



**MICHIGAN
ASSOCIATION
OF COUNTIES**

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TIMOTHY K. McGUIRE, Executive Director

April 29, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

On January 25, 2008 the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Transportation Committee discussed the merits of the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) Study following a presentation by Ron DeCook of the Michigan Department of Transportation, State Representative Lee Gonzales as well as House and Senate staff.

Following the discussion, the Transportation Committee recommended that the MAC Board of Directors officially support **“the completion of the Detroit River International Crossing Study and that the Board encourage another international crossing which may include a twin span of the Ambassador Bridge”**.

On February 10, 2008 the MAC Board of Directors unanimously approved the Transportation Committee’s recommendation. Attached is a copy of the official minutes from the February 10th Board Meeting. Please feel free to contact the Michigan Association of Counties if you have any questions, or seek clarification.

Sincerely,

Timothy McGuire
Executive Director
Michigan Association of Counties

MAC Transportation Committee Minutes

Friday, January 25, 2008, 10:00 a.m.
MAC Headquarters, Lansing, Michigan

Chairperson Struck called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

Chairperson Struck asked for introductions of those present.

Members Present (10): Chairperson Bob Struck, Marquette;
Don Disselkoen, Ottawa; Michael Dunlap, St. Joseph; Paul Gielegan, Macomb; Ted Henry, Genesee; Burton Leland, Wayne; Herbert Lemcool, Jr., Grand Traverse; Phillip Maiville, Lake; Donald McLane, Tuscola; Thomas Middleton, Oakland; Louis Nemeth, Kalkaska; Johnnie Rodebush, Cass; Donald Ryman, Berrien

Excused (3): Christine Alwood, Isabella; Diane Holman, Ingham; Carl Ruth, Saginaw.

Absent (6): Dick Bulkowski, Kent; Bill Gill, Muskegon; Jeff Irwin, Washtenaw; Jack Kleinhardt, Clare; David Potts, Oakland; and Jack Urban, Kalamazoo

Staff Present: Brad Comment, MAC Legislative Coordinator and Kami Smith, Director of Membership Services

Guests: Ron DeCook, MDOT; John Daly, Manager/Director, Genesee County Road Commission; Representative Lee Gonzales; Andrea Coscarill, Senator Basham's Chief of Staff; Sean Mann, House Democratic Policy Office.

With there being a quorum the meeting proceeded as scheduled.

Chairperson Struck requested a motion for adoption of the October 26, 2007 MAC Transportation Committee Minutes.

Commissioner Lemcool moved, supported by Commissioner Henry to recommend adoption of the October 26, 2007 MAC Transportation Committee minutes as presented, all in favor. Motion carried.

Chairperson Struck introduced guest speaker Ron DeCook, Michigan Dept. of Transportation; Representative Lee Gonzales; Andrea Cascarilla, Senator Basham's Chief of Staff; Sean Mann, House Democratic Policy Office; to discuss the Detroit River International Crossing Study (DRIC).

The study is essential to identify solutions that support the national, regional and local economies while addressing civil and national defense and homeland security needs of the busiest trade corridor in North America. General discussion took place.

Commissioner Lemcool moved, supported by Commissioner Henry to support the completion of the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) Study and encourage another international crossing which may include a twin span of the Ambassador Bridge, all in favor. Motion carried.

Chairperson Struck introduced Mr. Comment to discuss the Michigan's Businesses for Better Roads Regional Steering Committee Proposal. SB 59, which was signed into state statute, establishes a 19 member "Alternative Road Funding Task Force" with MAC having a seat on the task force. MAC will submit three names and the Governor will make an appointment from those recommended.

Michigan's Businesses for Better Roads Regional Steering Committee Self-Help Proposal includes the following local options to counties:

- Local-option gas and diesel taxes: One county: up to 3 cents each, gas and/or diesel; two adjacent counties jointly: up to 5 cents; three or more adjacent counties: up to 7 cents.
- Local-option vehicle registration fee of up to 20 percent of current fee.
- Local-option license fees (\$25 operator, \$35 chauffeur and \$25 minor restricted).
- Local-option property transfer fee of up to 0.35 percent.
- Local-option ½ percent sales tax (requiring amendment to state constitution: Though admittedly difficult to accomplish, this is vital to the proposal).

General discussion took place.

Commissioner Rodebush moved, supported by Commissioner Henry to recommend supporting the presented Michigan Businesses for Better Roads Regional Steering Committee, no one in favor. Motion failed.

Chairperson Struck introduced Commissioner Herb Lemcool - Grand Traverse Co., to give a Grand Vision update. Grand Vision is a 5-county funded project, including Antim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau counties. The project is working with a \$1 million budget and will have an additional \$2 million to implement their recommendations. Detailed project information can be found at www.grandvision.org. He also mentioned that Grand Traverse Co. recently approved increasing their Road Commission Board from 3 to 5, but would like to see districts for the commission.

Chairperson Struck introduced Bradley Comment to give a brief legislative update:

- 9-1-1
- State Budget
- 2008 Legislative Agenda items

- Sentencing Guidelines
 - House Republican's Property Tax Bill Package
 - Foster Care
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- State of the State address on Tuesday, January 29th
 - MAC Legislative Conference Feb. 11 & 12, 2008

Chairperson Struck introduced future agenda item suggestions:

- Annual Transportation Summit
- Regulations and fees
- Disability Network Transportation

Chairperson Struck announced the next meeting date to be Monday, February 11, 2008 at 8 a.m. at the 2008 MAC Legislative Conference.

Chairperson Struck adjourned the meeting at 12:24 p.m.