

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Advisory Committee

MINUTES

January 27, 2009

Niles City Council Chambers

1:30 P.M.

TAC Members Present:	Joe Bellina, Cass County Road Commission Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Neil Coulston, City of Niles DPW/Airport Kelly Getman-Dissette, Niles Dial-A-Ride John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development Juan Ganum, City of Niles Planning Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Richard Noble, Niles Charter Township Kimberly O’Haver, Buchanan Dial a Ride Joe Ray, City of Niles Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC
TAC Members Absent:	Paul Boggs, Milton Township Willie Brown, City of Buchanan Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township Fred Featherly, MDOT-Multi-Modal Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region Sarah Koepke, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Jessica Mitchell, MACOG (ex officio) John Monaghan, Village of Edwardsburg Public Works Jennifer Osborne, MDOT John Pleveich, Niles Dial-A-Ride Robert Rusch, MDEQ Paul South, MDOT Coloma TSC Shelley Klug, Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance
SWMPC Staff Present:	Nickolas Musson Suzann Flowers
Others Present:	Don Ryman, Berrien County Commissioner

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Vice Chairman Ray called the meeting to order at 1:32 P.M. Chairman Bellina arrived shortly after the meeting started.

2. Minutes

- *Motion by Woolcock, supported by Coulston, to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2008 TAC meeting. Motion approved.*

3. Staff Report

- **Transportation Planner Update** – SWMPC is currently interviewing for candidates and should have new planner by the next meeting.

- **Non-Motorized Plan Update**

Musson announced the following:

- SWMPC Phase 1 has been approved for the comprehensive, regional Non-Motorized Transportation Plan for MDOT's southwest region. Phase 1 consists of updating the map and plan. There will be public input meetings in the near future. If there are any questions, please contact Marcy Colclough or Suzann Flowers at SWMPC.
- 2009 Webinar Series- The Greenway Collaborative announced its 2009 webinar series. Each series will look at specific trail or non-motorized transportation issues in depth with some time for questions and answers. Sessions are from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm on the third Tuesday of every month. To find out more information, check out the Greenway Collaborative website at <http://www.greenwaycollab.com/>.
- Mid America Trails & Greenways Conference- October 25-28, 2009 at the Radisson Hotel and Suites, Kalamazoo. The conference celebrates existing and new trail connections and offers an excellent opportunity for all those involved in trails and greenways to share experiences, learn from each other, and continue to connect trails and greenways.
- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) workshops will be held throughout the state beginning February 19th, 2009. The workshop will focus on the MNRTF program, including application process. Schedule is attached to handout.

4. Project Updates

- Berrien County Road Commission
 - Niles-Buchanan Road – April 1st, start building
- City of Buchanan
 - Front Street – Musson will call to determine status
- MDOT
 - US-31 BR (Front Street) and Main Street – Approved and awarded
 - M-51 – Project has been let/Preconstruction meeting today
 - US-31 NB (Restore and Rehabilitate) – Submit for letting
 - US-31 SB (Reconstruct) – Submit for letting
 - US-31 NB (Restore and Rehabilitate) – Submit for letting
 - US-31 SB (Reconstruct) – Submit for letting
 - US-12 (W Pulaski Highway) – Has been let
- Niles Dial-A-Ride
 - Preventative maintenance has been spent
 - Working on upgrades to facility
 - Working on updating computers
 - Budget will be rearranged
- Cass County Road Commission
 - Lake Street – Should be automatic conversion
 - Ironwood Road – Construction in Spring, automatic conversion

5. Old Business

- **CMAQ Meeting**
 - Berrien & Cass County Congestion Mitigation Air Quality 2009, 2010 and 2011 Projects- Berrien County Road Commission located at 2860 East Napier Avenue, Benton Harbor, Michigan on February 4, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.
- **M51/933 National Highway System (NHS) Designation Removal** – Musson announced that the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG) has approved the removal of the NHS designation to SR 933 in response to Indiana Department of Transportation's (INDOT) request. INDOT has asked NATS to remove

the NHS designation from M51. There will be no funding loss with the removal. Musson presented the committee with a resolution to remove the NHS designation from M51.

Motion by Gruchot, supported by Woolcock, to recommend that the Policy committee approve the resolution to remove the NHS designation from M51. Motion approved

Motion by Lenze, supported by Woolcock, to recommend that the Policy committee approve the resolution to remove the NHS designation from M51, only after the title of the resolution eliminates SR 933. Motion approved

6. New Business

• **Economic Stimulus-US-31**

- Musson explained what was learned at the Michigan Transportation Planning Association meeting on economic stimulus. Economic Stimulus will only go towards federal aid eligible projects. The federal share of each project is 100% (no state or local match is required). The state has to obligate 50% of the total funds within 150 days or the funds may be lost. The additional 50% must be obligated by August 1, 2010. If states are unable to obligate the 50% by 150 days it becomes available to other states that can use it. Projects need to be shovel ready. The state will do what ever it can to use all of the money.
- At the TIP project selection subcommittee meeting an illustrative list will be developed for the economic stimulus. Any additional submissions should be sent to Musson by February 6, 2009.

• **TIP amendments** – The following TIP amendments were discussed:

- Adding to FY 2009, Mill and two-course HMA overlay PE phase to US-12 from M-60 to Edwardsburg with \$614,000 federal and \$136,000 State.
- Adding to FY 2009, Mill and two-course HMA overlay ROW phase to US-12 from M-60 to Edwardsburg with \$205,000 federal and \$45,000 State.

• *Motion by Woolcock, supported by Gruchot, to recommend that the Policy committee approve the amendment to add the PE and ROW phase of the Mill and two-course HMA overlay to US-12 from M-60 to. Motion approved*

• **LRP discussion**

- Timeline
 - February 13 – Air Quality
 - February 24 – Draft Plan
 - March 24 – Policy Approval
 - April 21 – Full Commission Approval
 - April 22 – Submit to MDOT

• **2010-2013 TIP Projects are due** – Musson asked anyone who has not turned in their TIP project applications to do so.

• **Asset Management IRT training**

- Musson explained that if you have not participated in Investment Reporting Tool training before, it is very important that you attend this training session. For those who have previously participated in this training, this is the chance to see the many improvements from the last year, which will cover changes in the reporting process, several user interface enhancements, continued data importing for Roadsoft Investment and PASER data, along with other programming improvements. Musson distributed sign up sheets and handouts. The training will take place on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 from 1:00 to 3:30pm at the Van Buren ISD Conference Center in Lawrence, Michigan.

• **Asset Management for Elected Officials**

- Musson announced another workshop that is designed specifically for city, county and township elected officials. All local elected officials who have an interest in transportation projects or facilities should attend. No engineering background is required. You don't have to be an elected official to attend. The

workshop will be held at the Berrien County RESA Administrative Center, 711 St. Joseph Ave., in Berrien Springs. Musson distributed sign up sheets and handouts.

7. Public Comment

- None

8. Privilege of the Floor

- Lenze explained that everyone has to move with projects as soon as they are approved because agencies are losing money because they are not acting fast enough. Also, local services will return applications if description does not match TIP description.
- Woolcock announced that South has returned to the Coloma TSC.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Woolcock, supported by Bellina, to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved.

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm. The next meeting is February 24, 2009 at 1:30 P.M.

Minutes compiled by: Nickolas Musson, Transportation Planner, 1/29/09