

**NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (NATS)  
 Joint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Policy Committee (POL) MINUTES  
 November 28, 2017**

Present		Committee	
Name	Representing	TAC	Policy
Barbara Cook	Cass County Planning Commission	x	
Brian Berndt	Berrien County Road Commission	x	
Butch Payton	Bertrand Township	x	x
Craig Bradfield	Howard Township	x	x
Dawn Bolock	Ontwa Township	x	x
Don Ryman	City of Buchanan	x	x
Jason Lathum	MDOT Southwest Region	x	x
Jim Sturdevant	MDOT Bureau of Transportation Planning	x	x
Joe Bellina	Cass County Road Commission	x	
Jon Roberts	MDOT Urban Travel Analysis	x	
Kelly Getman-Disette	Niles Dial A Ride	x	x
Kim O'Haver	Buchanan Dial A Ride	x	x
Richard Cooper	Niles Charter Township	x	x
Robert Ziliak	Cass County Board of Commissioners		x
Sandra Seanor	Cass County Road Commission		x
Serita Mason	City of Niles		x
Brian Sanada	MDOT Southwest Region	x	x
Brandon Kovnat	SWMPC		Staff
Kim Gallagher	SWMPC		Staff
Scott Lumberg	Carberry Road		NA
Jean Lumberg	Carberry Road		NA
Jerry Wierenga	Carberry Road		NA
LaVonne Wierenga	Carberry Road		NA
Deennis McKenzie	Carberry Road		NA
Sheila McKenzie	Carberry Road		NA

Absent		Committee	
Name	Representing	TAC	Policy
Andrea Dewey	Federal Highway Administration*	x	x
Bob Sutton	Mason Township	x	x
Eric Lester, M.D.	Berrien County Planning Commission		x
Evan Smith	Berrien County Community Development	x	
Fred Featherly	MDOT Office of Passenger Transportation*	x	
Georgia Boggs	City of Niles		x
Jan Personette	Four Flag Chamber of Commerce	x	x
Absent		Committee	

Name	Representing	TAC	POL
Jim Curran	Berrien County Board of Commissioners		x
Joe Ray	x	x	
Jonathon Smith	MDOT coloma Buisness Office	x	x
Joseph Margol	Berrien County Road Commission		x
Malinda Cole-Crocker	Buchanan Township	x	x
Mary McAfee	City of Niles		x
Michael Majerek	Berrien County Board of Commissioners		x
Rich Low	Village of Edwardsburg	x	x
Roseann Marchetti	Cass County Board of Commissioners		x
Sanya Phillips	City of Niles	x	
Susan Flowers	Milton Township	x	x

\*Non-Voting Member

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

Technical Advisory Chair Joe Bellina called the Joint Technical Advisory and Policy Committee meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 2. Changes to the Agenda

None.

### 3. Public Comment

Residents on Carberry Road were present to voice comments about the Carberry Road project. The project is a state funded through a Transportation Economic Development (TEDF) grant, to bring Carberry Road from Yankee Street to Lake Street up to current standards based on existing truck traffic.

Scott Lumberg began the comments by saying there was confusion on Carberry Road about the scope of the project. He said there was already extreme semi-traffic and he has complained to the sheriff about speeding problems. He has spoken to road crews who were marking trees for removal. He did not understand how the stated goal to improve safety required tree removal.

He mentioned that at a Howard Township meeting about the project the majority opposed the road widening. The Road Commission claims that it will improve safety, but Scott said they are deluding themselves. He said that trucks are already exceeding the speed limit and a wider road will lead to faster driving.

Jean Lumberg followed saying there is contradicting info. She is interested in the grant. She asked why is the project necessary, since she is not convinced that it is really about safety. She said that Carberry is a residential urban road, and she asked why they choose Carberry for commercial traffic.

Scott Lumberg asked if it was related to another project or development.

Joe Bellina said that the County held a public meeting in May or April where there was not opposition. He said the project was to bring the road up to standard based on the current traffic.

Barb Cook added that the Carberry project connects Business M-60 & Lake Street. The alternative for commercial traffic would be 17<sup>th</sup> Street, which would go by a school.

Scott Lumberg then said he felt the loss of trees would lower property values. He said that 100-year-old trees would be lost forever. He asked if there an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment conducted.

Joe Bellina said that this was not required for this project

Scott Lumberg ended by saying he would continue to explore the environmental impact and attempt to stop the project.

4. **Approve Minutes from October 24, 2017 Combined TAC and Policy meeting**  
**Motion** to approve the September 26, 2017 Joint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Policy Committee Meeting Minutes, by Serita Mason, second by Craig Bradfield. **Motion Approved.**

5. **Staff Report**

- 2045 Long Range Plan: Demographics & Employment**

Kim Gallagher presented a technical memo about the area's population and employment characteristics.

Bob Ziliak thought that the population projections were too low.

Sandra Seanor said that the projections take into account smaller households as well as an aging population.

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

None

7. **Public Transit Update**

**Berrien Countywide Service Plan:** Kim Gallagher said they held a steering committee meeting where they discussed the role of transit.

**Niles Dial-A-Ride:** Kelly Getman-Dissette said that for the winter they would have info about potential weather closings, which they would post on local community sources. Serita Mason asked if they could add closing to the city's text service.

**Buchanan Dial-A-Ride:** Kim O’Haver reported that they were doing another ‘Stuff a bus’ event. She added that the Buchanan Dial-A-Ride and Berrien Bus already share management & facilities. They have done this for 10 years and it saves a lot of money.

## 8. Project Status Reports

**City of Buchanan, River Road:** No Update

**City of Niles, 17<sup>th</sup> Street:** A resolution for local match was submitted to SWMPC

**Cass County Road Commission:**

- **US-12 Edwardsburg Path:** No Update
- **Mason Street:** Resolution for local match was submitted to SWMPC
- **Carberry Road:** Because this is an TEDF project it does not go through the same process as federal ATP grants. The project will be let locally and does not require MDOT approvals

**MDOT:**

- **US-12 Resurface:** Plan review meeting to be held November 2, 2017
- **US-31 over US-12:** PE was obligated in October but no work has been performed yet

## 9. Old Business

None

## 10. New Business

The meeting schedule for 2018 was presented: January 23, February 27, March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26, July 24, August 28, September 25, October 23, November 27, December 18.

**Motion** to approve the 2018 meeting schedule for the combined Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meetings made by Jim Sturdevant, Second by Kelly Getman-Dissette. **Motion Approved.**

There was discussion about canceling the December meeting to allow for a holiday break. There was no pressing business that could not wait until the January meeting.

**Motion** to cancel the December combined Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meeting made by Sandra Seanor, Second by Serita Mason. **Motion Approved.**

## 11. State & federal Updates

Jon Roberts gave an update on the progress of the NATS travel demand model. RGS was the consultant hired by MACOG to do a model for the entire South Bend Urbanized area

including all of MACOG's and NATS' planning areas. The results of the base year model will be presented in February. He mentioned that any potential capacity increasing projects could be tested with the model. In March or April, the future year model would be presented both with and without the potential capacity projects.

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

Don Ryman asked about high-speed rail, saying he support it and want to know what is happening in this area.

#### **13. Adjournment**

Meeting Adjourned at 2:50 PM

The next NATS meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 23, 2017 @ 1:30 pm.**

*Minutes Compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Planner*