

MINUTES
NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Policy Committee
Tuesday, January 23, 2007
Niles City Council Chambers

Policy Members Present:	Chuck Collins, Berrien County Road Commission Dick Fintze, Four Flags Chamber, BCPC Darrell Harden, MDOT Regional Planner Ray Lenze, MDOT – Planning Jane Mitchell, Buchanan Township Cliff Poehlman, Cass County Road Commission (Chair) Art Reed, Berrien County Planning Commission Don Ryman, Berrien County Commissioner
Policy Member Absent:	Tim Batton, GNCDC Georgia Boggs, Niles City Council John Brielmaier, Ontwa Township Supervisor Ron Goodwin, Niles Township Sarah Koepke, Federal Highway Administration Alice Kring, Bertrand Township Dale Lowe, Cass County Commissioner John LaMore, Berrien County Commissioner Elaine Luo, MDOT Multi-Modal (ex-officio) Mary Beth McAdams, MACOG (ex-officio) William Myers, Niles Township Sandra Naugle, City of Niles (Dial-A-Ride) Johnie Rodebush, Cass County Commissioner Paul South, MDOT Coloma TSC Tim Whitfield, Milton Township Supervisor Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC
SWMPC Staff Present:	Rachael Tupica, SWMPC Kelly Getman-Dissette, SWMPC
Others Present:	

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Chairman Clifford Poehlman called the meeting to order at 2:36 PM.

2. Minutes:

- Motion by Darrell Harden, seconded by Jane Mitchell: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 20, 2006 MEETING. Motion passed.

3. Staff Report:

- New SWMPC website is LIVE! Please take a look and make comments and suggestions. Every month you can get the minutes, agendas, and handouts on the website. Please update your bookmarks to <http://www.swmpc.org>
- Email address for SWMPC staff has changed to @swmpc.org (from @swmicomm.org), please update your address book to reflect

- Rachael and Kelly will soon begin working on updating employment data as part of our Long Range Plan update. This will be done, largely, in-house by Rachael and Kelly. The way this will be done is with Kelly and Rachael meeting with each municipality in the NATS urbanized area. Maps and spreadsheets of data will be reviewed at this meeting. The plan is to first review base year data (2006) and at a later time meet with municipalities again to review future/projected data. Timeline for the data SE collection will be to have base and future year data done and approved by the Committees in October 2007.
- The SWMPC is just about to begin a Green Infrastructure Inventory in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties. This inventory will encompass plant, animals, green space, and other valuable and sensitive green areas. More and more the federal government is requiring transportation planning to take environmental concerns into consideration and with SAFETEA-LU we are required to develop an Environmental Mitigation Plan. So, this Green Infrastructure Inventory, which will then be used to develop a Green Infrastructure Plan, is valuable to NATS as we select project to go into our TIP as we can easily identify if it will negatively affect an environmentally sensitive area. We are hoping this work can begin soon.

4. New Business:

- TIP AMENDMENT - Motion by Dick Fintze, seconded by Darrell Harden: TO APPROVE THE TIP AMENDMENT TO ADVANCE CONSTRUCT LAKE STREET, FROM THE BERRIEN COUNTY LINE TO HUNTLEY ROAD, IN FY2007 WITH REPAYMENT IN FY2009 TO UTILIZE LOCAL JOBS TODAY FUNDING. FEDERAL COST \$215,000; LOCAL COST; \$53,750; TOTAL COST \$268,750.” Motion passed.
- There was a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) call for project announced and a joint meeting between Berrien and Cass Counties was held on January 11, 2007 at the Berrien County Road Commission to select projects for FY2007. Projects for FY2008 and FY2009 were briefly discussed, but it was decided that those projects would be chosen at a later time. There is currently a public hearing scheduled for Cass County at the Cass County Road Commission Friday, January 26, 2007 at 10:00 am and a public hearing scheduled for Berrien County at the Berrien County Road Commission on January 29, 2007 at 1:00 pm. The public can comment on the projects selected at these hearings. Proposed projects can be found at <http://www.swmpc.org/cmaq.asp>.
- There was a call for projects for the FY2008 Federal Local Safety Program. Projects must meet certain warrants to receive funding. Deadline is March 1, 2007 to turn in applications and should come through the NATS Committees in February for support before submitting. Information on this program and applications can be found at <http://www.swmpc.org/safety08.asp>.
- The Project Selection Criteria Committee met in December and revised the Project Selection form. Handouts were given of the revisions and comments are being accepted. This form was revised jointly with TwinCATS as the goals and objectives for the two MPOs are the same. There were a few small changes proposed at their meeting and they were presented. This will be the form used for the FY2008-2011 call for projects being announced today. Motion by Darrell

Harden, seconded by Dick Fintze: "TO APPROVE THE PROJECT SELECTION FORM, PENDING CORRECTIONS." Motion passed.

- There is a call for projects for FY2008-2011 for STP funds. Projects being submitted should be turned in on the new Project Selection form, if approved by the Policy Committee, at the February meeting. A sub-committee will be convened to select and prioritize projects. Brian Berndt, Joe Bellina, and Neil Coulston from the Technical Advisory Committee volunteered to serve on the project selection sub-committee. At the March meeting, projects selected will be presented and reviewed by TAC and Policy for approval. Funding for FY2009 will be reduced due to the rescissions that the federal government are doing that year due to SAFETEA-LU legislation. Funding levels for the four fiscal years is as follows:
 - FY2008 - \$531,001
 - FY2009 - \$534,874
 - FY2010 - \$545,571
 - FY2011 - \$556,483
- The Policy By-Laws state that in January of odd years there will be elections of Chair and Vice-Chair. A nomination for Chair was accepted by Dick Fintze. There was a nomination for Johnie Rodebush for Vice-Chair, though he was not at the meeting. Rachael will contact Johnie to see if he accepts this nomination. Motion by Chuck Collins, seconded by Art Reed: "TO ACCEPT THE NOMINATIONS OF DICK FINTZE FOR CHAIR AND JOHNNIE RODEBUSH FOR VICE CHAIR, PENDING HIS ACCEPTANCE." Motion passed

5. Old Business:

- After discussion it was decided that the meeting date would stay the same for the Policy Committee but the time would change to 3:00 PM. Motion by Dick Fintze, seconded by Cliff Poehlman: "TO CHANGE THE MEETING TIME FROM 2:30 PM TO 3:00 PM." Motion passed.

6. Public Comment:

- None

7. Privilege of the Floor

- Kelly Getman-Dissette announced an article in this month's Michigan Association of Planning's magazine that dealt with transportation planning and recommended it to the Committee as a great article to read.
- We need to keep track of who is not attending the meetings and contact their agency/municipality and ask them to designate a representative who will be able to attend the monthly meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM

Minutes compiled by:

Rachael Tupica, Associate Planner 1/25/07