

Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study 2023 Meeting Attendance

From the November 28th, 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	A		A		V		A		A	A	V	
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	(Vacant)		x												
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Dan Fette	x		A		A		A		A		A	A	A	
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	(Vacant)		x	A		A				A					
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (Policy)	(Vacant)		x	A											
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (TAC)	Kevin Stack	X		P		P		A		P		A	P	A	
Bertrand Township	Butch Payton	x	x	A		P		P		P		P	P	P	
Buchanan Township	Lynn Ferris	x	x	A		P		P		P		P	P	A	
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (1)	Roseann Marchetti		x	P		P		P		P		P	A	P	
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	James Lawrence		x	P		A		A		P		P	P	P	
Cass Co. Planning Commission	Roseann Marchetti	x		P		P		P		P		P	A	P	
Cass Co. Road Comm. (Policy)	Sandra Seanor		x	P		P		P		P		P	A	A	
Cass Co. Road Comm. (TAC)	Joe Bellina (TAC Chair)	x		P		P		P		P		P	P	P	
City of Buchanan	Don Ryman		x	V		P		P		P		A	A	A	
City of Buchanan	Rich Murphy	x		A		P		P		P		A	P	P	
City of Niles (1)	Georgia Boggs		x	P		A		A		A		A	A	A	
City of Niles (2)	Serita Mason		x	V		V		A		P		P		P	
City of Niles (3)	(Vacant)		x												
City of Niles Community Dev. Director	(VACANT)	x								P		A	P		
City of Niles Dial-A-Ride Transit	Pepper Miller	x	x	P		P		P		P		P	P	P	
City of Niles Public Works Dir./Airport	Joe Ray	x		P		P		P		A		P	P	P	
Howard Township	Bill Kasprzak	x	x	P		P		A		P		P	P	P	
Kinexus	(Vacant)	x													
Mason Township	Doug Fetters	x	x	A		A		A		A		A	P	A	
MDOT - Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	P		P		P		P		A	P	P	
MDOT - Southwest Region	Josh Grab	x	x	V		V		P		V		V	A	P	
MDOT - Southwest Region (Alternate)	Madee Thorburn	Alt	Alt	A		A		A		p		V	V	A	
MDOT - Transportation Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	V		V		V		V		V	V	A	
Milton Township	Susan Flowers	x	x	A		P		P		A		A	P	A	
Niles Charter Township	Richard Cooper (P. Ch.)	x	x	P		P		A		P		P	P	P	
Ontwa Township	Meryl Christensen	x	x	A		A		P		P		P	A	P	
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians	Robert Torzynski	x	x					A				A	A		
Village of Edwardsburg	Dawn Bolock	x	x	A		A		A		A		A	A	P	
Federal Highway Administration	Andrew Sibold	NV	NV	A		A		A		A		A	A	A	
Federal Transit Administration	Susan Weber	NV	NV	A		A		A		A		A	A	A	
EGLE - Air Quality	Breanna Bukowski	NV		A		A		A		A		A	A	A	
MDOT - Modeling	Jon Roberts	NV		A		A		A		A		A	A	A	
MDOT - Office of Passenger Trans.	Fred Featherly	NV		A		A		V		A		A	V	A	
Michiana Area Council of Governments	Caitlin Stevens	NV	NV	A		A		A		A		A	A	A	
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	x	x	P		P		P		P		A	P	A	
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Brandon Kovnat	NV	NV	P		P		A		A		P	A	P	

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

Note: **Bold** indicates member was updated at the September 2023 meeting.

GUESTS: Zane Aldrich - SWMPC

Minutes

NILES BUCHANAN CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE and POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, November 28, 2023 – 1:30 pm
Niles District Library, Niles MI

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Joe Bellina, Technical Advisory Committee chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Zane Aldrich took roll call.

2. Changes to the Agenda

None.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approve Minutes from the October 24, 2023, Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes for the October 24, 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 discussed the how to get reimbursements for collecting pavement condition data on non-federal aid roads. SWMPC has communicated this information to all Act 51 agencies via email.

