

NILES-BUCHANAN-CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE and POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 26, 2024

1:30 pm

In Person: Niles District Library – 620 E Main St, Niles, MI 49120
Basement Community Room

Web: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9489277047?pwd=RzkydlFacGFHNkVWeURpak1kSEcxUT09>

Audio: Call in Number: 1 (312) 626-6799

Meeting ID: 948 927 7047

Passcode: 000619

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Changes to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Approve Minutes from the February 27, 2024 Meeting *Action* Pg. 2
5. Staff Report Pg. 5
6. Local Agency Updates
7. Transit Updates
8. MDOT Updates pg. 9
9. MDOT Amendments *Action* Pg. 11
10. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment
11. Adjournment

Comments can be sent prior to the meeting to Brandon Kovnat at kovnatb@swmpc.org or by calling (269) 925-1137 x 1524. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please contact Kim Gallagher at (269) 925-1137 x 1518 or by email at gallagherk@swmpc.org

Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study 2023 Meeting Attendance

From the February 27th, 2023, Meeting

NATS MEMBER ORG./POSITION	MEMBERS (2022)	TAC	POL	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners (1)	Michael Majerek		x		P										
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	(Vacant)		x												
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Dan Fette	x			A										
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	(Vacant)		x												
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (Policy)	(Vacant)		x												
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (TAC)	Kevin Stack	X			A										
Bertrand Township	Butch Payton	x	x		P										
Buchanan Township	Lynn Ferris	x	x		A										
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (1)	Roseann Marchetti		x		P										
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	James Lawrence		x		P										
Cass Co. Planning Commission	Roseann Marchetti	x			P										
Cass Co. Road Comm. (Policy)	Sandra Seanor		x		P										
Cass Co. Road Comm. (TAC)	Joe Bellina (TAC Chair)	x			A										
City of Buchanan	Don Ryman		x		A										
City of Buchanan	Rich Murphy	x			P										
City of Niles (1)	Georgia Boggs		x		A										
City of Niles (2)	Serita Mason		x		P										
City of Niles (3)	(Vacant)		x												
City of Niles Community Dev. Director	(VACANT)	x													
City of Niles Dial-A-Ride Transit	Pepper Miller	x	x		P										
City of Niles Public Works Dir./Airport	Joe Ray	x													
Howard Township	Bill Kasprzak	x	x		P										
Kinexus	(Vacant)	x													
Mason Township	Doug Fetters	x	x		A										
MDOT - Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x		P										
MDOT - Southwest Region	Josh Grab	x	x		V										
MDOT - Southwest Region (Alternate)	(Vacant)	Alt	Alt												
MDOT - Transportation Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x		V										
Milton Township	Susan Flowers	x	x		P										
Niles Charter Township	Richard Cooper (P. Ch.)	x	x		P										
Ontwa Township	Meryl Christensen	x	x		P										
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians	Robert Torzynski	x	x		A										
Village of Edwardsburg	Dawn Bolock	x	x		P										
Federal Highway Administration	Andrew Sibold	NV	NV		A										
Federal Transit Administration	Susan Weber	NV	NV		A										
EGLE - Air Quality	Breanna Bukowski	NV			A										
MDOT - Modeling	Jon Roberts	NV			A										
MDOT - Office of Passenger Trans.	Fred Featherly	NV			V										
Michiana Area Council of Governments	Caitlin Stevens	NV	NV		A										
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	x	x		A										
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Brandon Kovnat	NV	NV		P										

P. Ch.: Policy Chair; Alt: Alternate; NV: Non-voting; P: Present in Person; V- Present virtually; A: Absent.

GUESTS: Zane Aldrich - SWMPC

Minutes
NILES BUCHANAN CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE and POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, February 27, 2024 – 1:30 pm
Niles District Library, Niles MI

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. Kovnat took roll call.

Joe Ray introduced Rick Huff. Huff, the City Administrator for the City of Niles. Huff is joining the Technical Advisory Committee, in the position previously held by Ryan Millan.

2. Changes to the Agenda

None.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of the Minutes from the November 28, 2023, Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes for November 28, 2023 Joint NATS Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee Meeting. Made by Roseann Marchetti and seconded by Jim Sturdevant. **Motion approved.**

5. Staff Report

Kovnat presented the timeline for the upcoming 2027-2029 call for projects.

6. Local Agency Updates

Rich Murphy said that the Buchanan Downtown Street project was going to be re-bid on March 1st due to the initial bidding coming in too high.

The Gumwood realignment – Property acquired, and tree clearing is complete. resolution of a NEPA issue is required before obligation.

7. Transit Updates

Pepper Miller announced that a new bus was received in December and should be on the road within the week.

