

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Policy Committee

MINUTES

April 28, 2009

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 Irving Frost, Howard Township Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region Debbie Johnson, Cass County Commissioner Jim Kidwell, Niles Charter 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 Art Reed, Berrien County Planning Commission Johnie Rodebush, Cass County Commissioner Don Ryman, Berrien County Commissioner Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC
Policy Members Absent:	Robert Benjamin, Milton Township Supervisor Georgia Boggs, Niles City Council John Brielmaier, Ontwa Township Supervisor Fred Featherly, MDOT UPTRAN Dick Fintze, Four Flags Chamber Sarah Van Buren, Federal Highway Administration Mary Beth McAdams, MACOG (ex-officio) Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Jessica Mitchell, MACOG (ex-officio) Meg Mullendore, City of Buchanan Paul South, MDOT Coloma TSC
SWMPC Staff Present:	Nickolas Musson
Others Present:	Tammy Youngs, Niles Charter Township

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Chairman Rodebush called the meeting to order at 2:58 P.M.

2. Minutes

- *Motion by Poehlman, supported by Woolcock, to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2009 TAC meeting. Motion approved.*

3. Staff Report

- **Bicycle Rodeo**

Musson announced that SWMPC has created a bicycle safety program to educate the regions children and adults about being safe cyclists and drivers. SWMPC is attempting to put together a bicycle rodeo in Berrien and Cass County and we need your help. We need a location, possibly a school. We also need volunteers as bicycle rodeo trainers and to help hold the event. We are looking at June 13 as the training day. If you have ideas about the location and or would like to volunteer, contact Suzann Flowers.

LaMore suggested Wal-Mart parking lot as a possible location. Johnson suggested that flyers for the bicycle rodeo be distributed before school is out.

- **RoadSoft Training**

Musson handed out a RoadSoft training schedule for beginners if anyone was interested.

4. Old Business **None**

5. New Business

TIP amendments – The following TIP amendments were discussed:

Niles Dial-A-Ride requested the following transit ARRA amendments to the NATS FY 2008-11 Transportation Improvement Program:

- Add in FY 2009, facility rehabilitation to complete renovation of office and garage, including but not limited to repairs to the heating, air conditioning, and electric systems; insulation and window improvements; updates to the lobby, break room, and restrooms; improvements to landscaping, parking areas, fencing, and facade; and the purchase of a security system (ALI 113402) for a federal cost of \$380,000 and a total cost of \$380,000.
- Add in FY 2009, construction management for third party consultant to oversee permitting and construction for DART facility renovation (ALI 117104) for federal cost of \$30,000 and a total cost of \$30,000.

A motion was made by Woolcock, supported by Ryman to amend the FY 2008-2011 TIP to add transit ARRA projects facility rehabilitation for a total cost of \$380,000 and construction management for a total cost of \$30,000. Motion Approved

MDOT requested the following amendments to the NATS FY 2008-11 Transportation Improvement Program:

- Adding in FY 2010, ARRA project US-12 BR to cold mill and resurface 2 inches HMA, and sidewalk ramp upgrade. Limits are from US-12 BR one-way loop by the Hospital. Including US-12 BR EB starting at junction of Lincoln Avenue and Grant Street proceeding easterly on Grant Street to St. Joseph Avenue, northerly on St. Joseph Avenue to W. Main, westerly on W Main Street (US-12 BR WB) to Lincoln Avenue, and southerly on Lincoln Avenue to Grant Street. The total length is 0.6 miles. Federal cost is \$454,000 with a total cost of \$454,000.
- Adding in FY 2009, US-12 BR early preliminary engineering (EPE) for bridge replacement over the St. Joseph River (Main Street bridge) for federal cost of \$53,000 (ST), State cost \$12,000 and a total cost of \$65,000.

A motion was made by Johnson, supported by Reed to amend the FY 2008-2011 TIP to add the FY 2010 ARRA US-12 BR to cold mill and resurface 2 inches HMA, and sidewalk ramp upgrade project for a total cost of \$454,000 and US-12 BR EPE for bridge replacement over the St. Joseph River (Main Street bridge) for federal cost of \$53,000 (ST), State cost \$12,000 and a total cost of \$65,000. Motion Approved

- **Pro Rata vs. Lump Sum**

- Musson passed around a handout with the five lump sum and pro rata methods on how the committee can spend their ARRA money and asked the committee to discuss and choose a method. The committee decided that lump sum using a maximum amount ARRA funds not to exceed 100% was the best option because they didn't want to draw funds from other ARRA projects or already allocated STP funding.

A motion was made by Poehlman, supported by LaMore, to approve lump sum using a maximum amount ARRA funds not to exceed 100%.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **Traffic Counting**

Musson explained that the 2008 season was difficult for SWMPC because of new staff, number of count requests remaining from the previous year and the restructuring of the traffic count database. The 2008 counts that were completed are located at the SWMPC website. SWMPC did not complete all requests and apologizes for the inconvenience. If you are still interested in counts from previous years please re-submit a traffic count request and we will do our best to complete that count.

- **2009 PASER Rating**

Musson announced that Cass County is scheduled for July 6th to 10th. We are only rating 50% of the network at this time. I will be sending a letter out to those communities and townships that we will be rating to see if you would like to participate.

6. Public Comment

- Musson explained that he received a phone call from Gary Bluschke from United Federal Credit Union, who wanted to discuss the intersection problems at M-51/Chestnut in Niles Township. There have been accidents from people traveling south on M-51 and turning into Lowe's and Wal-Mart. The intersection has been updated in 2004 by the Coloma TSC. The TSC has had discussion in the past with Bluschke with the understanding that United Federal Credit Union would cover the cost of the intersection improvements. The TSC has said that they don't have any funds available to invest in the intersection. Engineering and design is 90% completed. United Federal Credit Union does not have the money. As a result, Bluschke is looking for funding to help to re-engineer the traffic lights from 3 way red light to a 4 way red light with protective left turn phases. Bluschke stated that he would like to develop another branch on the adjacent parcel, which would bring in 10-12 jobs to the community. Development of this property is dependent on the intersection changes. Noble explained at the TAC meeting that 19 people have had accidents at that intersection since 2005 and there was a real problem with the speed. Noble also said that he submitted a letter to MDOT requesting a speed study. Woolcock explained at the TAC meeting that there needs to be enforcement at that particular area for six months before any study can take place. Woolcock said that she would send a letter to the township requesting that enforcement be increased in that area for six months.

Collins stated that the state doesn't have the money and the procedure doesn't follow the state warrants. A suggestion was made for Musson to inform Bluschke to talk to Lowe's and Wal-Mart again to help see if they would help the credit union pay for the cost of the intersection changes.

7. Privilege of the Floor

- LaMore explained that on M-140 going north, the curve turning onto old 31 is a gentle curve and needs a sign to remind drivers to check turn signal to avoid confusing on coming traffic. Woolcock said that she would check to see if there is such a sign.
- LaMore also explained that Ullrey Road and M-140 needs a sign that says crossroads do not stop.
- Woolcock announced that US-31 reconstruction starts next week. There are four ramps that are being reconstructed. The project will be finished in November.

8. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 pm. The next meeting is May 26, 2009 at 3:00 P.M.

Minutes compiled by: Nickolas Musson, Transportation Planner, 5/04/09