

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Policy Committee

MINUTES

January 26, 2010

Niles City Council Chambers

3:00 P.M.

Policy Members Present:	Chuck Collins, Berrien County Road Commission Irving Frost, Howard Township Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region Debbie Johnson, Cass County Commissioner Joseph Kring, Bertrand Township John LaMore, Berrien County Commissioner 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 Tracy Vines, Berrien County Planning Commission
Policy Members Absent:	Georgia Boggs, Niles City Council Paul Boggs, Milton Township Richard Cooper, Niles Township John Egelhaaf, SWMPC (ex-officio) Dick Fintze, Four Flags Chamber Jim Kidwell, Niles Charter Township 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 Paul South, MDOT Coloma TSC Sarah Van Buren, FHWA –Michigan Division (ex-officio) Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC
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

- Chairman Rodebush called the meeting to order at 3:01 P.M. and led all attendees in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Minutes

- *Motion by Poehlman, supported by Vines, to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2009 Policy Committee meeting. Motion approved.*

3. Staff Report

- **CSS Presentation**

- Rahtz announced that she had met with Paul South and Brad Peterson from MDOT about the Context Sensitive Solutions presentation, which will happen at the March meeting. It will be a joint meeting. It will cover the basics with an example of US-12BR historic bridge and an interactive activity. Brad Peterson would like to know if any of the committee members have any specific questions or topics they would like him to cover.
- She added that the March 23, 2010 meeting will be a joint meeting starting at 2:00 pm. Collins commented that it may be difficult for Policy Committee members to make it that early, and Rahtz explained that joint meetings are always started at 2:00 to compromise between the usual times for the TAC and Policy Committee members, and also if it started later then the presenter would be late getting back to Lansing.

5. Old Business

- **Traffic Count Presentation**

- Musson went over a handout explaining how to access traffic count data online, as well as how to interpret the pdf reports.
- Musson added that he will change the web format to show the average daily traffic (ADT) count number on the pin on the map, so that it can be found without going into the detailed pdf report. Vines commented that this would be helpful.
- Collins asked why the report is broken into A.M. and P.M. on separate pages, and Musson explained that the reports are generated by the company that manufactures the traffic counters and corresponding software, and that he does not have control over how the reports are formatted. He is continually working with the representative from the software company to request changes to the software to make it more user-friendly.
- Collins commented that the reports should show speed because he has found that speed can be more useful than the traffic count number. Musson replied that most of the requests he has gotten have been for the ADT number, not for speed, but that the speed data is available upon request. The traffic counters collect the speed in the raw data. Harden added that law enforcement probably would not appreciate speed data being available to the public online.

- **Opinions of Berrien County Businesses on Transportation Infrastructure**

- Rahtz went over a handout explaining the results of data that had been compiled. The data was the results of 230 interviews conducted by Kim Fedison of Berrien County Economic Development and Pat Moody of the Cornerstone Chamber of Commerce. It shows what Berrien County businesses think of their transportation infrastructure, on four criteria: public transportation, local road network condition, interstate highway system condition, and airports. Overall, there were very high opinions on all aspects except public transportation.

- **Fill out transportation importance survey**

- Rahtz asked the committee to fill out the "What's Important to You in Transportation Projects?" survey and reminded the committee members that they should write "NATS Member" on their surveys so that she could keep the NATS and public surveys separate. She added that 75 public surveys had been turned in, thanks to the work of the committee members and the article that Coulston had gotten in the Niles Daily Star.
- LaMore requested more surveys that he would distribute to Lake Michigan College – Bertrand Crossing campus.

- **TIP Applications**

- Musson announced that all TIP new project applications were due January 26, 2010. These would be applications for FY 2014 projects, or any new projects that were not applied for when the FY 2010-2013 TIP was being created.
- He also announced that the TIP project selection meeting will be at 3:00pm on February 24, 2010 in the Niles City Council Chambers.

