

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

April 22, 2008
Niles City Council Chambers
1:30 P.M.

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

1. Call to Order & Introductions

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

2. Minutes

- Motion by South, supported by Harden, to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2008 TAC meeting. Motion approved.

3. Staff Report

- **Asset Management Workshop/Conference** - Getman-Dissette and Musson attended the asset management conference on April 3, 2008 in Lansing. The focus of the conference was to show how other agencies are using asset management to their benefit. It is an important conference that explained many of the prevalent issues affecting us today. The next time that the conference comes around SWMPC will inform the committee of its location and time. Musson attended the asset management workshop on April 2, 2008 in Lansing. The workshop was very informative and explained the reasoning behind asset management. The workshop was great because it brought together planners, engineers and elected officials to get their individual take on asset management. Musson highly recommends that the committee members attend the next time it is offered.

- **Traffic Counting Begins** - Traffic counting season has begun, and SWMPC has new traffic counting staff. David and Patricia Bly, along with Mark Gallagher, will be out taking counts in 2008. Committee members with requests should go to the SWMPC website to submit them. Getman-Dissette and Musson will meet John Egelhaaf to discuss whether or not requests from last year have to be resubmitted. Scherwitz stated that the Airport has traffic counting equipment if SWMPC needs to use it.

4. Project Updates

- **Sycamore and East Main** – Ray explained that the City would like to delay the Sycamore and East Main project. The roadways have not deteriorated as expected, and the City would like to move East Main St. to 2010 and Sycamore to 2012. Sycamore and East Main are currently listed as one project, so committee members asked that the cost information be provided for each street as a separate project in order to consider the City’s request to move the projects at the May meeting.

5. New Business

- **INDOT SR 933 presentation** - Daniel Corbin, INDOT project manager, presented Indiana’s proposal to remove SR933 from the National Highway System (NHS). Corbin explained that it is costly to maintain SR933 according to Federal standards, and it would be cost effective to remove SR933 from NHS and make it into a state road. Corbin asked the MPO to provide a letter of support for this decision. South expressed that he had no objection, but Lenze asked Corbin to provide written information to NATS regarding this change. Upon receipt of the written information, NATS will make a decision regarding this change. Indiana would like to send its paperwork regarding the change to the Secretary of Transportation by September.
- **Redistribute Cass County STP funds** – The Cass County Road Commission has excess STP funds that should be redistributed among other TIP projects. Specifically, \$8,100 remains from the Barron Lake project, and approximately \$11,500 will be available from the Lake St. project. The TAC will plan to redistribute these funds in May, once the Cities of Niles and Buchanan have made a decision on their projects.
- **Buchanan Front St. amendment** – Brown reported that the project costs have increased due to new ADA regulations that became effective February 15. The City’s engineering consultant estimated that the project will cost \$133,876, which is a considerable difference from the \$63,000 programmed in the TIP. The City would like additional STP dollars, if available, to fund this project. Some funds may be available, but Lenze offered several other options to resolve the funding issue. Brown will present the City’s decision at the May meeting.
- **Future year SE Data** – Musson explained that the future year socioeconomic data for each agency is located on the SWMPC website. Because SWMPC is still receiving community input, the data is not yet ready for approval. Musson requested that committee members take one last look at the data tables and maps and offer comments. He explained that some agencies have made comments on the maps and sent it in, while others have simply sent an email. It is important that all of the affected agencies comment on the data projections. The deadline for input is May 9, 2008.
- **LRP goals subcommittee meeting report** – Bellina reported that the LRP goals subcommittee met prior to the TAC meeting to discuss goals and objectives for the LRP update. Two of the goals and accompanying objectives were thoroughly covered, and the remaining goals will be tackled at the next meeting on May 20 at 9 a.m. at the Niles Dial-a-Ride.

6. Old Business

- None

7. Public Comment

- None

8. Privilege of the Floor

- **Barron Lake Road** – Howard Township wants to prohibit semi traffic on Barron Lake Road. The Cass County Road Commission plans to study the reasonableness of this action, and will include partners such as MDOT and SWMPC.
- **Buchanan Dial-A-Ride** – O’Haver reported that the Dial-A-Ride received three new buses.
- **State transportation maps** – Lenze distributed State transportation maps.
- **Meeting Date Change** – The next meeting date scheduled for May 27, 2008, which falls right after the Memorial Day weekend. Bellina suggested moving the meeting May 20, 2008 to maximize attendance. *A motion was made by Harden, supported by Ray, to move the meeting date from May 27, 2008 to May 20, 2008 at 1:30 p.m., pending Policy Committee approval. Motion approved.*

9. Adjournment

- *Motion by South, supported by Gruchot to adjourn. Motion approved.* The meeting adjourned at 2:32 P.M.
- The next meeting is May 20, 2008 at 1:30 P.M.

Minutes compiled by: Nickolas Musson/Kelly Getman-Dissette, Transportation Planners, 04/28/08