

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Policy Committee

MINUTES

November 17, 2009

Niles City Council Chambers

3:00 P.M.

Policy Members Present:	Paul Boggs, Milton Township Chuck Collins, Berrien County Road Commission Irving Frost, Howard Township Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region Debbie Johnson, Cass County Commissioner Joseph Kring, Bertrand Township Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Jane Mitchell, Buchanan Township John Pleveich, Niles Dial-A-Ride Cliff Poehlman, Cass County Road Commission Johnie Rodebush, Cass County Commissioner Don Ryman, Berrien County Commissioner Paul South, MDOT Coloma TSC Tracy Vines, Berrien County Planning Commission Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC
Policy Members Absent:	Georgia Boggs, Niles City Council Richard Cooper, Niles Township John Egelhaaf, SWMPC (ex-officio) Dick Fintze, Four Flags Chamber Jim Kidwell, Niles Charter Township John LaMore, Berrien County Commissioner Stewart McKenzie, FTA (ex-officio) Jessica Mitchell, MACOG (ex-officio) John Monaghan, Village of Edwardsburg Meg Mullendore, City of Buchanan Sandra Naugle, City of Niles Finance Office Helen Parsons, Ontwa Township Sarah Van Buren, FHWA –Michigan Division (ex-officio)
SWMPC Staff Present:	Nickolas Musson Anna Rahtz
Others Present:	Jason Auvil, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Melinda Michael, Four Flags Area Council on Tourism

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Chairman Rodebush called the meeting to order at 3:01 P.M.

2. Minutes

- *Motion by Poehlman, supported by Johnson, to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2009 Joint TAC and Policy Committee meeting. Motion approved.*

3. Staff Report

- **Mid-America Trails And Greenways (MATAG) conference**
 - Musson announced that he and Rahtz attended a day-long workshop on US bicycle routes and learned about the program, which will help them in working on the US 35 bicycle route along with the TwinCATS non-motorized subcommittee. The US 35 route will go along the western coast of Michigan, within a 50-mile buffer; the alignment has not yet been determined.
- **SmartCode workshop**
 - Musson announced that he had attended the SmartCode workshop with Andres Duany and learned about smart growth ideas and the difference between traditional Euclidean zoning, form-based zoning, and "smart codes."
 - The electronic version of the basic code guidebook available on the online transportation planning library under the Zoning section. Musson will be sending out the link to the committee members.
- **Michigan Association of Planning Transforming Transportation workshop**
 - Musson announced that Rahtz had attended a day-long workshop about Safe Routes to School, Complete Streets, and Context Sensitive Design. She attended four segments of the CSS track, and learned about the difference between CSS and the NEPA process, and techniques for mediating between the desires of different stakeholder groups. The MDOT CSS staff had offered to present the information to MPOs.
 - Rahtz mentioned that the TAC had proposed that the presentation be framed within an example of a local project, and that she would check into it.
 - It was asked how long the presentation would be. In the past, MPO training had been done that lasted half a day, but it was decided that for this purpose a 30- to 45-minute presentation at the regular NATS meeting would be ideal.
- **"SMART: Moving Minds: The Next Transportation Infrastructure" conference**
 - Musson announced that Rahtz had attended a day of the SMART conference on sustainable transportation infrastructure at the University of Michigan and learned about the idea of "New Mobility," including focusing on developing around connections between various modes of transportation, and investing in a transportation infrastructure that is resilient to climate change and other unknown future events.

4. Old Business

- **By-law change** – Upon Jason Auvil's request, the addition of the Pokagon Band as a voting member of TwinCATS will again be tabled to the December meeting. Auvil has been given the amount that will be due for membership, and he will put the request before the Tribal Council.
- **Transportation importance survey** – Musson announced that Rahtz had gone over a revision of the survey with the subcommittee and Chuck Collins, who have suggested further revisions. At the December meeting, Rahtz will present a more finalized version of the survey, which can then be administered in December and January, now that the TIP timeline has been adjusted.

5. New Business

- **Call for FY 2014 Projects for FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program**
 - Musson announced that applications are being solicited for local and state transportation projects. The project selection committee will meet to select the projects in February.
 - Musson also stated that a call for projects will soon be announced for the FY 2012-2013 CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) projects. A Call for Projects meeting will be scheduled shortly.

6. Public Comment

- None

7. Privilege of the Floor

- Jason Auvil, Staff Planner for the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, presented on effective communication strategies for working with American Indian tribes.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Vines to dismiss the meeting. Motion approved.

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M. The next meeting is December 15, 2009 at 3:00 P.M.

Minutes compiled by: Anna Rahtz and Nickolas Musson, Transportation Planners, 11/18/09