

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

March 25, 2008
Niles City Council Chambers
1:30 P.M.

TAC Members Present:	Joe Bellina, Cass County Road Commission Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township Neil Coulston, City of Niles & DPW/Airport John Gruchot, Berrien County Planning Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning John Pleveich, Niles Dial-A-Ride Joe Ray, City of Niles William Myers, Niles Charter Township Kimberly O’Haver, Buchanan Dial a Ride Paul South, MDOT Coloma TSC Joe VanderMeulen, City of Buchanan
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 Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC Jennifer Osborne, MDOT Juan Ganum, City of Niles Planning Mary Beth McAdams, MACOG (ex officio) Sharon Tyler, Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance/Cass
SWMPC Staff Present:	Nickolas Musson Kelly Getman-Dissette
Others Present:	Don Kronewitter

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Chairman Bellina called the meeting to order at 1:34 P.M.

2. Minutes

- Motion by Harden, supported by Ray, to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2008 TAC meeting. Motion approved.

3. Staff Report

- **Kelly Getman-Dissette returns** – Getman-Dissette has returned from maternity leave and will be working part time through December of 2008. She will work full days, Monday-Wednesday, unless an event requires her to work Thursday or Friday.
- **Pre-UWP** – Each year, SWMPC staff participates in a pre-UWP meeting with MDOT and FHWA officials to discuss the planning activities of the previous year and to prepare for the next year. This year’s meeting went well, and staff will continue on the current path of work to update the long range transportation plan (LRP).
- **Non-motorized trail study** – Musson and Getman-Dissette attended a meeting in which a group of representatives from several local governments in Berrien County were gathered to discuss a study that would consider possibility of developing a non-motorized trail that would extend from the lakeshore near New Buffalo to Three Oaks. The group is seeking a consultant to conduct the study and would eventually seek funding to develop the trail. This is an effort about which NATS members should be aware during the process to update the LRP. In addition, Bryan Volstorf expressed interest in participating with the NATS committees during the update of the LRP in order to assist in the development of the non-motorized section.

4. Project Updates

- **M-62 at Redfield road**– The pre-conference is complete. Bellina will check into the status of the 2007 portion of funding. The project should begin the third week of May and finish by the end of July.
- **Lake St** – Bellina reported that bids for Lake St. came in under budget, so there will be funding to redistribute. Bellina will send this information to SWMPC staff. This project will begin construction in May.
- **Sycamore** – The Sycamore project may need to be delayed because local match funds are an issue, and the road has not deteriorated as expected. In addition, the length of the project seems to be incorrectly listed in the TIP. Coulston will report on the status of the Sycamore project at the next meeting.
- **Front St.** – Vandermeulen reported that the GI meeting was held, but the project costs have increased due to new ADA regulations that became effective February 15. The City’s engineering consultant estimated that an additional \$20,000 is needed to complete the project. Vandermeulen asked the committee to consider allocating additional STP dollars to the Front St. project. The let date is in July. Bellina reported that because Barron Lake Rd. was under budget, there may be additional funding that could be allocated to Front St. The group agreed to consider a request for a TIP amendment at the April meeting.
- **Other** – Lenze reported that 2009 projects need to be obligated as soon as possible due to uncertainty in 2009 funding.

5. New Business

- **Niles Dial-A-Ride amendments** – SWMPC staff has worked with Pleveich over the past few months to update and correct the Dial-A-Ride (DAR) projects listed in the TIP. Some of the projects listed required updates to funding amounts or matching fund sources, unused funds from 2007 needed to be added as new projects, and additional projects for 2008-2011 needed to be added. All projects are funded with 5307 dollars (from FTA), and are matched with toll credits or Comprehensive Transportation Fund dollars. The current listing of projects, as amended, was distributed to committee members and is ready to be amended into the TIP. *A motion was made by Harden, supported by Bellina, to recommend that the Policy Committee amend FY 2008-11 TIP to include the corrected transit project list submitted by the Niles Dial-A-Ride. Motion approved.*
- **Future year SE data input** – Musson has diligently worked with the REMI data that SWMPC received from MDOT, and he created tables with estimated projections of population, household, and employment numbers for each of the NATS jurisdictions by TAZ. Musson distributed the tables to committee members and asked everyone to review the data and contact him with changes. Maps will be mailed or e-mailed to each committee member in order to supplement the data tables.
- **LRP goals subcommittee** – Getman-Dissette distributed copies of the goals and objectives from the current LRP, and explained that the next step in updating the plan is to review and revise the goals and objectives. It was suggested that a subcommittee could review the goals and make a recommendation to the full committee. Harden, Coulston, Bellina, and Pleveich volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. A meeting date was to be determined following the TAC meeting.
- **Asset management resources** – Musson reported that the March 4 Internet Reporting Tool workshop went well. There are extra copies of the workshop materials, including a PowerPoint presentation and a handbook. If members would like a copy of these materials, they should contact Musson.
- **MDOT work items/M-139 route re-designation discussion** – South presented information on MDOT projects, either completed or in progress. South noted that the Main St. project in Niles may go to 9th St. instead of 5th. He also explained that the 11th St. project cannot allow a permissive left turn on green due to the speed of the road. However, a new flashing yellow signal may be used if it is determined to be needed. Finally, South reported that a letter announcing a public comment period will be sent to local governments and the MPO regarding the M-139 re-designation. The route has changed because a portion was turned back over to the Berrien County Road Commission.

6. Old Business

- **City of Buchanan Illustrative Project** – Vandermeulen has decided not to pursue an illustrative project at this time.

7. Public Comment

- None

8. Privilege of the Floor

- Lenze mentioned that the NFC of Indiana SR 933 (M-51 in Michigan) may change. South does not believe this will change the way Michigan deals with its portion of the road.
- Vandermeulen announced that this was his last NATS meeting. He has resigned from the City of Buchanan and will be returning to the Grand Rapids area. Vandermeulen introduced Willie Brown, who will serve as the new Public Service Director. Vandermeulen was thanked for his participation and wished well.

9. Adjournment

- *Motion by Harden, supported by South to adjourn. Motion approved.* The meeting adjourned at 2:33 P.M.
- The next meeting is April 22, 2008 at 1:30 P.M.

Minutes compiled by: Kelly Getman-Dissette, Transportation Planner, 04/02/08