

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

January 27, 2009  
Niles City Council Chambers  
3:00 P.M.

Policy Members Present:	Georgia Boggs, Niles City Council Chuck Collins, Berrien County Road Commission Jim Daniel, Berrien County Road Commission Dick Fintze, Four Flags Chamber Irving Frost, Howard Township Ron Goodin, Niles Township Debbie Johnson, Cass County Commissioner John LaMore, Berrien County Commissioner Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Don Ryman, Berrien County Commissioner Art Reed, Berrien County Planning Commission Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC
Policy Members Absent:	Paul Boggs, Milton Township John Brielmaier, Ontwa Township Supervisor Richard Cooper, Niles Township Fred Featherly, MDOT UPTRAN Richard Gerbeth, Milton Township Supervisor Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region Sarah Koepke, Federal Highway Administration Mary Beth McAdams, MACOG (ex-officio) Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Jane Mitchell, Buchanan Township Jessica Mitchell, MACOG (ex-officio) Meg Mullendore, City of Buchanan John Pleveich, Niles Dial-A-Ride Cliff Poehlman, Cass County Road Commission Johnie Rodebush, Cass County Commissioner Paul South, MDOT Coloma TSC Mike Sutherland, Howard Township
SWMPC Staff Present:	Suzann Flowers Nickolas Musson
Others Present:	

**1. Call to Order & Introductions**

- Collins called the meeting to order at 3:04 P.M. Chairman Fintze and Vice Chairman Rodebush were absent.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Minutes**

- *Motion by Johnson, supported by Ryman, to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2008 meeting as amended. Motion approved.*

**4. Staff Report**

- **Officer Elections** – The committee passed a motion to elect John LaMore as Vice Chairman. Johnie Rodebush was Vice Chairman and automatically moves into the Chair position.
- **Transportation Planner Update** – SWMPC is currently interviewing for candidates and should have new planner by the next meeting.
- **Non-Motorized Plan Update**
  - Musson announced the following:
    - SWMPC Phase 1 has been approved for the comprehensive, regional Non-Motorized Transportation Plan for MDOT'S southwest region. Phase 1 consist of updating the map and plan. There will be public input meetings in the near future. If there are any questions please contact Marcy Colclough or Suzann Flowers at SWMPC.
    - 2009 Webinar Series- The Greenway Collaborative announced its 2009 webinar series. Each series will look at specific trail or non-motorized transportation issue in depth with some time for questions and answers. Sessions are from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm on the third Tuesday of every month. To find out more information check out the Greenway Collaborative website at <http://www.greenwaycollab.com/>
    - Mid America Trails & Greenways Conference- October 25-28, 2009 at the Radisson Hotel and Suites, Kalamazoo. The conference celebrates existing and new connections and offers an excellent opportunity for all those involved in trails and greenways to share experiences, and learn from each other and continue to connect trails and greenways.
    - Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) workshops will be held throughout the state beginning February 19th, 2009. The workshop will focus on MNRTF program, including application process. Schedule is attached to handout.

## 5. Old Business

- **CMAQ Meeting**
  - Berrien & Cass County Congestion Mitigation Air Quality 2009, 2010 and 2011 Projects- Berrien County Road Commission located at 2860 East Napier Avenue, Benton Harbor, Michigan on February 4, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.
- **M51/933 National Highway System (NHS) designation Removal**
  - Musson announced that the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG) has approved the removal of the NHS designation to SR 933 in response to Indiana Department of Transportation's (INDOT) request. MDOT and INDOT has asked NATS to remove the NHS designation from M51. There will be no funding loss with the removal. Musson presented the committee with a resolution to remove the NHS designation from M51.
- *Motion by Johnson, supported by Ryman, to approve the resolution to remove the NHS designation from M51 only after the title of the resolution eliminates SR 933. Motion approved*

## 6. New Business

- **Economic Stimulus-US-31**
  - Musson explained what was learned at the Michigan Transportation Planning Association meeting on economic stimulus funding. Economic Stimulus will only go towards federal aid eligible projects. The federal share of each project is 100% (no state or local match is required).The state has to obligate 50% of the total funds within 150 days or the funds may be lost to the project. The additional 50% must be obligated by August 1, 2010. If states are unable to obligate the 50% by 150 days it becomes available to other states. Projects need to be shovel ready. The state will do what ever it can to use all of the money.
- **TIP amendments** – The following TIP amendments were discussed:

- Adding to FY 2009, Mill and two-course HMA overlay PE phase to US-12 from M-60 to Edwardsburg with \$614,000 Federal and \$136,000 State.
- Adding to FY 2009, Mill and two-course HMA overlay ROW phase to US-12 from M-60 to Edwardsburg with \$205,000 federal and \$45,000 State.
- *Motion by Ryman, supported Johnson, to approve the amendment to add the PE and ROW phase of the Mill and two-course HMA overlay to US-12 from M-60 to. Motion approved*
- **LRP discussion**
  - Timeline
    - February 13 – Air Quality
    - February 24 – Draft Plan
    - March 24 – Policy Approval
    - April 21 – Full Commission Approval
    - April 22 – Submit to MDOT
- **Asset Management IRT training**
  - Musson explained that if you have not participated in Investment Reporting Tool training before, it is very important that you attend this training session. For those who have previously participated in this training, this is the chance to see the many improvements from the last year, which will cover changes in the reporting process, several user interface enhancements, continued data importing for Roadsoft Investment and PASER data, along with other programming improvements. Musson distributed sign up sheets and handouts. The training will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 from 1:00 to 3:30pm at the Van Buren ISD Conference Center in Lawrence, Michigan
- **Asset Management for Elected Officials**
  - Musson announced another workshop that is designed specifically for city, county and township elected officials. All local elected officials who have an interest in transportation projects or facilities should attend. No engineering background is required. You don't have to be an elected official to attend. The workshop will be held on March 30<sup>th</sup> 2009 from 1-4 PM at the Berrien County RESA Administrative Center, 711 St. Joseph Ave., in Berrien Springs. Musson distributed sign up sheets and handouts.

## 7. Public Comment

- None

## 8. Privilege of the Floor

- Lenze explained that everyone has to move with projects as soon as they are approve because agencies are losing money because they are not acting fast enough. Also that local services will return application if description does not match TIP description.
- Woolcock announced that South has returned to the Coloma TSC.

## 9. Adjournment

- *Motion by Ryman, supported by Frost, to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved.*
- *The meeting was adjourned at 3:49 pm.*
- The next meeting is February 24, 2009 at 3:00 P.M.

Minutes compiled by: Nickolas Musson Transportation Planner, 1/29/09