

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

May 20, 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 Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Jessica Mitchell, MACOG (ex officio) William Myers, Niles Charter Township Kimberly O’Haver, Buchanan Dial a Ride Joe Ray, City of Niles John Pleveich, Niles Dial-A-Ride Neil Coulston, City of Niles & DPW/Airport Kate Montoya, Berrien County Planning
TAC Members Absent:	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 Robert Rusch, MI Department of Environmental Quality/Air Quality Division Sharon Tyler, Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance/Cass Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC Paul South, MDOT Coloma TSC John Gruchot, Berrien County Planning Juan Ganum, City of Niles Planning Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township
SWMPC Staff Present:	Nickolas Musson Kelly Getman-Dissette
Others Present:	Don Ryman, Berrien County Commissioner

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Chairman Bellina called the meeting to order at 1:31 P.M.

2. Minutes

- Motion by Harden, supported by Pleveich, to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2008 TAC meeting. Motion approved.

3. Staff Report

- **SR 933** – Musson shared with the committee that he has attended recent MACOG meetings regarding the reclassification of SR 933. MACOG will not make a decision on whether or not they concur with the re-designation until their local jurisdictions and elected officials have a chance to comment. Mitchell was asked to inform MACOG that NATS would like a written document stating their final decision when it is reached. Musson contacted the State Police and Transportation Security Administration to determine whether there would be any negatives associated with the reclassification, and neither agency felt that there would be a

compromise to emergency operations or system security. Musson will continue to stay in contact with MACOG until this decision is made.

- **Regional Transit Technology** – Getman-Dissette announced that SWMPC has been working with local transit agencies to select new software to help increase efficiency and improve coordination. The effort began in Van Buren County with a grant from the Center for Regional Excellence and eventually expanded to include 9 transit agencies in 6 counties. The agencies met several times to preview software solutions. After a request-for-proposal process, all of the agencies agreed that the preferred product was Dial-A-Ride Online, a web based software offered by a company located in the U.K. The agencies involved are now in the process of finalizing contracts with Dial-A-Ride, and it is estimated that staff members will begin training in June. SWMPC received a \$90,000 grant from the National Center for Senior Transportation, of which approximately \$72,500 will help the local agencies purchase the software. O’Haver explained that the software would allow other human service agencies to view and eventually schedule rides (if desired) for their clients.

4. Project Updates

- **City of Buchanan Street Sweeper** – Street sweeper will be delivered in June.
- **M-62 and Redfield** – Project should begin shortly.
- **Lake Street** – Project is complete with the exception of signs and striping.

5. New Business

- None

6. Old Business

- **LRP goals subcommittee meeting report** – The subcommittee has finished its review of the long range plan (LRP) goals and objectives. Getman-Dissette distributed copies of the new goals and objectives and asked committee members to read through the document and be prepared to comment at the June meeting. Bellina asked that comments be sent to Getman-Dissette ahead of time if possible.
- **M-139 Route Designation Comments** – SWMPC received a letter from MDOT requesting comments on the M-139 route re-designation. If there are no issues, MDOT will proceed with the re-designation of the route. Getman-Dissette distributed a map of the route designation and explained the changes. There were no comments from committee members.
- **Future Year SE Data** – Musson explained that the deadline for input on the future year SE data had passed, and the data must be submitted to Osborne. Committee members were offered one last opportunity to comment on the numbers. *A motion was made by Harden, supported by Pleveich, to recommend approval of the future year SE data. Motion approved.*
- **Redistribute STP Funds and Buchanan Front Street Amendment** – As discussed at previous meetings, the Barron Lake Road and Lake Street projects were less than the amount budgeted, the Front Street project estimate was greater than originally expected, and the City of Niles is not ready to complete the East Main and Sycamore projects. Therefore, federal STP funding was redistributed as follows:
 - *A motion was made by Berndt, supported by Myers, to increase funding for Front Street (JN 50114) in the City of Buchanan to \$133,420 total cost. The project will be advance constructed in 2008 and include a FY 2008 federal cost of \$58,100 and a FY 2009 federal cost (advance construct conversion) of \$51,105. Motion approved.*
 - *A motion was made by Harden, supported by Pleveich, to add Front Street (JN 50114) in the City of Buchanan to FY 2009 as an advance construct conversion project, with a federal cost of \$51,105 and to delete the FY 2009 Sycamore (from 5th to 9th) project (JN 100024) in the City of Niles. Motion approved.*
 - *A motion was made by Harden, supported by Coulston, to add Sycamore from 5th to 9th (JN 100024) in the City of Niles to the illustrative list, following Lake Street. Motion approved.*

In addition, the following changes were made as administrative amendments:

- Reduce funding for Barron Lake Road (JN 50277) in Cass County by \$8,100.
- Remove the East Main and Sycamore project (JN 100024) in the City of Niles from FY 2009.
- Reduce funding for Lake Street (JN 89920) in Cass County by \$11,500.
- Increase funding to the Niles-Buchanan Road project (JN74603) in FY 2009 by \$88,969 so that the total federal cost is \$180,443.
- Remove the Niles-Buchanan Road project (JN 76403) from FY 2011.
- Add Ironwood Road (JN 10027) in Cass County to FY 2009 as an advance construct project with partial repayment in FY 2011. The FY 2009 federal portion of the project will be \$99,826 and the FY 2011 federal portion will be \$8,174.
- Reduce the FY 2011 Ironwood Road (JN 10027) advance construct conversion project in Cass County to \$8,174.
- In FY 2011, add East Main Street from Maple to 17th (JN 100024) in the City of Niles for \$118,700 federal, \$26,300 local, and \$145,000 total.
- In FY 2011, add Sycamore Street from 13th to 17th (JN 100024) in the City of Niles for \$66,500 federal, \$14,800 local, and \$81,300 total.

7. Public Comment

- None

8. Privilege of the Floor

- None

9. Adjournment

- Motion by Harden, supported by Ray to adjourn. Motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 2:36 P.M.
- The next meeting is June 24, 2008 at 1:30 P.M.

Minutes compiled by: Nickolas Musson/Kelly Getman-Dissette, Transportation Planners, 05/22/08