8. MDOT Updates

(see meeting packet page 8-9 for more details)

Jon Smith presented on the US-12 & M-51 project: the Bridge on US-12 over M-51 was demolished, and work on is proceeding on building the new at grade intersection. Detour routes were presented.

More information can be found on MI Drive at: <https://mdotjboss.state.mi.us/MiDrive/map>

9. 2024 Safety Targets

Kovnat presented the Statewide safety targets and highlighted the difficulties in predicting future traffic crashes.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee recommend that the Policy Committee Approve the Statewide Safety Targets for 2024. Made by Kevin Stack and seconded by Jim Sturdevant. **Motion passed.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendations from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Roseann Marchetti and seconded by Sandra Seanor. **Motion passed.**

10. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment

Joe Ray complimented the new MDOT update format. He also discussed the arduous process required to receive federal transportation funds which lead to higher costs.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM.

Minutes compiled by Zane Aldrich, SWMPC Associate Planner

Draft

NATS 2023-2026 Illustrative Projects

City or Township	Project Name	Project Limits	Project Description
Niles Twp.	Third Street	Fulkerson Rd to State Line	HMA trench & widen with overlay, Drainage Reconstruct
City of Niles	East Main Street	Maple Street to Silverbrook Street	Mill and resurface structure covers, upgrade sidewalk ramps as necessary to meet current standards pavement markings.
Ontwa Twp.	Redfield Street	Elkhart Rd. to Ebersole Rd.	1.5 HMA, 36 A top course overlay, Shoulder Class II and Pavement Marking
Ontwa Twp.	Redfield Street	Ebersole Road to Adamsville Road	1.5" HMA,36A top course overlay, Shoulder Class II and Pavement Marking
Howard Twp.	White Street	M-51 to Thompson Road	Crush and Shape HMA Surface and add 4 inch HMA, 36 A. Shoulder Class II and Pavement Marking
Niles Twp.	Niles-Buchanan Road	City of Niles to US 31 Bypass	HMA overlay
Milton Twp.	Ironwood Drive	Redfield Street to Bell Road	1.5 HMA, 36 A top course overlay, Shoulder Class II and Pavement Marking
Howard Twp.	Huntley Road	Yankee Street (BR 60) to Lake Street	2.5" Cold Milling HMA Surface replace with 1.5" HMA,36A base course, 1" HMA,36A top course, Shoulder Class II and Pavement Marking
Howard Twp.	White Street	Thompson Rd. to Barron Lake Road -	Crush and Shape HMA Surface and add 4 inch HMA, 36 A. Shoulder Class II and Pavement Marking

NATS Road Project Prioritization System for the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program.

Approved September 28, 2021

The following pages present a methodology to score projects submitted for consideration for NATS' allocation of Surface Transportation Program (STP) dollars for the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

This project prioritization system serves as a guiding document in project selection, but project selection will be made only after debate in an open and public process. A project selection subcommittee will recommend projects to the Technical Advisory Committee, who will then recommend projects to the NATS Policy Committee. During the initial project selection process. The public will have an opportunity to inform project selection at each stage of the process. The ultimate authority for project selection still lies with the NATS Policy Committee.

Each of these scoring categories corresponds to the relevant section on the TIP Application.

System Preservation (8 points possible total)

PASER Rating (5 points possible)

5 points if the most recent PASER rating is 2-3 and the project was applied for previously when the PASER was 4 or higher

3 points if the most recent PASER is 2-3 and this is the first application for this project.

3 point is the most recent PASER is 4

1 point if the most recent PASER is 5-6

0 Point if the most recent PASER is 7-10

Project Category per MDOT's "Guidelines for Geometrics on Local Agency Project" (3 points possible)

3 points if the project follows the MDOT 4R guidelines

2 points if the project follows the MDOT 3R guidelines

1 point if the project follows the MDOT Preventative Maintenance guidelines

Safety (5 points total possible)

Safety Countermeasures (3 points possible)

1 point per traffic safety countermeasure included in the project, up to 3 points maximum

Addressing High Crash Location (2 points possible)

2 point if the project address crashes on a road segment that is 20% higher than the MPO median

1 point if the project address crashes on a road segment that is within 20% of the MPO median

0 points if all road segments in the project are below 20% of the PO medium.

Complete Streets (5 points possible total)

Pedestrian and Cycling Facilities (3 Points)

- 1 point if the road currently has facilities to accommodate pedestrians or cyclists and the project will not improve conditions further
- 2 points if the road currently has facilities to accommodate pedestrians or cyclists and the project will add additional facilities
- 3 points if the project add pedestrian or bicycle facilities where none existed previously.

Improving Non-motorized Connectivity (2 points)

Any added pedestrian or bicycle facilities connect to existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities or those that can reasonably expect to be completed during 2023-2026, thus improving regional connectivity.

