

MINUTES
NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Technical Advisory Committee

February 26, 2008
Niles City Council Chambers
1:30 P.M.

TAC Members Present:	Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township Neil Coulston, City of Niles & DPW/Airport John Gruchot, Berrien County Planning Ray Lenze, MDOT – Planning John Plevnich, Niles Dial-A-Ride Joe Ray, City of Niles Jason Latham, MDOT, Southwest Region Joe Bellina, Cass County Road Commission Kimberly O’haver, Buchanan Dial a Ride
TAC Members Absent:	Fred Featherly, MDOT-Multi-Modal Sarah Koepke, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) John Monaghan, Village of Edwardsburg Public Works Robert Rusch, MI Department of Environmental Quality/Air Quality Division Paul South, MDOT Coloma TSC Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC Jennifer Osborne, MDOT Joe VanderMeulen, City of Buchanan Juan Ganum, City of Niles Planning Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region William Myers, Niles Charter Township Mary Beth McAdams, MACOG (ex officio) Sharon Tyler, Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance/Cass
SWMPC Staff Present:	Nickolas Musson, SWMPC
Others Present:	

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Chairman Bellina called the meeting to order at 1:35 P.M.

2. Minutes

- Motion by Berndt, seconded by Coulston, to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2008 TAC meeting. Motion approved.

3. Staff Report

- **2008 PASER Training**
PASER training is required for any person who plans to participate in the TAMC federal aid PASER data collection process and expects to be reimbursed for their time during the rating activity. There is no cost for this training for participants from public road agencies. Travel and training time will be reimbursed by your county’s planning organization. Meeting Dates and locations are located at the back of the handout. A link to

the 2008 PASER training hand out is located at the SWMPC website.
(http://www.swmpc.org/twincats_fy08.asp)

Musson suggested that if you are involved with PASER data collection or would like to use it for an Asset Management Plan to attend the PASER training session.

Discussion

Bellina had a question about road classification and how much are we supposed to review. Lenze stated that HPMS is going to review the entire system over a few years and you can pick 50% to review for the first year. Bellina questioned the method on selecting the 50% of the roads to be selected. Lenze stated that a lot of these questions could be answered at the PASER training. Lenze suggested that Musson take these questions to the PASER training.

- **SE Data Status**

Musson is in the process of projecting the base data to the year 2035. Projections are based on REMI State TAZ data. Projection results will consist of a number that will be distributed through out the local TAZs. Musson will contact local municipalities and agencies to get information that will help in the distribution of the projected numbers. Musson is planning on creating maps of the local TAZ to send via email and mailed paper copies to the local agencies for their input.

- **TIP Status**

The TIP has conditional approval and is still waiting for final approval from Federal Highway. The CMAQ amendments were made and sent to Federal Highway and waits for approval.

- **Asset Management Training Session Reminder**

Investment Reporting Tool Training Session

The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission is hosting an investment reporting tool training session on Tuesday March 4 in Lawrence at 9:30 am to 12:00 PM.

Ray had problems accessing the Investment Reporting Tool website.

4. Project Updates

- Cass County projects- Lake Street has been let and Barron Lake Road is completed.
- Niles Dial-A-Ride projects- 08 are pending, working on projects for 06 and 07.
- CMAQ M 62 in Redfield has been let.

Discussion

Bellina stated that the project has been bid and let and now Federal Highway wants to add mast arms. Bellina explained that he doesn't have the extra money for the 16 foot mast arms. Latham is going to take the message back to MDOT.

5. Old Business

- **MACOG certification**

MACOG certification review took place and they will know the results soon. Lenze will let the committee know if there is anything that will affect the NATS MPO.

6. New Business

- **City of Buchanan Illustrative Project**

Joe Vander Meulen was absent. Project discussion will be postponed to the next meeting.

- **Safety Projects**

None reported

- **Niles Dial A Ride Fixed Routes**
The fixed routes for Niles Dial-A-Ride passed with a vote of 8 to 1 in favor. Target date is for April 1, 2008. The hours will be Monday thru Friday 6 AM to 8 PM and Saturday 8 Am to 8 PM and closed Sundays. There will be a slight fare increase. There will be public announcement in the next week.
- **MACOG JARC Funding**
Pleveich is going to look into getting the JARC funding for the fixed routes. He will let the committee know what happens. They need a consolidated plan to qualify for JARC funding.

7. Public Comment

8. Privilege of the Floor

9. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 2:03 P.M. The next meeting is March 25, 2008 at 1:30 P.M.
- *Motion by Ray, seconded by Coulston, to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved.*

Minutes compiled by: Nickolas Musson, Transportation Planner, 02/27/08