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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 Technical Committee Agenda

Thursday June 12th, 2025 at 1:30 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/81442290096>

Meeting ID: 814 4229 0096

- 1) Introductions and Roll Call of Voting Members (See attached, **Page 2**)
- 2) Review Draft Meeting Minutes from May 8th, 2025 (See attached, **Pages 3-7**)
- 3) Public comment
- 4) New Business
 - a) TART – Support use of Railroad Line for a Multi-Use Non-Motorized Trail (See attached, **Page 8**)
 - b) FY 2026 Meeting Schedule DRAFT (See attached, **Page 10**)
- 5) Continuing Business – FY 2025 MTP – Consideration (see attached, **Page 11** and [visit TTCI Public Input Page for updates](#))
- 6) Public comment
- 7) Member Comments/Discussion of future agenda items
- 8) Next Meeting: August 14th, 2025 at 1:30 PM
- 9) Adjourn

TTCI TECHNICAL COMMITTEE VOTING MEMBERS						
Name	Title	Organization	Email	Phone	Officers	Voting Member
Maxwell Gierman	Transportation Planner	MDOT	GiermanM@michigan.gov			Yes
Angelica Scott	Project Engineer	GTCRC	ascott@gtcrc.org	231-922-4848	Vice Chair	Yes
Craig Brown	Engineer	LCRC	cbrown@leelanauroads.org	231-271-3993		Yes
Maxwell Cameron	Community Development Coordinator	Grand Traverse County	mcameron@gtcountymi.gov	231-645-9336		Yes
Richard Lewis	Leelanau County Administrator	Leelanau County	rlewis@leelanau.gov	231-256-8100		Yes
Lindsey Wolf	Planning & Zoning Administrator	Acme Township	zoning@acmetownship.org	231-938-1350	Treasurer	Yes
Steve Patmore	Zoning Administrator	Bingham Township	zoningadmin@suttonsbaytwp.com			Yes
Nicole Blonshine	Supervisor	Blair Township	supervisor@blairtownshipmi.gov	231-276-9263		Yes
Claire Karner	Director of Planning & Zoning	East Bay Township	ckarner@eastbaytwp.org	231.947.8681 x2		Yes
Sarah Clarren	Planner/Zoning Administrator	Elmwood Township	planner@elmwoodmi.gov	231-946-0921		Yes
John Sych	Planning Director	Garfield Township	jsych@garfield-twp.com	231-225-3155	Chair	Yes
Andy Marek	Treasurer	Green Lake Township	treasurer@greenlaketownship.org			Yes
Cody Stricker	Township Planner	Long Lake Township	planner@longlaketownship.com	231-946-2249		Yes
Vacant		Peninsula Township	planner@peninsulatownship.com	231-223-7314		Yes
Bill Clark	Transportation Planner	BATA	clarkw@bata.net	231-933-5534		Yes
Shawn Winter	City Planner	Traverse City	swinter@traversecitymi.gov	231-922-4465	Secretary	Yes
TTCI TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ALTERNATE VOTING MEMBERS						
Name	Title	Organization	Email	Phone	Officers	Voting Member
Heidi Phaneuf	North Region Planner	MDOT	PhaneufH@michigan.gov	231-340-0326		Yes #1
Krista Phillips	MDOT TC TSC Operations Engineer	MDOT	phillipsk7@michigan.gov	989-245-2173		Yes #2
Luke Walters	MPO Program Manager	MDOT	WaltersL3@michigan.gov	517-331-2233		Yes
Gregg Bird	Emergency Management Coordinator	Grand Traverse County	gbird@gtcountymi.gov	231-590-2373		Yes
Chris Elliott	Project Manager	GTCRC	celliot@gtcrc.org	(231) 922-4848		Yes
