDRESS 1340 Hammond Rd. W		CITY Traverse City		ZIP CODE 49686
JOB TYPE: MULTI-MODAL		TEMPLATE: TRANSIT		BOUNDARIES: STATEWIDE
MODE: TRANSIT		JOB PHASE: NON-INFRASTRUCTURE (NI)		
MAJOR ROUTE: Transit Operating		LOCATION (Report): AREAWIDE		FUNDS FLEXED TO FTA: No

TRANSIT PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PHASE FINANCIAL SYSTEM 5307 - CTF Urbanized Formula					DESCRIPTION OF OTHER FUNDING TYPE
DESCRIPTION	FEDERAL	STATE	LOCAL	TOTAL	SCOPE CODE/SP CODE
Operating	\$52,137	\$52,137		\$104,274	3000 - Operating Assistance
WORK DESCRIPTION Leftover FY24 Section 5307 Funding					
Select an Item				\$0	Select an Item
WORK DESCRIPTION					
Select an Item				\$0	Select an Item
WORK DESCRIPTION					
Select an Item				\$0	Select an Item
WORK DESCRIPTION					
Select an Item				\$0	Select an Item
WORK DESCRIPTION					
GRAND TOTAL				\$104,274	

IF ADDITIONAL LINES ARE NEEDED PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET.

Scheduled Obligation Date is **ALWAYS** the last day of September for the fiscal year of the job. Scheduled End Date is **ALWAYS** the last day of September for the fiscal year of the job plus three years for Capital (*Rural agencies*), plus four years for Capital (*Urban agencies*) jobs, or plus one year for Operating jobs.

TRANSIT FLEX CATEGORY (Only need to complete if funds are flexed to FTA and selection is based on the type of Transit Agency) Select an Item	GPA TYPE Not applicable
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MDOT OBLIGATION

- ☐ Yes - (1) If the agency applies for funds (Except for Urban Operating) directly to FTA, and if there is a state match or if OPT applies for the funds directly to FTA (2) 100% state jobs.
- ☒ No - (1) Urban Operating jobs (2) If the agency applies directly to FTA for funding, and there is no state match.

OPT PROJECT MANAGER NAME Alex Simonetti	ATTACHMENTS: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (Must attach MDOT Form 1481)
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BUDGET

1) FEDERAL:	\$52,137	SUBTOTAL:	\$104,274
2) STATE:	\$52,137	4) Other Local Funding (Not part of match):	
3) LOCAL (Part of match):	\$0	TOTAL JOB COST:	\$104,274

SUBMITTED BY (Please print) Chris Davis	TITLE Interim Executive Director	DATE 4-16-25
SIGNATURE 		PHONE NUMBER (231) 778-1036

TRANSIT PROJECT DATA SHEET FOR TIP (TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM)

INSTRUCTIONS: Submit completed form to the MPO and a copy to your OPT Project Manager for each project.

FILL OUT A SEPARATE FORM FOR OPERATING OR CAPITAL PER PHASE FINANCIAL CODE.

ALL ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETED.

NEW PROJECT <input type="checkbox"/> OR PROJECT CHANGE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		IF YES, INCLUDE JOB NUMBER 224053	JOB NUMBER 224053
FISCAL YEAR 2025		COUNTY Grand Traverse	TRANSIT AGENCY - LEGAL NAME Bay Area Transportation Authority
AGENCY ADDRESS 1340 Hammond Rd. W		CITY Traverse City	ZIP CODE 49686
JOB TYPE: MULTI-MODAL		TEMPLATE: TRANSIT	BOUNDARIES: STATEWIDE
MODE: TRANSIT		JOB PHASE: NON-INFRASTRUCTURE (NI)	
MAJOR ROUTE: Transit Operating		LOCATION (Report): AREAWIDE	FUNDS FLEXED TO FTA: No

TRANSIT PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PHASE FINANCIAL SYSTEM 5307 - CTF Urbanized Formula					DESCRIPTION OF OTHER FUNDING TYPE
DESCRIPTION	FEDERAL	STATE	LOCAL	TOTAL	SCOPE CODE/SP CODE
Operating	\$1,900,000	\$1,900,000	\$0	\$3,800,000	3000 - Operating Assistance
WORK DESCRIPTION 2025 Section 5307 Apportionment - Partial					
Select an Item				\$0	Select an Item
WORK DESCRIPTION					
Select an Item				\$0	Select an Item
WORK DESCRIPTION					
Select an Item				\$0	Select an Item
WORK DESCRIPTION					
Select an Item				\$0	Select an Item
WORK DESCRIPTION					
Select an Item				\$0	Select an Item
WORK DESCRIPTION					

GRAND TOTAL \$3,800,000

IF ADDITIONAL LINES ARE NEEDED PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET.

