

**NILES BUCHANAN CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (NATS)
Joint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Policy Committee (POL) MINUTES
June 26, 2018**

Present		Committee	
Name	Representing	TAC	Policy
Evan Smith	Berrien County Community Development	x	
Brian Berndt	Berrien County Road Commission	x	
Butch Payton	Bertrand Township	x	x
Kim O'Haver	Buchanan Dial A Ride	x	x
Lynn Ferris	Buchanan Township	x	x
Robert Ziliak	Cass County Board of Commissioners		x
Roseann Marchetti	Cass County Board of Commissioners		x
Sandra Seanor	Cass County Road Commission		x
Joe Bellina	Cass County Road Commission	x	
Don Ryman	City of Buchanan	x	x
Joe Ray	City of Niles	x	
Serita Mason	City of Niles		x
Craig Bradfield	Howard Township	x	x
Bob Sutton	Mason Township	x	x
Amy Lipset	MDOT - Southwest		x
Jonathon Smith	MDOT Coloma Business Office	x	x
Brian Sanada	MDOT Southwest Region	x	x
Susan Flowers	Milton Township	x	x
Richard Cooper	Niles Charter Township	x	x
Kelly Getman-Dissette	Niles Dial A Ride	x	x
Dawn Bolock	Ontwa Township	x	x
Kim Gallagher	SWMPC	Staff	
Mark Green	Wightman for City of Buchanan		

Absent		Committee	
Name	Representing	TAC	Policy
Michael Majerek	Berrien County Board of Commissioners		x
Eric Lester, M.D.	Berrien County Planning Commission		x
Barbara Cook	Cass County Planning Commission	x	
Georgia Boggs	City of Niles		x
Andrea Dewey	Federal Highway Administration*	x	x
Jan Personette	Four Flag Chamber of Commerce	x	x
Jim Sturdevant	MDOT Bureau of Transportation Planning	x	x
Jon Roberts	MDOT Urban Travel Analysis*	x	
Rich Low	Village of Edwardsburg	x	x

*non-Voting Member

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

Joe Bellina, Technical Advisory chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. Serita Mason led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Changes to the Agenda**

None.

3. **Public Comment**

None.

4. **Approve Minutes from the May 22, 2018 Meeting**

Corrections to the minutes were requested. The minutes from the May meeting had referred to exit 5 on M-51 which should have been Exit 5 on US -12.

Motion to approve the minutes from the April 24, 2018 joint Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee Meeting as corrected. Made by Craig Bradfield, second by Joe Ray. **Motion Approved.**

5. **Staff Report**

Performance Measures: Brandon Kovnat said that new performance measure targets were adopted by MDOT for bridge condition, pavement condition, and system reliability. Brandon presented the NATS data for each of these areas. He said that NATS would need to adopt the statewide targets or choose their own target by the October meeting.

Mon-motorized mapping: Kim Gallagher said that SWMPC was working on updating the non-motorized map which will now cover the 7 counties of the Southwest Michigan Regional Prosperity Region (RPI). Meeting with each county would be scheduled, and Kim said to look out for an invite shortly.

Culvert Data Collection Pilot Program: Kim Gallagher presented on culvert data collection. Cass County, Van Buren County, and the City of Benton Harbor are included. Kim explained that the agencies needed to collect all data by the end of July. The State would compile the data into a report before October. SWMPC role would be to act as a pass through for funding.

July meeting cancellation: The July NATS meeting is cancelled due to conflict with the Michigan Transportation Planner Association's (MTPA) annual conference. Kim explained that it is an educational conference with training sessions related to transportation issues and regulations. Both Kim and Brandon, as well as MDOT staff, will attend.

6. Community Land Use and Zoning Member Updates

Craig Bradfield said that Milton Township and Howard Township were discussing a possible merger of the two townships. A committee is analyzing the pros and cons. They want to be sure that residents from both townships will benefit. If it goes forward, a vote would be held in 2020.

7. Public Transit

Berrien Countywide Service Plan: Kim Gallagher said that a final plan would be done by August.

Niles Dial a Ride: Kelly Said that they would move back to their facility in august. They are purchasing a new bus.

Buchanan Dial a Ride: None.

8. Project Status Reports

City of Niles – 17th Street Project: Joe Ray said the bid was 10.3% over the estimated project cost. The letting was on June 1, 2018, but they are still awaiting the final amount and notice to proceed from MDOT. Joe expressed concern over the delay.

City of Buchanan – River Road Signal: Mark Green from Wightman said that they had held a grade inspection meeting and were going to submit final plans on July 20. They have an amendment and will explain more about the project during New Business.

Cass County Road Commission:

- **Mason Street:** Project was let on June 1 and will begin construction soon.
- **Gumwood Path:** The project was bid and Joe Bellina is waiting to see the contract.
- **US-12 Edwardsburg Path:** The final plan was approved by MDOT with a small change for right of way. Joe expects obligation within the month.

MDOT:

- **US-12 Resurface:** Construction is underway
- **M-60:** Letting is scheduled for October with construction starting in the spring of 2019.
- **M-62:** Complete.
- **US-31 over US-12:** Design has begun and a consultant for engineering work will be chosen.

Kim Gallagher mentioned that MDOT was holding an open house meeting on July 18th at Southwestern Michigan College - Niles Campus about the M-51 scoping project. The event is from 4-6 with presentations at 4:15 and 5:15.

9. Old Business

None.

10. New Business

City of Buchanan TIP Amendment: Mark Green explained that many decades ago there were businesses on the north side of the 4th street at the Red Bud Trail intersection. This property is now abandoned and the City has acquired the property. They want to realign 4th Street so that it better aligns with River Road. The extra cost will come from the City. The federal portion of the River Road and Red Bud Trail signal will remain the same.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the amendment as presented. Made by Joe Ray, second by Bob Sutton. **Motion Approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the amendment as presented. Made by Robert Ziliak, second by Roseann Marchetti. **Motion Approved.**

11. State and Federal Updates

Jonathon Smith said that he was submitting applications for Capital Preventive Maintenance (CPM) jobs for 2020-2021 and rehabilitation/reconstruction for 2024. He mentioned the following projects where applied for:

- M-51 from Main Street to the City of Dowagiac; 1.5 inch mill and fill.
- M 60 & US 12 interchange repair.
- M-40 from US 12 to M 60; double chip seal.
- US 12; single chip seal

The applications and information are due in July. The region will review them in August. The state will review between February and April. He said the approvals will be based on performance measures and the statewide investment criteria.

Kim Gallagher reminded the group that Berrien County was designated non-attainment for air quality. She said that there is an inter-agency working group meeting scheduled for July 9th where more details about what non-attainment entails will be discussed.

12. Privilege of the Floor

None.

13. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM. The next NATS meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 28, 2018 @ 1:30 pm.

Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Planner.