

MINUTES
NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Policy Committee

December 16, 2008
Niles City Council Chambers
3:00 P.M.

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

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Chairman Fintze called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Minutes

- *Motion by Harden, supported by Rodebush, to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2008 meeting. Motion approved.*

4. Staff Report

- **Berrien County Transit Forum-** SWMPC coordinated a Berrien County transit forum on December 3, 2008. The forum was a success with over 65 people from Human service and transit agencies in Berrien County attending. Attendees went over transit scenarios and attempted to connect riders to their destinations.

- **NCST visit-** The National Center for Senior Transportation (NCST) grant was awarded to SWMPC for transit coordination technology. NCST visitors came to the SW region to visit various transit agencies using the transit coordination technology.
- **MDOT 5 Year Plan-** Plan is online and MDOT is accepting comments up until December 30, 2008.

5. Old Business

- LaMore asked about the status of the flashing red lights on 11th street. Harden will ask the TSC if they have a response.

6. New Business

- **Officer Nominating Committee-** Fintze selected Johnson and Reed for the nominating committee.
- **LRP Discussion**
 - Community transportation issues- The previous LRP identified several community issues related to transportation that need to be considered whether each of them are still relevant enough to be listed in the new LRP and whether there are any other issues that should be discussed. Getman-Dissette went through each community issue in the previous LRP plan looking for committee comment.
 - Projects to consider for air quality analysis- Getman-Dissette explained that we recently had a inter agency work group meeting (IAWG) to discuss projects that would need air quality analysis. There were no projects identified in the NATS area that need air quality analysis.
- **TF2 Report**

The Michigan Transportation Funding Task Force (TF2) was created in response to Public Act 221 of 2007. The purpose of the Task Force is to “review the adequacy of surface transportation and aeronautics service provision and finance” in Michigan, review strategies for maximizing return on transportation investment, and evaluate the potential of alternative strategies to replace or supplement transportation taxes and fees. A report containing the recommendations of the Task Force was submitted to the legislature in November and is available online:

http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-9623_31969-202856--,00.html

Musson handed out Surface Transportation Funding Alternatives and went over a few of them for committee discussion. Lenze suggested that any committee member that felt strongly about any of these alternatives should contact their legislator.

7. Public Comment

- None

8. Privilege of the Floor

- Kelly announced that she has accepted a job with the city of Niles and that her last day will be January 7, 2009.

9. Adjournment

- *The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.*
- The next meeting is January 27, 2009 at 3:00 P.M.

Minutes compiled by: Nickolas Musson Transportation Planners, 12/18/08