Agencies interested in participating in the data collection process must submit their applications by December 8th and must include the total miles to be rated in 2024. In case of more applicants than available funding, selection will be based on areas with missing local PASER data and the last rating dates of the roads. The objective is to establish a rotating schedule to ensure the rating of all non-federal aid roads.

6. Local Agency Updates

Kovnat announced that MDOT has released the actual funding allocations for FY 2024. In NATS, the STBG funding is \$6,018 higher than estimated, while CRP funding is \$488 lower, and TAP funding is \$819 lower.

Bellina proposed to add the STBG funds to Berrien Conty Road Department and the Cass County Road Commission proportionally, in the same manner as the funds were reduced at the October NATS meeting. The \$488 in CRP funds would be taken out of the McCoy Creek trail Extension, since this is the only CRP funded project for FY 2024. This project is also using TAP funding from 2021-2023. Since it isn't utilizing any FY 2024 TAP funds, the committee agreed that no changes should be made to the project's TAP funding amount.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the funding changes as discussed in order to balance NATS FY 2024 budget. Made by Joe Ray 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 Serita Mason. **Motion passed.**

Joe Ray announced that the Wayne Street project in the City of Niles, which was funded in FY 2023, was just let with the accepted bid 18% below the estimate.

7. Local Amendment

Joe Bellina explained that the resurfacing of Pine Lake Road from Conrad Road to Daily Road is a Rural Task Force funded project for FY 2024. The project limits are partially within the NATS planning area which means the project must be included in the NATS TIP.

8. Transit Updates

Pepper Miller announced that Niles Dial A Ride had received approval from the Niles City Council to purchase three vans. She added that they are still waiting to receive a bus which was ordered two years ago; they expect delivery by June.

9. MDOT Project Updates

Brandon Kovnat presented on US-12/M-51 project that is currently under construction. Joe Ray raised concerns about the level of communication between MDOT and local communities.

Joe Bellina raised concern about a road diet on M-60 that was conducted solely by painting new pavement markings, but the with the old lane marking are still visible. Additional comments were raised about this project and how MDOT has been communicating and responding to concerns.

10. MDOT Amendment Requests

Kovnat gave a brief presentation on the MDOT amendment requests. For details on the amendments see meeting packet page 6.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the Local and MDOT project amendments to the NATS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program as included in the meeting packet. Made by Joe Ray and seconded by Jim Sturdevant. **Motion passed.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendations from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Bill Kasprzak and seconded by Dawn Bolock. **Motion passed.**

11. 2020 Adjusted census Urban Boundary

Brandon Kovnat presented the proposed 2020 Adjusted Census Urban Boundary (ACUB). Several comments were brought up:

- Joe Bellina questioned why MDOT didn't follow all the recommendations from the September 19th Regional ACUB review meeting.
- Joe Ray asked why certain areas were included in the ACUB despite not being classified as urban by the U.S. Census, and he further questioned why certain areas which had no development were classified as urban by the census.
- Ray expressed a concern that designating additional miles of roads as urban would create more competition for limited funding.
- Bellina clarified that any federal aid eligible road within the NATS planning area could already use urban funding, whether within the ACUB or not, and adjusting the ACUB wouldn't affect this.
- Jim Sturdevant and Josh Grab indicated that the vote on the ACUB could wait until January.

Joe Ray requested to table the approval of the ACUB until the January meeting.

12. 2024 Meeting Schedule

Motion for Technical Advisory Committee to approve the 2024 Technical Advisory Committee meeting schedule. Made by Roseann Marchetti and seconded by Bill Kasprzak. **Motion passed.**

Motion for the policy Committee to approve the 2024 Policy Committee meeting schedule made by Bill Kasprzak and seconded by Dawn Bolock. **Motion passed.**

13. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment

Joe Ray announced the departure of Ryan Millan as the City of Niles Community Development Director.

Josh Grab announced the departure of Madee Thorburn from MDOT.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 pm.

Draft