Brendan Mullane	Managing Director	LCRC	bmullane@leelanauroads.org	231-271-3993		Yes
Lynette Wolfgang	Clerk	Blair Township	clerk@blairtownship.org	231-276-9263		Yes
Steve Hannon	Deputy Planning Director	Garfield Township	shannon@garfield-twp.com	231-225-3156		Yes
Bill Vandercook	Zoning Administrator	East Bay Township	zoning@eastbaytwp.org	231.947.8681 x3		Yes
Eric Lingaur	Communications and Business Develeopment Director	BATA	lingaure@bata.net	231-941-2324		Yes
Zach Cole	Civil Engineer 1	Traverse City	zcole@traversecitymi.gov	231-922 4492		Yes #1
Anne Pagano	Civil Engineer	Traverse City	apagano@traversecitymi.gov	231-922 4455		Yes #2
Tracey Bartlett	Treasurer	East Bay Township	tbartlett@eastbaytwp.org	231-947-8647		Yes
TTCI TECHNICAL COMMITTEE COMMUNITY PARTNERS						
Name	Title	Organization	Email	Phone	Officers	Voting Member
Kyle Kobylski	LAP Engineer	MDOT	KobylskiK@michigan.gov	231-340-3541		No
Daniela Khavajian	Statewide and Urban Travel Analysis Section (SUTA)- MDOT	MDOT	KhavajianD@michigan.gov	517-388-4060		No
Katie Beck	Supervisor, Urban Travel Analysis Unit	MDOT	beckk1@michigan.gov			No
Alex Simonetti	MDOT-Office of Passenger Transportation - Project Manager	MDOT	SimonettiA@michigan.gov			No
Dan Wagner	TC TSC Manager	MDOT	wagnerD2@michigan.gov	231-340-9295		No
James Johnson	TSC Construction Engineer	MDOT	johnsonJ114@michigan.gov			No
Valerie Shultz	RPM North Unit Manager	MDOT	ShultzV@michigan.gov			No
Christina Nicholaides	Planning and Environmental Specialist	FHWA	c.nicholaides@dot.gov			No
Troy Hinds	Manager	BCRC	brcrmanager@benzieraod.net	231-325-3051 X 207		No
Rob Kalbfleisch	Land & Roads Management Director	Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa	Rob.Kalbfleisch@gtb-nsn.gov	231-534-7716		No
Kevin Klein	Airport Manager	Cherry Capital Airport	admin@tvcairport.com			No
Bob Nelesen	Airpor Engineer	Cherry Capital Airport	bob.nelesen@tvcairport.com			No
Mark Bishop	Airport Finance Director	Cherry Capital Airport	mark.bishop@tvcairport.com			No
Carolyn Ulstad	Transportation Program Manager	Groundwork	carolyn.ulstad@groundworkcenter.org	231-941-6584 x710		No
Troy Kierczynski	VP of Finance and Administration	Northwestern Michigan College	tkierczynski@nmc.edu	231-995-1147		No
Elizabeth Calcutt	TART Trails Representative	TART	elizabeth@traversetrails.org			No
Chris Kushman	TART Trails Representative	TART	ckushman@traversetrails.org			No
Christine Thomas	Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations	TCAPS	thomasch@tcaps.net	231-933-1730		No
Camille Hoisington	Director of Ecosystem Development	Traverse Connect	Camille.Hoisington@traverseconnect.com			No
Warren Call	Executive Director	Traverse Connect	warren.call@traverseconnect.com			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 Technical Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 8th, 2025 at 1:30pm

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

DRAFT – MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. on Thursday, May 8, 2025, by Shawn Winter (Traverse City).