Regional Connectivity (8 Points total possible)

Traffic Volume (5 points possible)

- 5 points if ADT is more than 10,000 vehicles per day
- 4 points if ADT is between 5,000 and 9,999 vehicles per day
- 3 points if ADT is between 2,000 and 4,999 vehicles per day

Functional Classification (3 points possible)

- 3 points if project is located on a Principal Arterial
- 2 points if project is located on a Minor Arterial
- 1 point if project is located on a Major Collector

Strategic Planning & Investment (6 points possible)

Asset Management (3 points possible)

Using the Asset Management Readiness Scale:

- 1 point if the projects is listed in an asset management plan for roads/stormwater
- 1 point if there is an asset management plan covering other utilities along the limits of the project
- 1 point if staff at the agency have asset management training

Local Planning Document (1 point possible)

- 1 point if the project is identified in another local planning document other than an asset management plant such as a master plan or a parks and recreation plan.

Project Continuity (1 points possible)

1 point if the project continues resurfacing, reconstruction or Preventative Maintenance on a segment of roadway adjacent to a segment with a PASER of 7 or higher.

Additional local match (2 points possible)

1 point if the agency contributes 24-40% of the estimated construction costs

2 points if the agency contributes 40%+ of the estimated construction costs

Coordination with sewer and water projects (No Points)

If there are known water or sewer issues, the project **must** coordinate utility and road fixes.

Cross Jurisdictional Coordination (No Points)

The project crosses jurisdictional boundaries (i.e. city to township) and it is arranged in such a way to be bid as a single project.

Project Readiness (No Points)

If the project requires relocation of utilities, purchase of ROW, environmental sensitivity or railroad crossing permits, these items must be addressed in the application and indicated on the project schedule.

Michigan Department of Transportation Projects

Within the NATS Planning Area

Updated March 13, 2024 by Jon Smith, MDOT Coloma TSC Engineer – smithj29@michigan.gov

Projects Currently Under Construction

City of Niles and Niles Township

Project: M-51 from Chestnut Ln. to M-60BR – Interchange reconstruction and asphalt resurfacing (JN202003)

Status: Construction ongoing, interchange work underway with traffic shifted to US-12EB.

Est Con: Sep. 25, 2023 – Dec. 30, 2025

NATS Area

Project: Regionwide signal upgrades (JN209414)

Status: Construction is underway or will begin shortly.

Est Con: Dec. 17, 2023 – Oct. 31, 2024

Niles Township

Project: M-139 over the Franz and Norton Drain – Culvert repairs (JN209684)

Status: Construction ongoing

Est Con: Mar. 4, 2024 – Sep. 27, 2024

Projects Scheduled for Construction in 2024

Milton Township

Project: US-12 and Gumwood Intersection – Traffic signal installation (JN218477)

Status: Project let and came in 1.14% under Engineer's estimate. Construction will begin in the spring.

Est Con: Apr. 1, 2024 – Jun. 28, 2024

Bertrand Township

Project: US-12 from Galien Township line to west of Mayflower Rd– Shoulder rehabilitation (JN127449)

Status: Turned in for the May Letting. Coordination has occurred with the county/locals agencies for the detours required for the culvert work. Detour paving will be in 2024, US-12 work will be in 2025.

Est Con: 2024: Aug. 19, 2024 – Oct. 31, 2024. 2025: April 15, 2025 – Sept. 15, 2025

Projects Scheduled for Construction in 2025

Bertrand Township and Niles Township

Project: S. US-31 from US-12 to Niles/Berrien Township Line - Concrete repairs and shoulder resurfacing (JN 216911)

Status: Design is in progress.

Niles Township

Project: US-31 under Niles-Buchanan Rd. – Bridge Capital Preventive maintenance (JN208503)

Status: Design is in progress.

City of Niles

Project: M-51 at 10th St. and 11th St. – Pedestrian crosswalk improvements (JN 218784)

Status: Design is in progress.

Michigan Department of Transportation Projects Within the NATS Planning Area

Updated March 13, 2024 by Jon Smith, MDOT Coloma TSC Engineer – smithj29@michigan.gov

Projects Scheduled for Construction in 2026

Village of Edwardsburg, Ontwa Township, and Mason Township

Project: US-12 from M-62 to Union – Milling & One Course Asphalt Overlay (JN216909)

Status: Design will begin in 2024.

Projects Scheduled for Construction in 2027

City of Niles and Bertrand Township

Project: US-12 @ Redbud and M-139 @ M-139 – Modernize signals (JN211989)

Status: Design is in progress.

Ontwa Township

Project: US-12 at Beebe Rd and Adamsville Rd intersection – Addition of Left turn lane and Passing Flare (JN214141)

Status: Design will begin in 2024 with a Road Safety Audit (RSA).

