

MINUTES
NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Policy Committee

May 20, 2008
Niles City Council Chambers
3:00 p.m.

Policy Members Present:	<p>Chuck Collins, Berrien County Road Commission Dick Fintze, Four Flags Chamber, BCPC Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region Debbie Johnson, Cass County Commissioner Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Jessica Mitchell, MACOG William Myers, Niles Charter Township Art Reed, Berrien County Planning Commission Johnie Rodebush, Cass County Commissioner Don Ryman, Berrien County Commissioner</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 Paul South, MDOT Coloma TSC John LaMore, Berrien County Commissioner Richard Cooper, Niles Township Cliff Poehlman, Cass County Road Commission Jane Mitchell, Buchanan Township John Pleveich, Niles Dial-A-Ride</p>
SWMPC Staff Present:	<p>Kelly Getman-Dissette Nickolas Musson</p>
Others Present:	

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Chairman Fintze called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Minutes

- Motion by Rodebush, supported by Johnson to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2008 meeting. Motion approved.

4. Staff Report

- **SR 933** – Musson shared with the committee that he has attended recent MACOG meetings regarding the reclassification of SR 933. MACOG will not make a decision on whether or not they concur with the re-designation until their local jurisdictions and elected officials have a chance to comment. Musson contacted

the State Police and Transportation Security Administration to determine whether there would be any negatives associated with the reclassification, and neither agency felt that there would be a compromise to emergency operations or system security. Musson will continue to stay in contact with MACOG until this decision is made.

- **Regional Transit Technology** - Getman-Dissette announced that SWMPC has been working with local transit agencies to select new software to help increase efficiency and improve coordination. The effort began in Van Buren County with a grant from the Center for Regional Excellence and eventually expanded to include 9 transit agencies in 6 counties. The agencies met several times to preview software solutions. After a request-for-proposal process, all of the agencies agreed that the preferred product was Dial-A-Ride Online, a web based software offered by a company located in the U.K. The agencies involved are now in the process of finalizing contracts with Dial-A-Ride, and it is estimated that staff members will begin training in June. SWMPC received a \$90,000 grant from the National Center for Senior Transportation, of which approximately \$72,500 will help the local agencies purchase the software.

5. New Business

- None

6. Old Business

- **LRP goals subcommittee meeting report** – The subcommittee has finished its review of the long range plan (LRP) goals and objectives. Getman-Dissette distributed copies of the new goals and objectives and asked committee members to read through the document and be prepared to comment at the June meeting. Bellina asked that comments be sent to Getman-Dissette ahead of time if possible.
- **M- 139 Route Designation Comments** – SWMPC received a letter from MDOT requesting comments on the M-139 route re-designation. If there are no issues, MDOT will proceed with the re-designation of the route. Getman-Dissette distributed a map of the route designation and explained the changes. There were no comments from committee members.
- **Future SE Data** – Musson explained that the deadline for input on the future year SE data had passed, and the data must be submitted to Osborne. Committee members were offered one last opportunity to comment on the numbers. *A motion by was made by Rodebush, supported by Myers, to accept the future year SE data. Motion approved.*
- **Redistribute STP Funds and Buchanan Front Street Amendment** – As discussed at previous meetings, the Barron Lake Road and Lake Street projects were less than the amount budgeted, the Front Street project estimate was greater than originally expected, and the City of Niles is not ready to complete the East Main and Sycamore projects. Therefore, following the recommendation of the TAC committee, *a motion was made by Myers, supported by Rodebush, to amend the FY 2008-11 TIP to include the following changes:*
 - *Increase funding for Front Street (JN 50114) in the City of Buchanan to \$133,420 total cost. The project will be advance constructed in 2008 and include a FY 2008 federal cost of \$58,100 and a FY 2009 federal cost (advance construct conversion) of \$51,105.*
 - *Add Front Street (JN 50114) in the City of Buchanan to FY 2009 as an advance construct conversion project, with a federal cost of \$51,105.*
 - *Delete the FY 2009 Sycamore (from 5th to 9th) project (JN 100024) in the City of Niles.*
 - *Add Sycamore from 5th to 9th (JN 100024) in the City of Niles to the illustrative list, following Lake Street.*

Motion approved.

In addition, the following changes were made as administrative amendments:

- Reduce funding for Barron Lake Road (JN 50277) in Cass County by \$8,100.
- Remove the East Main and Sycamore project (JN 100024) in the City of Niles from FY 2009.
- Reduce funding for Lake Street (JN 89920) in Cass County by \$11,500.
- Increase funding to the Niles-Buchanan Road project (JN74603) in FY 2009 by \$88,969 so that the total federal cost is \$180,443.

- Remove the Niles-Buchanan Road project (JN 76403) from FY 2011.
- Add Ironwood Road (JN 10027) in Cass County to FY 2009 as an advance construct project with partial repayment in FY 2011. The FY 2009 federal portion of the project will be \$99,826 and the FY 2011 federal portion will be \$8,174.
- Reduce the FY 2011 Ironwood Road (JN 10027) advance construct conversion project in Cass County to \$8,174.
- In FY 2011, add East Main Street from Maple to 17th (JN 100024) in the City of Niles for \$118,700 federal, \$26,300 local, and \$145,000 total.
- In FY 2011, add Sycamore Street from 13th to 17th (JN 100024) in the City of Niles for \$66,500 federal, \$14,800 local, and \$81,300 total.

7. Public Comment

- None

8. Privilege of the Floor

- Ryman spoke for LaMore who wanted the committee to know that Bell Road needs some attention. Myers will discuss Bell Road with the Berrien County Road Commission at their fall meeting. LaMore would also like flashing red lights for left turns on Bell at 11th and at 3rd Streets.

9. Adjournment

- Motion by Rodebush, supported by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.
- The next meeting is June 24, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes compiled by: Nickolas Musson/Kelly Getman-Dissette, Transportation Planners, 05/22/08