1) Introduction/Roll Call of Voting Members

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

Committee Members Present: Max Gierman (MDOT); Chris Elliott (GTCRC – Alternative V); Craig Brown (LCRC); Maxwell Cameron (GT County); Lindsey Wolf (Acme Twp.); Steve Patmore (Bingham Twp.); Claire Karner (East Bay Twp.); Sarah Clarren (Elmwood Twp.); Andy Marek (Green Lake Twp.); Cody Stricker (Long Lake Twp.); Bill Clark (BATA); Shawn Winter (Traverse City); Steve Hannon (Garfield Twp. Alternative V)

Staff Present: Barry Hicks (NN); Isha Pithwa (NN); Cassidy Robarts (NN);

Others present: Ben DuBois (MDOT); Chris Kushman (TART); Dan Wagner (MDOT)

Online: Lynette Wolfgang (Blair Twp.); Daniela Khavajian (MDOT); Fern Spence

2) Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes for March 13th, 2025 (action requested)

S. Winter asked if there needed to be any changes to the agenda and/or meeting minutes for April 10th, 2025.

C. Karner a correction on page 5 under item b. *Draft FY 26–29 TIP Review*: the name “Warner” should be corrected to “Karner.” No other changes were noted.

Motion: A. Marek moved, supported by C. Karner, to approve the TTCI Technical Committee Meeting Minutes for April 10, 2025, with the noted amendment.

Outcome: The motion was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

3) Public Comment

The floor was open for public comment; no comments were made

4) New Jobs/Change Request - BATA Transit Project Forms

I. Pithwa presented new jobs being created and existing jobs being revised.

B. Hicks explained that the reason the committee is currently seeing these additions and changes is because the TIP has not yet been formally adopted. Once the TIP is approved by MDOT and FHWA, staff will be able to use JobNet to enter new jobs and submit change requests. Moving forward, if a change request falls within the administrative modification threshold, staff will be able to process it without committee action. However, any changes that qualify as a major TIP amendment will still be brought before the TTCI committees for approval. Until the TIP is adopted, all requests—including minor ones—are being brought to the committee to ensure proper oversight and transparency.

Motion: Motion: A. Marek moved, supported by L. Wolf, to accept the BATA Transit Project Forms and recommend them to the Policy Board for approval.

Outcome: The motion was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

5) Continuing Business

a. FY 26 UWP - Consideration

B. Hicks presented the draft Unified Work Program (UWP) for Fiscal Year 2026, which outlines TTCI's planning work from October 2025 through September 2026. He noted that two motions would be requested—one for the UWP and one for the TIP, while the MTP item c. would be review

Key updates to the UWP include:

- Map revisions: Hicks noted that several maps included in the draft still reference outdated boundaries from the 2010 Census and need to be updated to reflect the 2020 Adjusted Census Urbanized Area Boundary (ACUB). The updated boundaries can be found via MDOT's GIS portal. Hicks added that staff are in the process of verifying discrepancies in the urbanized boundary before finalizing map replacements. Corrections were made to reflect the appropriate MPO and MPA boundaries. Four maps total across the UWP and TIP need to be updated.
- A question was raised regarding whether project eligibility is based on location within the ACUB boundary or the full MPA boundary. Clarification was given as long as it's a NFC and the MPO boundary is considered.
- Page 48: A correction was made to the 2.5% PL funding figures to reflect accurate totals.
- Hicks asked that committee members access the latest versions online – from the TTCI engagement website.

Motion: A. Marek moved, supported by C. Stricker, to recommend that the TTCI Policy Board approve the FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UWP) as presented.

Outcome: The motion was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

b. FY 26-29 TIP - Consideration

Hicks provided an overview of the TTCI TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) Development process, highlighting projects within the MPO boundary. The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which outlines planned transportation projects for the next three to four years (Reviewed and revised every three years)

Key updates to the TIP include:

