

**MINUTES**  
*NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY*  
*Policy Committee*

April 22, 2008  
Niles City Council Chambers  
3:00 p.m.

Policy Members Present:	<p>Chuck Collins, Berrien County Road Commission  Richard Cooper, Niles Township  Dick Fintze, Four Flags Chamber, BCPC  Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region  John LaMore, Berrien County Commissioner  Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning  Jane Mitchell, Buchanan Township  William Myers, Niles Charter Township  John Pleveich, Niles Dial-A-Ride  Cliff Poehlman, Cass County Road Commission  Art Reed, Berrien County Planning Commission  Johnie Rodebush, Cass County Commissioner  Don Ryman, Berrien County Commissioner  Paul South, MDOT Coloma TSC</p>
Policy Members Absent:	<p>Georgia Boggs, Niles City Council  John Brielmaier, Ontwa Township Supervisor  Fred Featherly, MDOT UPTRAN  Sarah Koepke, Federal Highway Administration  Mary Beth McAdams, MACOG (ex-officio)  Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio)  Meg Mullendore, City of Buchanan  Sandra Naugle, City of Niles (Dial-A-Ride)  Mike Sutherland, Howard Township  Tim Whitfield, Milton Township Supervisor  Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC  Debbie Johnson, Cass County Commissioner</p>
SWMPC Staff Present:	<p>Kelly Getman-Dissette  Nickolas Musson</p>
Others Present:	<p>Daniel Corbin, INDOT</p>

**1. Call to Order & Introductions**

- Chairman Fintze called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Minutes**

- Motion by Rodebush, supported by Pleveich to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2008 meeting. Motion approved.

**4. Staff Report**

- **Asset Management Workshop/Conference**  
Getman-Dissette and Musson attended the asset management conference on April 3, 2008 in Lansing. The focus of the conference was to show how other agencies are using asset management to their benefit. It is an

important conference that explained many of the prevalent issues affecting us today. The next time that the conference comes around SWMPC will inform the committee of its location and time. Musson attended the asset management workshop on April 2, 2008 in Lansing. The workshop was very informative and explained the reasoning behind asset management. The workshop was great because it brought together planners, engineers and elected officials to get their individual take on asset management. Musson highly recommends that the committee members attend the next time it is offered.

- **Traffic Counting Begins**

Traffic counting season has begun, and SWMPC has new traffic counting staff. David and Patricia Bly, along with Mark Gallagher, will be out taking counts in 2008. Committee members with requests should go to the SWMPC website to submit them. Getman-Dissette and Musson will meet John Egelhaaf to discuss whether or not requests from last year have to be resubmitted. Scherwitz stated that the Airport has traffic counting equipment if SWMPC needs to use it.

## 5. New Business

- **INDOT SR 933 presentation** – Daniel Corbin, INDOT project manager, presented Indiana’s proposal to remove SR933 from the National Highway System (NHS). Corbin explained that it is costly to maintain SR933 according to Federal standards, and it would be cost effective to remove SR933 from NHS and make it into a state road. Corbin asked the MPO to provide a letter of support for this decision. South expressed that he had no objection, but Lenze asked Corbin to provide written information to NATS regarding this change. Upon receipt of the written information, NATS will make a decision regarding this change. Indiana would like to send its paperwork regarding the change to the Secretary of Transportation by September.
- **Redistribute Cass County STP funds** – The Cass County Road Commission has excess STP funds that should be redistributed among other TIP projects. Specifically, \$8,100 remains from the Barron Lake project, and approximately \$11,500 will be available from the Lake St. project. Funds will be redistributed in May, once the Cities of Niles and Buchanan have made a decision on their projects.
- **Buchanan Front St. amendment** – At the TAC meeting, Brown reported that the project costs have increased due to new ADA regulations that became effective February 15. The City would like additional STP dollars, if available, to fund this project. Some funds may be available, but Lenze offered several other options to resolve the funding issue. Brown will present the City’s decision at the May meeting.
- **Future year SE Data** – Musson explained that the future year socioeconomic data for each agency is located on the SWMPC website. Because SWMPC is still receiving community input, the data is not yet ready for approval. Musson requested that committee members take one last look at the data tables and maps and offer comments. He explained that some agencies have made comments on the maps and sent it in, while others have simply sent an email. It is important that all of the affected agencies comment on the data projections. The deadline for input is May 9, 2008.
- **LRP goals subcommittee meeting report** –The LRP goals subcommittee met prior to the TAC meeting to discuss goals and objectives for the LRP update. Two of the goals and accompanying objectives were thoroughly covered, and the remaining goals will be tackled at the next meeting on May 20 at 9 a.m. at the Niles Dial-a-Ride.

## 6. Old Business

- None

## 7. Public Comment

- None

## 8. Privilege of the Floor

- LaMore expressed thanks for the signal optimization on 11<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Pleveich stated that riders are taking advantage of the two newly implemented fixed routes. However, overall ridership levels are down. Reed asked about using advertising on the buses to generate revenue, but Pleveich explained that the dollars generated were not worth the effort.

- Lenze distributed State transportation maps.
- **Meeting Date Change** – The next meeting date scheduled for May 27, 2008, which falls right after the Memorial Day weekend. The TAC passed a motion to move the meeting May 20, 2008 to maximize attendance. *A motion was made by Rodebush, supported by Myers, to move the meeting date from May 27, 2008 to May 20, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.. Motion approved.*

#### **9. Adjournment**

- *Motion by Rodebush, supported by Myers, to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved.* The meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.
- The next meeting is May 20, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes compiled by: Nickolas Musson/Kelly Getman-Dissette, Transportation Planners, 04/28/08