Scheduled Obligation Date is **ALWAYS** the last day of September for the fiscal year of the job. Scheduled End Date is **ALWAYS** the last day of September for the fiscal year of the job plus three years for Capital (*Rural agencies*), plus four years for Capital (*Urban agencies*) jobs, or plus one year for Operating jobs.

TRANSIT FLEX CATEGORY (<i>Only need to complete if funds are flexed to FTA and selection is based on the type of Transit Agency</i>) Select an Item	GPA TYPE Not applicable
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MDOT OBLIGATION

- ☐ Yes - (1) If the agency applies for funds (Except for Urban Operating) directly to FTA, and if there is a state match or if OPT applies for the funds directly to FTA (2) 100% state jobs.
- ☒ No - (1) Urban Operating jobs (2) If the agency applies directly to FTA for funding, and there is no state match.

OPT PROJECT MANAGER NAME Alex Simonetti	ATTACHMENTS: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (Must attach MDOT Form 1481)
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BUDGET

1) FEDERAL: \$1,900,000	SUBTOTAL: \$3,800,000
2) STATE: \$1,900,000	4) Other Local Funding (<i>Not part of match</i>):
3) LOCAL (<i>Part of match</i>): \$0	TOTAL JOB COST: \$3,800,000

SUBMITTED BY (<i>Please print</i>) Chris Davis	TITLE Interim Executive Director	DATE 05/06/2025
SIGNATURE TTCI Policy Board 	PHONE NUMBER 231-778-1036	

June 25, 2025

**TRANSIT PROJECT DATA SHEET FOR TIP
(TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM)**

INSTRUCTIONS: Submit completed form to the MPO and a copy to your OPT Project Manager for each project.

FILL OUT A SEPARATE FORM FOR OPERATING OR CAPITAL PER PHASE FINANCIAL CODE.

ALL ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETED.

NEW PROJECT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OR PROJECT CHANGE <input type="checkbox"/>		IF YES, INCLUDE JOB NUMBER	JOB NUMBER
FISCAL YEAR 2026		COUNTY Grand Traverse	TRANSIT AGENCY - LEGAL NAME Bay Area Transportation Authority
AGENCY ADDRESS 1340 Hammond Rd. W		CITY Traverse City	ZIP CODE 49686
JOB TYPE: MULTI-MODAL		TEMPLATE: TRANSIT	BOUNDARIES: STATEWIDE
MODE: TRANSIT		JOB PHASE: NON-INFRASTRUCTURE (NI)	
MAJOR ROUTE: Transit Operating		LOCATION (Report): AREAWIDE	FUNDS FLEXED TO FTA: No

TRANSIT PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PHASE FINANCIAL SYSTEM 5307 - CTF Urbanized Formula					DESCRIPTION OF OTHER FUNDING TYPE
DESCRIPTION	FEDERAL	STATE	LOCAL	TOTAL	SCOPE CODE/SP CODE
Operating	\$83,519	\$83,519		\$167,038	3000 - Operating Assistance
WORK DESCRIPTION Leftover FY25 Section 5307 Funding					
Select an Item				\$0	Select an Item
WORK DESCRIPTION					
Select an Item				\$0	Select an Item
WORK DESCRIPTION					
Select an Item				\$0	Select an Item
WORK DESCRIPTION					
Select an Item				\$0	Select an Item
WORK DESCRIPTION					
GRAND TOTAL					\$167,038

IF ADDITIONAL LINES ARE NEEDED PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET.

Scheduled Obligation Date is **ALWAYS** the last day of September for the fiscal year of the job. Scheduled End Date is **ALWAYS** the last day of September for the fiscal year of the job plus three years for Capital (Rural agencies), plus four years for Capital (Urban agencies) jobs, or plus one year for Operating jobs.

