



**NILES-BUCHANAN-CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

**COMBINED TECHNICAL ADVISORY and POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

**Brandon Kovnat, Transportation Planner**

**Kim Gallagher, Transportation Planner**

(269) 925-1137 Ext: 1524 & 1518

**DATE:** August 22, 2017

**TIME:** 1:30 PM

**PLACE:** Niles District Library  
620 E Main St, Niles, MI 49120

**AGENDA** Comments will be solicited on each item following discussion and prior to any final action.

1. Call to Order / Introductions and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Changes to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Approve Minutes from the June 27, 2017 Meeting (*Enclosed*) **Action**
5. Old Business
6. New Business
  - Amendment to the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (*see below*) **Action**
  - State and Federal Updates
7. Privilege of the Floor
8. Adjournment
  - The next NATS meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 26, 2017 @ 1:30 pm.**

**New Business - AMENDMENT REQUEST**

TwinCATS Technical Advisory and Policy Committees:

I'm requesting that JN200366 be place on the agenda for next week's TwinCATS meeting. The majority of the project is within the TwinCATS area and therefore we are seeking approval of this regionwide signals project from the MPO. The project involves several signal locations that will be modernized and additional technology will be added to allow for connected vehicle utilization. The attached table describes the PE and ROW portion of the project that must be approved this fiscal year (FY 2017).

Thanks,

Jason Latham, MDOT Region Planner

Planning Manager County	Project Name	Limits	Primary Work Type	Project Description	Phase	Federal Cost	Federal Fund Source	Total Phase Cost	MDOT Job No
Berrein/ Cass/ Kalamazoo	M-60	Multiple Locations Region Wide	Traffic Signals	Signal Modernization with connected vehicles installations	PE & ROW	\$325,000	STG	PE: \$320K ROW: \$5K	200366

**NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (NATS)**  
**Joint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Policy Committee (POL) MINUTES**  
 June 27, 2017

<b>Present</b>		<b>Committee</b>	
Name	Representing	TAC	Policy
Michael Majerek	Berrien County Board of Commissioners		x
Evan Smith	Berrien County Community Development	x	
Brian Berndt	Berrien County Road Commission	x	
Joseph Margol	Berrien County Road Commission		x
Kim O'Haver	Buchanan Dial A Ride	x	x
Roseann Marchetti	Cass County Board of Commissioners		x
Robert Ziliak	Cass County Board of Commissioners		x
Sandra Seanor	Cass County Road Commission		x
Georgia Boggs	City of Niles		x
Serita Mason	City of Niles		x
Jan Personette	Four Flag Chamber of Commerce	x	x
Bob Sutton	Mason Township	x	x
Jim Sturdevant	MDOT Bureau of Transportation Planning	x	x
Jonathan Smith	MDOT Coloma TSC	x	x
Don Mayle	MDOT Urban Travel Analysis*	x	
Jon Roberts	MDOT Urban Travel Analysis* - Alternative	x	
Richard Cooper	Niles Charter Township	x	x
Dawn Bolock	Ontwa Township	x	x
Kim Gallagher	SWMPC		Staff
Brandon Kovnat	SWMPC		Staff
Jerrid Burdue	SWMPC		Staff
<b>Absent</b>		TAC	Policy
Jim Curran	Berrien County Board of Commissioners		x
Eric Lester, M.D.	Berrien County Planning Commission		x
Butch Payton	Bertrand Township	x	x
Malinda Cole-Crocker	Buchanan Township	x	x
Barbara Cook	Cass County Planning Commission	x	
Joe Bellina	Cass County Road Commission	x	
Don Ryman	City of Buchanan	x	x
Mary McAfee	City of Niles		x
Sanya Phillips	City of Niles	x	
Joe Ray	City of Niles	x	
Andy Pickard	Federal Highway Administration*	x	x
Stewart McKenzie	Federal Transit Administration*	x	x
Craig Bradfield	Howard Township	x	x
Fred Featherly	MDOT Office of Passenger Transportation*	x	
Jason Lathum	MDOT Southwest Region	x	x

Absent		TAC	Policy
Susan Flowers	Milton Township		x
Kelly Sweeney	Milton Township	x	
Kelly Getman-Dissette	Niles Dial A Ride	x	x
Rich Low	Village of Edwardsburg	x	x
*Indicates Non-Voting Member			

**1. Call to Order / Introductions and Pledge of Allegiance**

The Joint Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meeting was called to order by Policy Chair Richard Cooper at 1:30 pm on June 27, 2017 at the Niles District Library, 620 E Main St, Niles, MI 49120

**2. Changes to the Agenda**

None.

