

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Policy Committee

MINUTES

June 22, 2010

Niles City Council Chambers

3:00 P.M.

Policy Members Present:	Jason Auvil, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Chuck Collins, Berrien County Road Commission Richard Cooper, Niles Township Erin Kercheval, MDOT – Coloma TSC Joseph Kring, Bertrand Township John LaMore, Berrien County Commissioner Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Cliff Poehlman, Cass County Road Commission Johnie Rodebush, Cass County Commissioner Don Ryman, Berrien County Commissioner Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex-officio) Tracy Vines, Berrien County Planning Commission
Policy Members Absent:	Pat Bellaire, Village of Edwardsburg Georgia Boggs, Niles City Council Paul Boggs, Milton Township John Egelhaaf, SWMPC (ex-officio) Irving Frost, Howard Township Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region Jim Kidwell, Niles Charter Township Debbie Johnson, Cass County Commissioner Stewart McKenzie, FTA (ex-officio) Jane Mitchell, Buchanan Township Jessica Mitchell, MACOG (ex-officio) Meg Mullendore, City of Buchanan Sandra Naugle, City of Niles Finance Office John Pleveich, Niles Dial-A-Ride Representative, Buchanan Dial-a-Ride Representative, Four Flags Area Chamber of Commerce Representative, Ontwa Township
SWMPC Staff Present:	Anna Rahtz Trevor Thomas
Others Present:	Joanne Johnson, Disability Network SWMI Melinda Michael, Four Flags Area Council on Tourism Jan Personette

1. Call to Order& Introductions

- Chairman Rodebush called the meeting to order at 3:01 P.M. and led attendees in introductions.
- Chairman Rodebush led the group in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Chairman Rodebush led the group in a moment of silence in memory of NATS member Richard Fintze.

2. Minutes

- *Motion by Poehlman, seconded by Vines, to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2010 Policy Committee meeting. Motion approved.*

3. Staff Report

- The new transportation planner Trevor Thomas introduced himself. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering and a Master's in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan. He interned at the New York City Department of Transportation and AARP.

4. Old Business

- None.

5. New Business

- **2011-2014 TIP final document approval**
 - Rahtz asked if all committee members had had a chance to thoroughly read the draft TIP document, and distributed extra copies. She asked if anyone had any further questions or comments about the document. She stated that the document would be revised as necessary and then presented to the full SWMP Commission on July 20, 2010, and then submitted to MDOT, FHWA, and FTA.
 - Rahtz read through the public comments that were received on the document, along with the responses that had been provided at the Technical Advisory Committee meeting.
 - Collins pointed out that one of the environmental justice maps was labeled inconsistently with the title at the top of the page. Rahtz responded that the correct map would be inserted into the final document.
 - *Motion by Poehlman, seconded by Vines, to approve the final draft of the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved.*
- **TIP Amendments (to FY 2008-2011 TIP)**
 - **MDOT Projects (2010)**
 - Add in FY 2010, the project named M-139 for bridge replacement of the M-139 (Main Street) bridge over St. Joseph River. Phase is SUB. Federal cost (BRT) is \$387,280, state cost (M) is \$96,820, and total cost is \$484,100. MDOT job number 104152.
 - Add in FY 2010, the project named US-31 for bridge work (expansion joint replacement, new concrete approaches) on US-31 NB and SB over St. Joseph River, 2.0 miles W of Niles. Federal cost (BHN) is \$605,084, state cost (M) is \$151,272, and total cost is \$756,356. MDOT job number 106514.
 - Amend in FY 2010, the project named EPE/PE/ROW Trunkline GPA (Early Preliminary Engineering / Preliminary Engineering / Right of Way Trunkline General Program Account). Federal cost (ST) changed from \$81,850 to \$149,986, state cost (M) changed from \$18,150 to \$31,304, and total cost changed from \$100,000 to \$181,290.
 - *Motion by Poehlman, seconded by Auvil, to approve the amendment of the FY 2008-2011 TIP to include the above three MDOT amendments. Motion approved.*
 - **Cass County Road Commission Project (2010)**
 - Amend in FY 2010, the project named Lakeshore Drive. Limits changed from "Fisk to Barron Lake Road" to "Barron Lake Rd to Huntly Rd." Length changed from .73 miles to .99 miles.
 - *Motion by Vines, seconded by Poehlman, to approve the amendment of the FY 2008-2011 TIP to include the above CCRC amendment. Motion approved.*
 - **2011 Projects**
 - Amend in FY 2011, the Berrien County project named Bertrand Rd. Limits changed from "Red Bud Trail to Weaver Rd" to "Weaver Rd to Mayflower Rd." Length changed from 4 miles to 1.80 miles. Project description changed from "Resurface road, minor drainage" to

"Resurface." Advance construct status was removed. Federal cost changed from \$313,000 to \$350,577, county cost changed from \$307,000 to \$87,644, and total cost changed from \$620,000 to \$438,221.

- Add in FY 2011, the Berrien County project named Red Bud Trail, Bertrand Rd, Orange Rd, Portage Rd, and Ontario Rd. Limits are "Red Bud Trail from US-12 to Buchanan City limits, Bertrand Rd from St. Joseph River to County line, Orange Rd from Bertrand Rd to State Line, Portage Rd from Bertrand Rd to State Line, and Ontario Rd from Third St to M-51." Length is 5.00 miles, primary work type is resurface, project description is "Hot patching and single seal coat," and phase is CON (construction). Federal cost is \$76,900, county cost is \$19,250, and total cost is \$96,150.
- Delete in FY 2011, the Cass County project named Bell Road. Limits were Berrien/Cass County Line to Ironwood Road, length was .26 miles, primary work type was resurface, and project description was "Widen road from 20' to 22' with resurfacing of existing surface." Phase was CON, federal cost was \$48,000, county cost was \$12,000, and total cost was \$60,000. Note: being deleted because it is a duplication of project added in FY 2010 on 2/23/10.
- Delete in FY 2011, the Cass County project named Elkhart Road. Limits were Sherman Road to Village of Edwardsburg, length was .36 miles, primary work type was resurface, project description was resurface with structural overlay, and phase was CON. Federal cost was \$34,000, county cost was \$8,500, and total cost was \$42,500. Note: being deleted because it is a duplication of project added in FY 2010 on 2/23/10.
- Delete in FY 2011, the Niles project named Sycamore. Limits were 13th to 17th, length was .49 miles, primary work type was resurface, and project description was "Cold mill and resurface, including construction of ADA ramps where required." Phase was CON, federal cost was \$66,500, county cost was \$14,800, and total cost was \$81,300. Note: project was moved to FY 2014.
- Add in FY 2011, the MDOT project named US-31. Limits are Berrien County, length is 21,17 miles, primary work type is traffic ops/safety, and project description is freeway signing upgrade. Phase is CON, federal cost (NHG) is \$221,936, and total cost is \$221,936. MDOT job number 108921. Comments: 31.04% of project within NATS boundary; total phase cost = \$710,000 federal NHG.
- Add in FY 2011, the MDOT project named US-31 BR. Limits are "Over Dowagiac River," primary work type is bridge replacement, project description is superstructure replacement, and phase is CON. Federal cost (BHT) is \$1,468,729, state cost (M) is \$367,182, and total cost is \$1,835,911. MDOT job number 86785.
- Delete in FY 2011, the Niles Dial-a-Ride project named New Bus. Primary work type was transit vehicle additions, project description was "Purchase 1 diesel cutaway with lift," and phase was T-Cap. Federal cost (5307) was \$117,448, state cost (CTF) was \$29,362, and total cost was \$146,810.
- Amend in FY 2011, the Niles Dial-a-Ride project named Camera System. Name was modified to On Bus Camera System and limits were modified to Niles area. Federal cost changed from \$133,840 to \$181,000. Toll credit amount changed from \$33,460 to \$36,200.
- Add in FY 2011, the Niles Dial-a-Ride project named Generator. Limits are Niles area, primary work type is transit operations equipment, and project description is "Purchase and install generator to power phones, radios, and fuel pump in the event of an outage." Phase is T-Cap, federal cost (5307) is \$5,000, and toll credit amount is \$1,000.
- Add in FY 2011, the Niles Dial-a-Ride project named Bike Racks. Limits are Niles area, primary work type is transit operations equipment, and project description is "Purchase up to 5 bicycle racks and install kits for buses." Phase is T-Cap, federal cost (5307) is \$6,500, and toll credit amount is \$1,300.
- Add in FY 2011, the Niles Dial-a-Ride project named Ramp Lift. Limits are Niles area, primary work type is "Transit maintenance equipment and parts," and project description is

"Purchase and install ramp lift in maintenance bay." Phase is T-Cap, federal cost (5307) is \$20,000, and toll credit amount is \$4,000.

- Add in FY 2011, the Niles Dial-a-Ride project named Landscaping. Limits are Niles area, primary work type is transit facility, and project description is "Refresh mulch and any needed plants; remove tree that impacts rear drive, grind stump, and repair curb." Phase is T-Cap, federal cost (5307) is \$5,900, state cost (CTF) is \$1,475, and total cost is \$7,375.
- Add in FY 2011, the Niles-Dial-a-Ride project named Replacement Tires. Limits are Niles area, primary work type is "Transit maintenance equipment and parts," and project description is "Purchase replacement tires and dispose of old tires." Phase is T-Cap, federal cost (5307) is \$3,600, and toll credit amount is \$720.
- *Motion by Vines, seconded by Poehlman, to approve the amendment of the FY 2008-2011 TIP to include the above 2011 amendments to make the FY 2008—2011 TIP match up with the 2011 year of the FY 2011-2014 TIP. Motion approved.*
- Personette commented that she had attended a Niles City Commission meeting at which there had been discussion about purchasing bus tires with city funding. She asked why both city funds and federal funds were being used to purchase bus tires. Rahtz stated that she would follow up with Kelly Getman-Disette, as no one representing the City of Niles or Niles Dial-a-Ride was currently in attendance to answer the question. Lenze commented that there is a limited amount of federal funding available, and so most likely the City had to purchase the additional tires that could not be purchased with the federal funding.

- **FY 2011 Unified Work Program final document approval**

- Rahtz asked if all committee members had had a chance to thoroughly read the draft UWP document, and distributed extra copies. She went over the public comments that were submitted about the document, and asked if anyone had any further questions or comments about the document. She stated that the document would be revised as necessary and then presented to the full SWMP Commission on July 20, 2010, and then submitted to MDOT, FHWA, and FTA.
- *Motion by Vines, seconded by Poehlman, to approve the final draft of the FY 2011 Unified Work Program. Motion approved.*

6. Public Comment

- Personette remarked that the weeds need to be trimmed on Fourth Street just beyond the City of Niles limits. It's a county road, and the weeds have grown so large that the visibility is blocked for turning cars that are headed West on Fourth. Cooper stated that he would look at intersection and follow up on it.

7. Privilege of the Floor

- Lamore stated that he had received comments about how dangerous it is driving over the manhole covers on South Third Street in Niles Township.

8. Adjournment

- Chairman Rodebush adjourned the meeting at 3:37 P.M.
- The next meeting is July 27, 2010 at 3:00 P.M.