

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Policy Committee

MINUTES

March 23, 2010

Niles City Council Chambers

3:00 P.M.

Policy Members Present:	Georgia Boggs, Niles City Council Paul Boggs, Milton Township Chuck Collins, Berrien County Road Commission Richard Cooper, Niles Township Debbie Johnson, Cass County Commissioner John LaMore, Berrien County Commissioner Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning John Pleveich, Niles Dial-A-Ride Jane Mitchell, Buchanan Township 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
Policy Members Absent:	John Egelhaaf, SWMPC (ex-officio) Dick Fintze, Four Flags Chamber Irving Frost, Howard Township Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region Jim Kidwell, Niles Charter Township Joseph Kring, Bertrand 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 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 Erin Kercheval, MDOT – Coloma TSC Jason Latham, MDOT Southwest Region Jan Personette

1. Call to Order

- Chairman Rodebush called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M. and led attendees in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Minutes

- *Motion by Vines, supported by Poehlman, to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2010 Policy Committee meeting. Motion approved.*

3. Staff Report

- Nickolas Musson announced that he had accepted a position at an MPO in Wisconsin, and that his last day at SWMPC will be March 26, 2010.

4. Old Business

- Pokagon By-Law Change**

"Jobs for Main Street" Illustrative List					
Project Name	Responsible Agency	Total Cost	Project Category	Limits	Rank
Redfield Street & Bertrand Rd	CCRC/	96,250	HMA Overlay	Redfield from Berrien County line to Ironwood and Bertrand from Redfield to Berrien County line	1
Bertrand Road	BCRC/	627,500	AC/Resurface	Red Bud Trail to Weaver Road	2

- Musson passed out the handout showing the original proposed by-law amendment to add Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians as a voting member of NATS TAC and Policy committees. He stated that SWMPC and Pokagon are now ready for the vote, and asked for a motion. Musson clarified that this motion would be specifically for the Policy Committee, and that the TAC had already passed a motion to add the Pokagon Band as a voting member of TAC.
- Motion by Poehlman, supported by LaMore, to add the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians as a voting member of NATS Policy Committee. Motion approved.*

5. New Business

- TIP Amendment**

- Michigan Department of Transportation**

- Add in FY 2010, the project named M-51 to do slope and shoulder repair in Niles Township for a State cost of \$800,000.
- Motion by Poehlman, supported by LaMore, to approve the amendment of the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program to add the above MDOT project. It was asked what the specific limits of the project are, and South clarified that it is from the Township line to Pucker Street. Motion approved.*

- TIP Modifications**

- Niles Dial-a-Ride**

- Delete in FY 2010, project named staff training to attend MI Public Transit Association annual conference for a federal cost of \$600. (Musson explained that NDAR is not permitted to use this funding for this purpose and will be using another funding source.)
- Modified in FY 2010, project named connections to utilities building to connect to utilities building for shared network and internet service. The federal cost changed from \$49,000 to \$50,000. (Musson clarified that this is the \$1,000 being taken from the project above).

- Jobs for Main Street Illustrative Projects List**

- Rahtz passed out a handout showing the "wish list" of two projects that had been decided on at the project selection meeting to use potential future federal economic stimulus funding. She explained that it is not certain what, if anything, will happen with future stimulus funding for transportation projects but that this list should be ready in case funding becomes available. She also noted that these are the two most "shovel-ready" projects in FY 2010 that have not yet been obligated.
- Motion by Johnson, supported by Poehlman, to approve the Illustrative List of Jobs for Main Street projects. Motion approved.*

6. Public Comment

- None

7. Privilege of the Floor

- Jason Latham announced that MDOT Southwest Region is beginning study work for the US-12 BR bridge in Niles. He explained that because it is a historic bridge, MDOT will be going through a year-long process of stakeholder engagement. The public meetings will start at the end of March; there will be a total of three public meetings, a public hearing, and 15 stakeholder meetings. The project will be a complete replacement of the bridge because it is in critical condition. There will be sidewalks and wide shoulders included in the new bridge.
- Jan Personette asked where the truck traffic will be rerouted, and South responded that it will be on Broadway.

8. Adjournment

- Chairman Rodebush adjourned the meeting at 3:19 P.M. The next meeting is April 27, 2010 at 3:00 P.M.

Minutes compiled by: Anna Rahtz, Transportation Planners, 3/30/10