**3. Public Comment**

None.

**4. Approve Minutes from the May 23, 2017 Meeting**

**Motion** to approve the May 23, 2017 Joint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Policy Committee Meeting Minutes, by Robert Ziliak, Second by Jan Personette. **Motion Approved.**

**5. Staff Report**

Brandon and Kim presented the new committee member resource binders. Members of both committees thanked SWMPC staff for the new binders. Michael Majerek asked that future handouts be hole-punched for the binders. Jan Personette requested that the TIP documents continued to be printed on green paper. SWMPC staff will work to fill both requests.

**6. Community Land Use and Zoning Member Updates**

- Ontwa Township (Dawn Bolock): There will be a public meeting on the Master Plan July 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Ontwa Township (Sandra Seanor): Zoning amendment for clarification on some items.

**7. Public Transit**

- Berrien Countywide Service Plan (Kim Gallagher): Nelson Nygaard is now working in the background using StreetLight Data, comments from public meetings, etc. Kim also presented a video clip on Rides to Wellness (Flint example) and an audio clip on Liberty Mobility (ride hailing in rural area). There was discussion among the committee on Uber coming to Berrien County (mostly along the lakeshore

though no service map has been made available). Serita Mason mentioned C.H.E.T which operates in the Berrien Springs area, they are listed on <http://www.mywaythere.org/>

- Buchanan Dial a Ride (Kim O’Haver): There is an upcoming Local Advisory Committee (LAC) meeting open to the public.
- Berrien Bus (Evan Smith): Upcoming LAC meeting also open to the public.

## 8. Project Status Reports

Berrien County Road Commission:

- The Dayton, Orange, Third, Fulkerson, and Ontario project will be under construction from May through September.
- The Redbud Trail and Niles Buchanan Road project will be under construction from May through September.

Cass County Road Commission:

- Redfield Street construction is scheduled to start July 10 and run through early September.

City of Niles:

- Sycamore Street construction is scheduled June 19 through July 21.

MDOT:

- M-139 was let on April 7, 2017. Construction is underway.
- M-60 was let; bids came in 11.2% under engineer’s estimate.

## 9. Old Business

None.

## 10. New Business

**MDOT Travel Demand Model (Jon Roberts and Don Mayle):** Provided Excel and TAZ maps handouts for future demographic and employment data; Brandon will email the Excel file out to everyone as well. MDOT is looking for insights to development that have occurred since 2015 or is planned for the NATS area – please fill in Excel file before September meeting. The data will be compiled after the September meeting and voted on at the October meeting. Insights from surrounding areas are also welcomed though all communities in MACOG will also be providing their data.

**Public Participation Plan (Brandon Kovnat):** Brandon presented the new Public Participation Plan. This plan covers all of SWMPC unlike the past plan. It outlines tools to engage the public and outlines requirements for public participation for the LRP, TIP, and UWP. Kim O’Haver pointed out a mistake concerning Title VI in the document. The Plan

will be presented and voted on at the July 18<sup>th</sup> SWMPC Board meeting which will open up a 45 day comment period. The NATS approval will indicate to SWMPC that the Plan meets the needs and expectations of the MPO.

**Motion** by the Policy Committee to approve the Public Participation Plan conditional to the Title VI correction, by Roseann Marchetti, Second by Bob Sutton. **Motion Approved.**

### **State Updates**

**(Jim Sturdevant):** The NATS 2018 UWP has been reviewed by MDOT and sent to Federal Highway. They made a small change to add funding for the joint MACOG-NATS travel demand model because expenditure will carry over to FY 2018.

**(Jonathon Smith):** Jonathon gave the three Ps for NATS:

Programmed: M-62 Mill and fill, US-12 to north Cassopolis (2018)

Probable: M-51, Pucker Street to Dowagiac (2020)

Possible: US-12, Galien to US-31

### **11. Public Comment**

None.

### **12. Privilege of the Floor**

- Jan Personette wished everyone a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July and invited all to attend the fireworks show in Niles on Monday (7/3/17) night.
- Jon Roberts reminded everyone to grab maps on their way out.
- Michael Majerek said that they are still looking for two road commissioners and a director for the Berrien County Road Commission, submit applications to Bill Wolf.

### **13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 pm. The next NATS meeting is scheduled for August 22, 2017 at 1:30pm.

*Minutes compiled by: Jerrid Burdue, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission*