

**NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (NATS)  
 Joint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Policy Committee (POL) MINUTES  
 October 24, 2017**

<b>Present</b>		Committee	
Name	Representing	TAC	Policy
Michael Majerek	Berrien County Board of Commissioners		x
Eric Lester, M.D.	Berrien County Planning Commission		x
Brian Berndt	Berrien County Road Commission	x	
Robert Ziliak	Cass County Board of Commissioners		x
Barbara Cook	Cass County Planning Commission	x	
Sandra Seanor	Cass County Road Commission		x
Joe Bellina	Cass County Road Commission	x	
Don Ryman	City of Buchanan	x	x
Evan Smith	Berrien County Community Development	x	
Serita Mason	City of Niles		
Craig Bradfield	Howard Township	x	x
Brenda Burdick	MDOT coloma Buisness Office	NA	NA
Jason Lathum	MDOT Southwest Region	x	x
Susan Flowers	Milton Township	x	x
Jim Sturdevant	MDOT Bureau of Transportation Planning	x	x
Richard Cooper	Niles Charter Township	x	x
Dawn Bolock	Ontwa Township	x	x
Georgia Boggs	City of Niles		x
Kim O'Haver	Buchanan Dial A Ride	x	x
Joe Ray		x	
Jan Personette	Four Flag Chamber of Commerce	X	x
Kelly Getman-Dissette	Niles Dial A Ride	x	x
Brandon Kovnat	SWMPC	Staff	
Kim Gallagher	SWMPC	Staff	

<b>Absent</b>		Committee	
Name	Representing	TAC	Policy
Butch Payton	Bertrand Township	x	x
Malinda Cole-Crocker	Buchanan Township	x	x
Mary McAfee	City of Niles		x
Sanya Phillips	City of Niles	x	
Fred Featherly	MDOT Office of Passenger Transportation*	x	
Don Mayle	MDOT Urban Travel Analysis*	x	

<b>Absent</b>		<b>Committee</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>TAC</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Bob Sutton	Mason Township	x	x
Rich Low	Village of Edwardsburg	x	x
Jon Roberts	MDOT Urban Travel Analysis	x	
Andrea Dewey	Federal Highway Administration*	x	x
Roseann Marchetti	Cass County Board of Commissioners		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 1:36 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Joe Bellina requested that attendees introduce themselves

**2. Changes to the Agenda**

None.

**3. Public Comment**

None

**4. Approve Minutes from September 26, 2017 Combined TAC and Policy meeting**

**Motion** to approve the September 26, 2017 Joint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Policy Committee Meeting Minutes, by Craig Bradfield, second by Barbara Cook.

**Motion Approved.**

**5. Staff Report**

**2045 Long Range Plan**

Brandon Kovnat introduced and presented the Non-Motorized Technical memo. See attached. Jan Personette commented that law enforcement has been pulling people over looking for distracted drivers. Don Ryman stated that people should be able to ride bikes on sidewalks. Eric Lester asked if there was a connections with other factors in peoples commute patterns. Kim Gallagher responded that staff will be presenting the demographic and socioeconomic factors for the NATS area at the November NATS meeting. Lester asked if Uber or a cab might be a better fit than transit to provide rides to work, medical ect.

Sandra Seanor explained that MACOG had utilized a service for years in Elkhart years ago where taxis provided demand response service to people who were registered with the transit system. Georgia Boggs expressed her concern for people riding their bikes and walking along 11<sup>th</sup> street at night for work. Michael Majerick commented that M-51 goes through Main Street in downtown Niles and creates vibrations and accidents. Joe Rae

responded that the intersection of Main, 10<sup>th</sup> and Broadway probably have the highest incidence of crashes.

## **6. Public Transit Update**

### **Connect Berrien Update:**

Kim Gallagher updated the group with a brief explanation of Connect Berrien Countywide Steering Committee meeting which will take place on September 27, 2017.

### **Niles Dial a Ride**

Kelly Getman Dissette reported that MACOG had added the Niles deviated fixed route to Google Maps. She added that the 2017 FTA grants were awarded and one new bus should arrive in six months.

### **Buchanan Dial a Ride**

Kim O'Haver reported that an external audit for public transit is going currently taking place.

## **7. Project Status Reports**

Joe Bellina reported that Carberry Road EDA project will not go through MDOT process – Cass County Road Commission will design and build.

Joe Rae reported that the Niles City Council approved resolutions for project match to SWMPC.

## **8. Old Business**

None

## **9. New Business**

None

## **10. Privilege of the Floor**

Jan Personett asked about the status of clearing trees at airport. Joe Rae responded that the north side has been cleared and the south side will follow.

## **11. Adjournment**

Meeting Adjourned at 2:50 PM

The next NATS meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 28, 2017 @ 1:30 pm.**