

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Advisory Committee

MINUTES

November 17, 2009

Niles City Council Chambers

1:30 P.M.

TAC Members Present:	Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Paul Boggs, Milton Township Willie Brown, City of Buchanan Irving Frost, Howard Township Kelly Getman-Dissette, Niles Dial-A-Ride Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region Shelley Klug, Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance Joseph Kring, Bertrand Township Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Kimberly O'Haver, Buchanan Dial a Ride Paul South, MDOT Coloma TSC
TAC Members Absent:	Joe Bellina, Cass County Road Commission Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township Neil Coulston, City of Niles DPW/Airport Fred Featherly, MDOT-Multi-Modal Juan Ganum, City of Niles Planning John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development Jim Kidwell, Niles Charter Township Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Jessica Mitchell, MACOG (ex officio) John Monaghan, Village of Edwardsburg Public Works Katie Montoya, Berrien County Planning Jennifer Osborne, MDOT Joe Ray, City of Niles Robert Rusch, MDEQ Ron Sather, Four Flags Area Chamber of Commerce Sarah Van Buren, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC
SWMPC Staff Present:	Nickolas Musson Anna Rahtz
Others Present:	Jason Auvil, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Melinda Michael, Four Flags Area Council on Tourism Don Ryman, Berrien County Commissioner

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Harden called the meeting to order at 1:37 P.M. *The chair and vice-chair were absent.*

2. Minutes

- *Motion by South, supported by O'Haver, to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2009 Joint TAC and Policy Committee meeting. Motion approved.*

3. Staff Report

- **Mid-America Trails And Greenways (MATAG) conference**
 - Musson announced that he and Rahtz attended a day-long workshop on US bicycle routes and learned about the program, which will help them in working on the US 35 bicycle route along with the TwinCATS non-motorized subcommittee. The US 35 route will go along the western coast of Michigan, within a 50-mile buffer; the alignment has not yet been determined.
- **SmartCode workshop**
 - Musson announced that he had attended the SmartCode workshop with Andres Duany and learned about smart growth ideas and the difference between traditional Euclidean zoning, form-based zoning, and "smart codes."
 - The electronic version of the basic code guidebook available on the online transportation planning library under the Zoning section. Musson will be sending out the link to the committee members.
- **Michigan Association of Planning Transforming Transportation workshop**
 - Musson announced that Rahtz had attended a day-long workshop about Safe Routes to School, Complete Streets, and Context Sensitive Design. She attended four segments of the CSS track, and learned about the difference between CSS and the NEPA process, and techniques for mediating between the desires of different stakeholder groups. She asked if the committees would be interested in having a CSS presentation at some point; the MDOT CSS staff had offered to present the information to MPOs.
 - Paul proposed that a presentation be arranged in which the idea of context sensitive solutions be framed within the example of a specific project, such as US-12.
- **"SMART: Moving Minds: The Next Transportation Infrastructure" conference**
 - Musson announced that Rahtz had attended a day of the SMART conference on sustainable transportation infrastructure at the University of Michigan and learned about the idea of "New Mobility," including focusing on developing around connections between various modes of transportation, and investing in a transportation infrastructure that is resilient to climate change and other unknown future events.
 - Getman-Dissette suggested that information about the workshops be sent out to the committee members in advance in the future in case they wish to attend.

4. Project Updates

2009 Projects

- **MDOT**
 - M-51, bridge replacement – completed
 - US-31 SB, - Completed
 - US-31 NB, - Completed
 - US-12 BR, Early Preliminary Engineering - Under way
 - US-12, Preliminary Engineering - Started
 - US-12, Right of Way - Started
- **Niles Dial-A-Ride**
 - Projects have been obligated

2010 Projects

- **Berrien County Road Commission**
 - Stateline Road and Third Street – In processes of talking to Niles Twp for match. Propose amendment to this project at the next meeting.
- **MDOT**
 - US-12 BR – Advertised

5. Old Business

- **By-law change** – Upon committee member request, the addition of the Pokagon Band as a voting member of TwinCATS will again be tabled to the December meeting. Auvil has been given the amount that will be due for membership, and he will put the request before the Tribal Council.
- **Transportation importance survey** – Musson announced that Rahtz had gone over a revision of the survey with the subcommittee and Chuck Collins, who have suggested further revisions. At the December meeting, Rahtz will present a more finalized version of the survey, which can then be administered in December and January, now that the TIP timeline has been adjusted.

6. New Business

- **Call for FY 2014 Projects for FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program**
 - Musson announced that applications are being solicited for local and state transportation projects and passed out a handout illustrating the tentative timeline for the TIP. The applications will be due at the January 26, 2010 NATS TAC meeting. The project selection committee will meet to select the projects in February. The project applications are available online and should be filled out electronically and emailed to Mussonn@swmpc.org.
 - Musson announced that Act 51 reports are due from the county, villages, and cities at the January 26, 2010 meeting.
 - Musson also stated that a call for projects will soon be announced for the FY 2012-2013 CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) projects. A Call for Projects meeting will be scheduled shortly.

7. Public Comment

- None

8. Privilege of the Floor

- Jason Auvil, Staff Planner for the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, presented on effective communication strategies for working with American Indian tribes.

9. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 P.M. The next meeting is December 15, 2009 at 1:30 P.M.

Minutes compiled by: Anna Rahtz and Nickolas Musson, Transportation Planners, 11/18/09