- **“Jobs for Main Street”**
 - Musson also announced that a new economic stimulus package similar to ARRA just passed the US House of Representatives and is headed to the Senate. The same funding levels as ARRA are anticipated. 50 percent of the funds will have to be contracted within 90 days. The funding could be used to cover engineering costs for the projects that are funded after the first 90 days of the legislation.
 - Musson remarked that it is not known what will happen with this bill, since it only passed the House by four votes, and that if passed the legislation will not go into effect until at least March. He emphasized that whatever happens, TwinCATS has to be prepared for it, and so an illustrative list of projects needs to be compiled. This will be done at the TIP project selection committee meeting on February 19th.
 - Musson added that the letter from the US Department of Transportation is uploaded onto the NATS web page.
- **CMAQ Call for Projects Meeting**
 - Musson reminded the committee that the Call for Projects meeting for the 2012-2014 CMAQ projects will be held on February 3, 2010 at 1:00pm at the Berrien County Road Commission.

6. New Business

- **TIP Amendments**
 - **Niles Dial a Ride**
 - Modified in FY 2010, project named PM. The Federal cost changed from \$128,000 (5307) to \$170,000, the toll credits increased from \$25,600 to \$34,000 and the limits changed from Citywide to Areawide.
 - Deleted in FY 2010, project named Facility rehab for a Federal cost of \$80,000 (5307) and a State cost of \$20,000 (CTF).
 - Modified in FY 2010, project named Efficiency Study to study operations and efficiency. The project name changed from Efficiency Study to Transit Development Plan, the limits changed from Citywide to Areawide, and the project description changed from operations and efficiency study to Contract with consultants to study the DART operation and complete a transit development plan. The Federal cost changed from \$51,400 (5307) to \$60,000 and the toll credits changed from \$10,280 to \$12,000.
 - Modified in FY 2010, project named Connections to Utilities Building to connect to utilities building for shared network and internet services. The limits changed from Citywide to Areawide, the Federal cost changed from \$20,000 to \$49,000 (5307) and the toll credits changed from \$4,000 to \$9,800.
 - **Berrien County Road Commission**
 - Amend in FY 2010, the project description, federal, and local cost, for project named Stateline Road and Third Street to resurface with minor drainage. The project description changed from “resurface road, minor drainage” to “seal coat and microsurface”. The federal cost changed from \$478,000 to \$115,000 (STUL), and the local cost changed from \$112,000 to \$25,000 (Cnty).
 - Added in FY 2010, project named Lake Street/East Main Street/Galien-Buchanan Road to seal coat Lake Street from the City of Niles to Cass County line, East Main Street from the City of Niles to Cass County line, and Galine-Buchanan Road from Bakertown Road to Boyle Lake Road. The federal cost is \$77,000 (STUL) and the local cost is \$17,000 (Cnty).
 - Added in FY 2010, project named Bertrand Road from Red Bud Trail to St. Joseph River to seal coat for a federal cost of \$77,000 (STUL) and a local cost of \$17,000 (Cnty).
 - *Motion by Poehlman, with support from Johnson, to approve the above amendments to BCRC projects in the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved.*
 - **CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program)**
 - Add in FY 2010, CMAQ project Rideshare for a federal cost of \$12,000.

- **City of Niles**
 - Deleted in FY 2011, project named East Main Street from Maple to 17th to cold mill and resurface, including construction of ADA ramps. The Federal cost is \$118,700 and local cost is \$26,300.
- **MDOT**
 - Added in FY 2010, project CPM CSM Bridge Trunkline GPA for Federal cost of \$657,700 (ST) and State cost of \$164,426.
 - Added in FY 2010, project EPE/PE/ROW Trunkline GPA for Federal cost of \$81,850 (ST) and State cost of \$18,150 (M).
 - Added in FY 2010, project Highway Safety Trunkline GPA for Federal cost of \$765,000 (M).
 - *Motion by Poehlman, with support from Harden, to approve the CMAQ, City of Niles, and MDOT amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved.*
- **Investment Reporting Tool Training** – Musson announced that the Investment Reporting Tool (IRT) Training will take place on February 18th at the Van Buren ISD. Representatives of all municipalities are encouraged to attend.
- **Trails Input Meeting for Berrien County** – Rahtz announced that, as part of SWMPC's SMART nine-county non-motorized planning project, a public input meeting will be held on Thursday, February 4th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at Andrews University Chan Shun Hall.

7. Public Comment

- None

8. Privilege of the Floor

- None

9. Adjournment

Motion by Vines to dismiss the meeting. Motion approved.

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 P.M. The next meeting is February 23, 2010 at 3:00 P.M.

Minutes compiled by: Anna Rahtz and Nickolas Musson, Transportation Planners, 1/27/10