- Map Revisions: B. Hicks noted that maps will be updated to reflect the 2020 Adjusted Census Urban Boundary (ACUB), as previously discussed during the UWP development process.
- Project Tables: Under the "Transportation Project Selection" section (starting on page 11), the Rural Task Force (RTF) tables have been updated. Total funding amounts have also been revised.
- Illustrative List Additions: In addition to the two existing projects from Traverse City and Grand Traverse County, Hicks discussed the potential addition of an Airport project to the illustrative list. If included, the project would have an estimated cost of approximately \$112 million. This would not impact MPO or RTF-funded projects, as it does not involve MPO funds.
- Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Cost Estimates (Pages 34–35): Updates are in progress. MDOT will provide state trunkline O&M estimates. Local road O&M costs will be estimated based on calculated maintenance costs proportioned by roadway miles within the MPO boundary. Transit O&M Estimates: Staff plan to follow up with BATA to update the transit O&M figures. Once finalized, these numbers will be incorporated into the final table to demonstrate fiscal constraint. Staff are still gathering a few remaining figures and will continue updating the tables. Encouraged to check the engagement website regularly as updates will be posted as revised.
- General Program Accounts (GPAs): A new section was added on page 36 to address GPAs. Max Gierman provided a brief overview of this section.
- Performance Measures: Pages 40–41: Infrastructure condition targets updates.
- Pages 42–45: Transit Asset Management targets were provided by BATA and cover asset replacement strategies. Page 44 B. Hicks clarified differences between revenue vehicles and other asset classifications.

MDOT has already reviewed the document, and their comments have been incorporated. Hicks mentioned that the TIP document will continue to be updated before submission to the Policy Board.

Motion: C. Brown moved, supported by A. Marek, A motion was made to recommend that the TTCI Policy Board approve the FY 2026–2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), allowing for the minor edits as discussed.

Outcome: The motion was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

c. FY 25 MTP - Update

Hicks provided an overview of the development process for the TTCI FY 2025 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). With the TIP and UWP now completed—the MTP is being developed by incorporating those elements.

A draft of the MTP is expected to be posted to the website by May 30 in advance of the next TTCI meeting on June 12. Hicks noted that edits will likely be made between May 30 and June 12. Final approval will be sought from the Policy Board on June 25, followed by submission to MDOT and FHWA ahead of the July 1 deadline.

Hicks also referenced the Travel Demand Model, noting that Daniela had presented an overview last week and has since provided more information. One final chapter is still in progress, but the model is largely complete.

B. Hicks clarified that while the MTP is more comprehensive than the TIP, the TIP must meet fiscal constraint requirements. This is why many trail or non-motorized projects—such as those identified in the North Region Active Transportation Plan (NRATP)—are not showing in the TIP while it is in MTP. These projects often lack preliminary engineering or cost estimates and have not yet been fully vetted through the MPO planning process. However, the MTP will reference the North Region Active Transportation Plan.

There were no further questions, and the group indicated they are looking forward to reviewing the draft MTP in June.

6) New Business – FY 2026 Meeting Schedule DRAFT

B. Hicks presented the draft FY 2026 meeting schedule for review. The schedule proposes returning to alternate monthly meeting format, with Technical Committee meetings on the first Thursday and Policy Board meetings on the third Wednesday of the month. This change is intended to reduce delays between committee recommendations and Policy Board actions, particularly when TIP amendments are needed.

The schedule was shared early to allow members time to review and identify any conflicts. Members were encouraged to provide feedback, and it was noted that the schedule can still be adjusted if needed. It was noted that special meetings can still be called if urgent issues arise outside the regular meeting schedule. Clarification of some initial confusion about the calendar's color coding, and a suggestion was made to ensure the calendar is color-coded in an accessible format (ADA).

Motion: A. Marek moved, supported by C. Brown, to approve the draft FY2026 Meeting scheduled.

Outcome: The motion was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

7) Public Comment

The floor was open for public comment; no comments were made

8) Member Comments

No comments were made

9) Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 2:12 pm.

Sincerely,

Isha Pithwa



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 is under the ownership of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT); 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 allowance and collaborative use of the MDOT-owned rail line corridor located from Traverse City to Grawn, west of the Boardman River, for the development of a multi-use non-motorized trail.

Adopted this 26th 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

6/26/2025
Date

2026 TTCI Fiscal Year

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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 6, 2025

TO: Traverse Transportation Coordinating Initiative Technical Committee

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 Technical Committee recommends that the TTCI Policy Board approve 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 Technical Committee 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).