TRANSIT FLEX CATEGORY (Only need to complete if funds are flexed to FTA and selection is based on the type of Transit Agency)	GPA TYPE
Select an Item	Not applicable


MDOT OBLIGATION

- ☐ Yes - (1) If the agency applies for funds (Except for Urban Operating) directly to FTA, and if there is a state match or if OPT applies for the funds directly to FTA (2) 100% state jobs.
- ☒ No - (1) Urban Operating jobs (2) If the agency applies directly to FTA for funding, and there is no state match.

OPT PROJECT MANAGER NAME Alex Simonetti	ATTACHMENTS: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (Must attach MDOT Form 1481)
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BUDGET

1) FEDERAL: \$83,519	SUBTOTAL: \$167,038
2) STATE: \$83,519	4) Other Local Funding (Not part of match):
3) LOCAL (Part of match): \$0	TOTAL JOB COST: \$167,038

SUBMITTED BY (Please print) Chris Davis	TITLE Interim Executive Director	DATE 4-16-25
SIGNATURE 		PHONE NUMBER (231) 778-1026



Memorandum

DATE: June 6, 2025
TO: Traverse Transportation Coordinating Initiative Technical Committee
FROM: Nicole Blonshine, Blair Township Supervisor
SUBJECT: Request to Explore Rail Trail

As of the date of this memorandum, the Michigan Department of Transportation owns and leases the rail line located west of the Boardman River through Traverse City, Garfield Township and Blair Township. Where the line is currently not supporting active rail transport, there is strong community interest in utilizing the corridor to develop a multi-use non-motorized trail. This will fill critical non-motorized transportation gaps and provide key trail connections from Traverse City south to Grawn and supports the stated goals of adding additional non-motorized connections to points of interest and regional trail routes as described in:

- Goals 4 and 7 of the Northwest Lower Michigan Region #10 2021 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- The 2025 North Region Active Transportation Plan
- The 2024 City of Traverse City Master Plan
- The 2024 Charter Township of Garfield Master Plan
- The 2019 Blair Township Master Plan
- The 2023 Blair Township Non-Motorized Plan

The trail will connect the region's largest population center to the south and west in Grand Traverse County, supporting both immediate connectivity between Traverse City and Grawn and future connections to regional and statewide trail routes. Activating this important public asset with a trail will provide immediate economic, mental and physical health benefits for residents and visitors to Grand Traverse County.

In order to create a non-motorized trail connection in this area, the TTCl requests MDOT work with Blair Township, Networks Northwest and TART Trails to explore implementation of a rail trail along the western rail corridor. Blair Township asks the TTCl make this request in the form of a Resolution of Support.

Action Requested:

- Adopt Resolution of Support #25-04

Resolution to Support the Use of an MDOT Railroad Line in Grand Traverse County for a Multi-Use Non-Motorized Trail

WHEREAS, the Traverse Transportation Coordinating Initiative (TTCI) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Traverse City Urbanized Area in the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the TTCI is responsible for considering the area's transportation networks, including those that are non-motorized; and

WHEREAS, non-motorized trail connections contribute economic and social benefits to the region; and

WHEREAS, a multi-use non-motorized trail connection from Traverse City to Grawn is supported in the North Region Active Transportation Plan, the 2024 Blair Township Recreation Plan, and the 2023 Blair Township Non-Motorized Plan.

WHEREAS, the development of multi-use non-motorized trails and new trail connections is supported in Goals 4 and 7 of the Northwest Lower Michigan Region #10 2021 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy; and

WHEREAS, additional non-motorized trail connections are supported by the 2024 City of Traverse City Master Plan, the 2024 Charter Township of Garfield Master Plan, and the 2019 Blair Township Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the existing rail line owned by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is inactive; and

WHEREAS, the TTCI finds that the MDOT Rail Line would be well-suited for a multi-use non-motorized trail connection from Traverse City to Grawn;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Policy Board of the Traverse Transportation Coordinating Initiative hereby supports the re-designation of the MDOT Rail Line located from Traverse City to Grawn, west of the Boardman River, such that the line would allow for the development of a multi-use non-motorized trail.

Adopted this 25th day of June, 2025 at a regular meeting of the TTCI Policy Board held in Traverse City, Michigan.

