

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Advisory Committee

MINUTES

March 23, 2010

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 Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township Neil Coulston, City of Niles DPW/Airport Juan Ganum, City of Niles Planning Kelly Getman-Dissette, Niles Dial-A-Ride Jim Kidwell, Niles Charter Township Joseph Kring, Bertrand Township Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Kimberly O'Haver, Buchanan Dial a Ride Joe Ray, City of Niles Paul South, MDOT - Coloma TSC
TAC Members Absent:	Willie Brown, City of Buchanan Fred Featherly, MDOT-Multi-Modal Irving Frost, Howard Township John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development Darrell Harden, MDOT Southwest Region Shelley Klug, Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Jessica Mitchell, MACOG (ex officio) John Monaghan, Village of Edwardsburg Public Works Jennifer Osborne, MDOT 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 Erin Kercheval, MDOT – Coloma TSC Jason Latham, MDOT Southwest Region Jan Personette Don Ryman, Berrien County Board of Commissioners

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Chairman Bellina called the meeting to order at 1:34 P.M. and led the group in introductions.

2. Minutes

- Motion by Berndt, supported by Coulston, to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2010 TAC meeting. Motion approved.*

3. Staff Report

- Nickolas Musson announced that he has accepted a position at an MPO in Wisconsin, and that his last day at SWMPC will be March 26, 2010.

4. Project Updates (2010)

- **Berrien County Road Commission**
 - Stateline Road and Third Street – GI package submitted
 - Lake Street/East Main Street/Galien-Buchanan Road – GI package submitted
 - Bertrand Road – GI package submitted
- **Cass County Road Commission**
 - Redfield Street – GI held
 - Gumwood Road – Final plan submitted
 - Ironwood Road – GI held
 - Elkhart Road – GI package ready to submit
 - Bell Road – GI package ready to submit
 - Lakeshore Drive - GI package ready to submit
- **City of Niles**
 - East Main – Letting completed
 - Lake Street – Letting completed
- **MDOT**
 - US-12 BR – Contract begins April
- **Niles Dial-a-Ride**
 - Waiting for grants to be approved

5. Old Business

- **Pokagon By-Law Change**
 - Musson passed out the handout showing the original proposed by-law amendment to add Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians as a voting member of NATS TAC and Policy committees. He stated that SWMPC and Pokagon are now ready for the vote, and asked for a motion. Musson clarified that this motion would be specifically for the TAC, and that the Policy Committee would make its own separate motion.
 - *Motion by Berndt, supported by South, to add the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians as a voting member of NATS Technical Advisory Committee. Motion approved.*

6. New Business

- **TIP Amendment**
 - **Michigan Department of Transportation**
 - Add in FY 2010, the project named M-51 to do slope and shoulder repair in Niles Township for a State cost of \$800,000.
 - *Motion by Berndt, supported by Getman-Dissette, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the amendment of the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program to add the above MDOT project. It was asked what the specific limits of the project are, and South clarified that it is from the Township line to Pucker Street. Motion approved.*
- **TIP Modifications**
 - **Niles Dial-a-Ride**
 - Delete in FY 2010, project named staff training to attend MI Public Transit Association annual conference for a federal cost of \$600. (Getman-Dissette explained that NDAR is not permitted to use this funding for this purpose and will be using another funding source.)
 - Modified in FY 2010, project named connections to utilities building to connect to utilities building for shared network and internet service. The federal cost changed from \$49,000 to \$50,000. (Musson clarified that this is the \$1,000 being taken from the project above).

- **Jobs for Main Street Illustrative Projects List**

- Rahtz passed out a handout showing the "wish list" of two projects that had been decided on at the project selection meeting to use potential future federal economic stimulus funding. She explained that it is not certain what, if anything, will happen with future stimulus funding for transportation projects but that this list should be ready in case funding becomes available. She also noted that these are the two most "shovel-ready" projects in FY 2010 that have not yet been obligated.

"Jobs for Main Street" Illustrative List					
Project Name	Responsible Agency	Total Cost	Project Category	Limits	Rank
Redfield Street & Bertrand Rd	CCRC/	96,250	HMA Overlay	Redfield from Berrien County line to Ironwood and Bertrand from Redfield to Berrien County line	1
Bertrand Road	BCRC/	627,500	AC/Resurface	Red Bud Trail to Weaver Road	2

- *Motion by Getman-Dissette, supported by South, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the Illustrative List of Jobs for Main Street projects. Motion approved.*

7. Public Comment

- Jan Personette passed out brochures for the Fort St. Joseph Archeological Project in July 2010.

8. Privilege of the Floor

- Jason Latham announced that MDOT Southwest Region has begun studying the US-12 BR bridge in Niles. The project will go from 200 feet East of 4th Street to 100 feet past the other side of the bridge. He explained that because it is a historic bridge, MDOT will be going through a year-long process of stakeholder engagement.
- Bellina asked Lenze how the excess ARRA funds will be distributed. Lenze responded that MDOT has not defined its process yet. It is too late to use ARRA funding for new projects, so most likely the excess ARRA money will be distributed to other ARRA projects that could still use additional funds.

9. Adjournment

- Chairman Bellina adjourned the meeting at 1:52 P.M.
- The next meeting is April 27, 2010 at 1:30 P.M.

Minutes compiled by: Anna Rahtz, Transportation Planner, 3/30/10