

MINUTES
NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Technical Advisory Committee
 March 27, 2007, 1:30 P.M.
 Niles City Council Chambers

TAC Members Present:	Joe Bellina, Cass County Road Commission Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Neil Coulston, City of Niles & DPW/Airport Juan Ganum, City of Niles Planning Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region Ray Lenze, MDOT – Planning Joe Ray, City of Niles Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC
TAC Members Absent:	Fred Featherly, MDOT-Multi-Modal Sarah Koepke, Federal Highway Administration Mary Beth McAdams, MACOG (ex officio) Kate McIlwee, Berrien County Planning John Monaghan, Village of Edwardsburg Public Works Kristi Ross, Niles Dial-A-Ride Robert Rusch, MI Department of Environmental Quality/Air Quality Division Meg Mullendore, City of Buchanan Paul South, MDOT Coloma TSC Sharon Tyler, Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance/Cass
SWMPC Staff Present:	Kelly Getman-Dissette, SWMPC Rachael Tupica, SWMPC
Others Present:	Tim Batton, GNCDC Don Ryman, Berrien County Commissioner

1. Call to Order & Introductions

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

2. Minutes

- *Motion by Brian Berndt, seconded by Neil Coulston: “TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 27, 2007 MINUTES.” Motion approved.*

3. Staff Report

- Kelly and Rachael hosted Asset Management Training on the Internet Based Reporting Tool on March 12th and attended PASER road ratings training on March 19th at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission. Both Kelly and Rachael will also be attending the 2007 Annual Conference on April 11th at the Kellogg Center on MSU Campus in East Lansing.
- Kelly attended the 2007 Michigan Traffic Safety Summit in East Lansing. The conference was good, but geared more toward Police than MPOs. An interesting presentation was on a study of distracted driving.
- The SWMPC has hired a new Traffic Count Supervisor, since George Tabbert is retiring after many years of service. Roger is a retired Xerox employee, where he used to repair copy machines in southwest Michigan. Roger also attended the PASER training as he will be the representative doing road ratings for the SWMPC.
- The SWMPC has applied for an EDA grant to get money to create a traffic count database that would be available on our website. If we receive the grant, this new database would have to be in place by December 31, 2007, as that is when the grant ends. We would work with LIAA, who hosts our current website, to put these counts online.

- We are still working on the Environmental Mitigation Plan that we are required to do to become SAFETEA-LU compliant. This should be approved at the April Meeting if possible. Kelly and Rachael will be contacting members soon to review this plan. We are taking examples from SEMCOG, GVMC, and others.
- Rachael will be off work for 2-3 weeks beginning April 18th for eye surgery. If you need anything during this time, please call Kelly.

4. New Business

- **FY07 CMAQ Project List** – A listing of the proposed CMAQ projects for FY07 was distributed. It was explained that FHWA has not approved the list yet, but it is expected soon. The Committee is asked to review and make an approval pending the FHWA approval, as this will expedite the process after they have made their approval. MDOT has a project in Cass County on M-62 and Redfield that is not on the list that needs to be added. This was the project from FY06 CMAQ funds that didn't get obligated in time to use FY06 funds. *Motion by Darrell Harden, seconded by Neil Coulston: "TO RECOMMEND TO THE POLICY COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF THE FY07 CMAQ PROJECT LIST, PENDING FHWA APPROVAL, WITH THE ADDITION OF THE MDOT PROJECT, AND ALSO TO ALLOW THE SWMPC TO MAKE MINOR ADJUSTMENTS TO PROJECTS IF NECESSARY TO EXPEDITE THE APPROVAL PROCESS."* Motion approved.
- **FY08-11 Proposed TIP Projects** – The proposed project list for the FY08-11 TIP was handed out in the new Uniform TIP/STIP format. The new format is being used by all MPOs in Michigan and MDOT is also using. The list of project was put together and prioritized by the Project Selection Sub-Committee in February. Agencies reviewed their project listing to ensure they were accurate. MDOT noted that funding had been pulled for the US-12 project at M-62, M-149, and US-12. GPA projects were not on the list but will be added. The State Fund Source code for transit projects is being worked on by MDOT and will added when this has been decided upon. *Motion by Brian Berndt, seconded by Sarah Woolcock: "TO RECOMMEND TO THE POLICY COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED FY08-11 TIP PROJECT LIST."* Motion approved.
- **Illustrative/Working Project List** – There was an announcement for projects to go in the illustrative/working list. This prioritized list is important to have in place in case the NATS area comes upon more funding, the SWMPC can call the agencies on the list, in priority, to see if they are ready to go to be added into the TIP. This list will need to be prioritized for the final approval of the TIP document. Please have projects to Rachael by Wednesday April 4th.

5. Old Business

- **Howard Township** – Joe Bellina and Kelly Getman-Dissette attended the Howard Township meeting to discuss the NATS Committee and address their attendance and dues. Joe would like to thank the SWMPC for sending representation to this meeting. The Committee then discussed what can be done if a municipality does not pay dues and/or does not send representation to the monthly meetings. The SWMPC will bring an attendance list to the next meeting along with a dues payment history of members.

6. Public Comment

- None

7. Privilege of the Floor

- Tim Batton announced that Kristi Ross will be leaving Niles Dial-A-Ride for a job with the Easter Seals in Washington D.C.
- Joe Ray would like the SWMPC to look into what can be done to ensure that NATS dues (local match for federal monies) are paid to the SWMPC, i.e. through contractual agreements, to ensure people are paying for the benefits they receive.

8. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM – Next meeting April 24th, 2007