Beth Friend, Chair
Traverse Transportation Coordinating Initiative

06/25/2025
Date

2026 TTCI Fiscal Year

October '25						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

November '25						
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30						

December '25						
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28	29	30	31			

January '26						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February '26						
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March '26						
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29	30	31				

April '26						
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May '26						
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31						

June '26						
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August '26						
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September '26						
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3 PM TTCI Policy Board Meeting

1:30 PM TTCI Technical Committee Meeting

3 PM TTCI Executive Committee Meeting

Federal holidays fiscal year 2026

10/13 Columbus Day
11/11 Veterans Day
11/27 Thanksgiving

12/25 Christmas Day
1/1 New Year's Day
1/19 Martin Luther King Jr Day

2/16 President's Day
5/25 Memorial Day
6/19 Juneteenth

7/3 Independence Day*
9/7 Labor Day
*observed

Memorandum

DATE: June 20, 2025

TO: Traverse Transportation Coordinating Initiative Policy Board

FROM: Barry Hicks, AICP, MPO Program Manager

SUBJECT: Summary of TTCI 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Chapters

The following memo provides an overview of each chapter of the TTCI 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). This summary is intended to familiarize the Technical Committee with the structure and content of the plan in preparation for review and discussion.

To view or download the most recent drafts, updates, or final versions of these documents, please visit: <https://www.networksnorthwest.org/community/transportation/ttci/ttci-transportation-planning-public-input.html>

Executive Summary

The Executive Summary provides a concise overview of the MTP, including the plan's purpose, vision, major transportation challenges, goals and objectives, and highlights from the public involvement process. It also summarizes key milestones in establishing the TTCI MPO and outlines the performance-based planning approach used throughout the plan.

Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter introduces the role and purpose of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), describes the TTCI's history and planning area, and outlines relevant federal and state planning requirements. It establishes the foundation for the MTP and highlights the importance of coordinated regional planning.

Chapter 2: Planning Context

Chapter 2 provides a regional profile, including geography, land use, and community structure. It frames the context for the plan by describing how demographic, economic, and environmental factors shape transportation needs and guide the planning process.

Chapter 3: Existing Transportation System and Plans

This chapter documents the condition and function of the existing multimodal transportation system. It includes roadway networks, transit services (BATA), non-motorized infrastructure (bicycle and pedestrian), freight movement, aviation, and intermodal connections. It also references adopted transportation plans from local jurisdictions and agencies.

Chapter 4: Demographic Analysis and Future Transportation Needs

This chapter presents socio-economic data and trends, including population, housing, and employment forecasts. It evaluates travel demand, identifies system deficiencies, and incorporates emerging trends and future needs. A vulnerability assessment identifies risks to infrastructure, aging assets, and other threats.

Chapter 5: Environmental

Chapter 5 identifies environmental features and constraints within the region using mapped data layers. It outlines potential mitigation strategies referencing agency consultation and regional sustainability initiatives.

Chapter 6: Public Participation

This chapter summarizes the public involvement and stakeholder engagement processes used in developing the MTP, including surveys, committee meetings, and public comment periods. It also includes a summary of Title VI and Environmental Justice considerations.

Chapter 7: Vision, Goals, and Objectives

Chapter 7 outlines the MTP's vision statement, broad planning goals, and supporting objectives and strategies. These elements were informed by public input and reflect the regional values and priorities for a safe, efficient, and inclusive transportation system.

Chapter 8: Financial Strategy and Project Prioritization

This chapter presents a fiscally constrained financial plan, including forecasted revenues and estimated costs. It introduces a project prioritization framework and categorizes investments into short-, medium-, and long-term horizons. A list of illustrative visionary projects is also provided to support long-range aspirations beyond fiscal constraints.

Chapter 9: Performance-Based Planning and Programming

The final chapter explains how the MTP aligns with federal performance management requirements. It outlines performance measures and targets, describes how TTCI monitors progress, and links project investments to anticipated outcomes. A plan for ongoing evaluation is also included.

Please review this summary in advance of our next Technical Committee meeting. Additional feedback on specific chapters or components is welcome as we move toward finalizing the draft plan.

Action Requested:

The TTCI Policy Board approves the Traverse Transportation Coordinating Initiative (TTCI) 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), contingent upon the inclusion of a finalized list of Short-, Medium-, and Long-Term Project Investments as detailed in the Financial Strategy chapter. The Policy Board further recommends authorizing TTCI staff to make minor edits or adjustments as necessary for clarity, formatting, or completeness, including any technical corrections or revisions requested by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) or the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).