

# NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

## Technical Advisory Committee

### MINUTES

December 16, 2008

Niles City Council Chambers

1:30 P.M.

TAC Members Present:	Joe Bellina, Cass County Road Commission Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Paul Boggs, Milton Township Willie Brown, City of Buchanan Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township Neil Coulston, City of Niles DPW/Airport John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning John Pleveich, Niles Dial-A-Ride
TAC Members Absent:	Fred Featherly, MDOT-Multi-Modal Juan Ganum, City of Niles Planning 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 William Myers, Niles Charter Township Kimberly O'Haver, Buchanan Dial a Ride Jennifer Osborne, MDOT Joe Ray, City of Niles Robert Rusch, MDEQ Paul South, MDOT Coloma TSC Sharon Tyler, Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC
SWMPC Staff Present:	Kelly Getman-Dissette Nickolas Musson
Others Present:	Don Ryman, Berrien County Commissioner Sue Ellen, Resident of Milton Township

#### 1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Chairman Bellina called the meeting to order at 1:32 P.M.

#### 2. Minutes

- *Motion by Berndt, supported by Harden, to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2008 TAC meeting. Motion approved.*

#### 3. Staff Report

- **Berrien County Transit Forum-** SWMPC coordinated a Berrien County transit forum on December 3, 2008. The forum was a success with over 65 people from Human service and transit agencies in Berrien County attending. Attendees went over transit scenarios and attempted to connect riders to their destinations.
- **NCST visit-** The National Center for Senior Transportation (NCST) grant was awarded to SWMPC for transit coordination technology. NCST visitors came to the SW region to visit various transit agencies using the transit coordination technology.

- **MDOT 5 Year Plan-** Plan is online and MDOT is accepting comments up until December 30, 2008.

#### 4. Project Updates

- MDOT- Projects are moving along as planned.
- Niles Dial-A-Ride- will be purchasing preventative maintenance in the next couple of months.

#### 5. Old Business

- **Buchanan Street Sweeper** – Federal Highway gave the approval to spend 2009 CMAQ dollars for the street sweeper. The decision on whether or not the funds will be available from Berrien and Cass County will be decided at the February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 CMAQ meeting.

#### 6. New Business

- **Officer Nominating Committee-** Coulston and Pleveich nominated that the current officers remain the same. Bellina and Ray will continue to serve.

- **LRP Discussion**

- Community transportation issues- The previous LRP identified several community issues related to transportation that need to be considered whether each of them are still relevant enough to be listed in the new LRP and whether there are any other issues that should be discussed. Getman-Dissette went through each community issue in the previous LRP plan looking for committee comment.
- Projects to consider for air quality analysis- Getman-Dissette explained that we recently had a inter agency work group meeting (IAWG) to discuss projects that would need air quality analysis. There were no projects identified in the NATS area that need air quality analysis.

- **2010-2013 TIP**

Getman-Dissette reminded the committee that SWMPC announced a call for projects for the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Annual estimates have been handed out along with approximate timeline for completion of the 2010-2013 TIP. TIP applications were e-mailed out and there is a copy located at the SWMPC website [http://www.swmpc.org/nats\\_tipapp.asp](http://www.swmpc.org/nats_tipapp.asp). If you need another copy of the word file let Nickolas Musson know. Applications are due to the SWMPC on or before the January 27, 2009 meeting. Applications must be submitted via email, postal mail, and fax or in person.

Project subcommittee will consist of Berndt, Lenze, Pleveich, Coulston, and Bellina. Meeting will need to be scheduled early February.

- **TF2 Report**

The Michigan Transportation Funding Task Force (TF2) was created in response to Public Act 221 of 2007. The purpose of the Task Force is to “review the adequacy of surface transportation and aeronautics service provision and finance” in Michigan, review strategies for maximizing return on transportation investment, and evaluate the potential of alternative strategies to replace or supplement transportation taxes and fees. A report containing the recommendations of the Task Force was submitted to the legislature in November and is available online:

[http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-9623\\_31969-202856--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-9623_31969-202856--,00.html)

Musson handed out Surface Transportation Funding Alternatives and went over a few of them for committee discussion. Lenze suggested that any committee member that felt strongly about any of these alternatives should contact their legislator.

- **NFC Discussion-** Musson created a table of jurisdiction including total mileage in each NFC. The NFC unk or 0 represents private roads, uncertified roads (with reference to Michigan’s ACT 51), or Roads with unknown character. Musson said that he would look into exactly what it represents.

**7. Public Comment**

- None

**8. Privilege of the Floor**

- Kelly announced that she has accepted a job with the city of Niles and that her last day will be January 7, 2009.

**9. Adjournment**

*Motion by Harden, supported by Pleveich, to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved.*

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm. The next meeting is January 27, 2009 at 1:30 P.M.

Minutes compiled by: Nickolas Musson, Transportation Planners, 12/17/08