

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Advisory Committee

MINUTES

April 28, 2009

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 Kelly Getman-Dissette, Niles Dial-A-Ride Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region Jim Kidwell, Niles Charter Township Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Kimberly O'Haver, Buchanan Dial a Ride Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC
TAC Members Absent:	Neil Coulston, City of Niles DPW/Airport Fred Featherly, MDOT-Multi-Modal Juan Ganum, City of Niles Planning John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development Sarah Van Buren, 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 Shelley Klug, Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance Joe Ray, City of Niles Paul South, MDOT Coloma TSC
SWMPC Staff Present:	Nickolas Musson
Others Present:	Tammy Youngs, Niles Charter Township Richard Noble, Niles Charter Township Don Ryman, Berrien County Commissioner

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Chairman Bellina called the meeting to order at 1:34 P.M.

2. Minutes

- *Motion by Getman-Dissette, supported by Woolcock, to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2009 TAC meeting. Motion approved.*

3. Staff Report

• **Bicycle Rodeo**

Musson announced that SWMPC has created a bicycle safety program to educate the regions children and adults about being safe cyclists and drivers. SWMPC is attempting

to put together a bicycle rodeo in Berrien and Cass County and we need your help. We need a location, possibly a school. We also need volunteers to get as bicycle rodeo trainers and to help hold the event. We are looking at June 13 as the training day. If you have ideas about the location and or would like to volunteer, contact Suzann Flowers.

- **RoadSoft Training**

Musson handed out a RoadSoft training schedule for beginners if anyone was interested.

4. Project Updates

- Berrien County Road Commission
 - Niles-Buchanan Road – Under Construction
- City of Buchanan
 - Front Street – Completed
- Cass County Road Commission
 - Lake Street – Completed
 - Ironwood Road – Begin in June
- MDOT
 - US-31 BR (Front Street) and Main Street- Under Construction
 - M-51, over Mckinzie Creek – Under Construction
 - US-31 NB/SB – Start next week
 - US-12 at Bell Road, traffic operations – Starts next Monday
 - Several traffic signal operations will be done on M-51 in mid September.

5. Old Business

- **2009 CMAQ Projects**

Bellina announced that his committee has agreed on a 2009 CMAQ project. The project is a two phase non-motorized pathway.

6. New Business

TIP amendments – The following TIP amendments were discussed:

Niles Dial-A-Ride requested the following transit ARRA amendments to the NATS FY 2008-11 Transportation Improvement Program:

- Add in FY 2009, facility rehabilitation to complete renovation of office and garage, including but not limited to repairs to the heating, air conditioning, and electric systems; insulation and window improvements; updates to the lobby, break room, and restrooms; improvements to landscaping, parking areas, fencing, and facade; and the purchase of a security system (ALI 113402) for a federal cost of \$380,000 and a total cost of \$380,000.
- Add in FY 2009, construction management for third party consultant to oversee permitting and construction for DART facility renovation (ALI 117104) for federal cost of \$30,000 and a total cost of \$30,000.

A motion was made by Woolcock, supported by Harden to recommend that the Policy committee amend the FY 2008-2011 TIP to add transit ARRA projects facility rehabilitation for a total cost of \$380,000 and construction management for a total cost of \$30,000. Motion Approved

MDOT requested the following amendments to the NATS FY 2008-11 Transportation Improvement Program:

- Adding in FY 2010, ARRA project US-12 BR to cold mill and resurface 2 inches HMA, and sidewalk ramp upgrade. Limits are from US-12 BR one-way loop by the

Hospital. Including US-12 BR EB starting at junction of Lincoln Avenue and Grant Street proceeding easterly on Grant Street to St. Joseph Avenue, northerly on St. Joseph Avenue to W. Main, westerly on W Main Street (US-12 BR WB) to Lincoln Avenue, and southerly on Lincoln Avenue to Grant Street. The total length is 0.6 miles. Federal cost is \$454,000 with a total cost of \$454,000.

- Adding in FY 2009, US-12 BR early preliminary engineering (EPE) for bridge replacement over the St. Joseph River (Main Street bridge) for federal cost of \$53,000 (ST), State cost \$12,000 and a total cost of \$65,000.

A motion was made by Getman-Dissette, supported by Lenze to recommend that the Policy committee amend the FY 2008-2011 TIP to add the FY 2010 ARRA US-12 BR to cold mill and resurface 2 inches HMA, and sidewalk ramp upgrade project for a total cost of \$454,000 and US-12 EPE for bridge replacement over the St. Joseph River (Main Street bridge) for federal cost of \$53,000 (ST), State cost \$12,000 and a total cost of \$65,000. Motion Approved

- **Pro Rata vs. Lump Sum**

- Musson passed around a handout with the five lump sum and pro rata methods on how the committee can spend their ARRA money and asked the committee to discuss and choose a method. The committee decided that lump sum using a maximum amount ARRA funds not to exceed 100% was the best option because they didn't want to draw funds from other ARRA projects or already allocated STP funding.

A motion was made by Berndt, supported by Cooper, to recommend that the Policy committee approve lump sum using a maximum amount ARRA funds not to exceed 100%. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **Traffic Counting**

Musson explained that the 2008 season was difficult for SWMPC because of new staff, number of count request remaining from the previous year and the restructuring of the traffic count database. The 2008 counts that were completed are located at the SWMPC website. SWMPC did not complete all request and apologizes for the inconvenience. If you are still interested in counts from previous years please re-submit a traffic count request and we will do our best to complete that count.

- **2009 PASER Rating**

Musson announced that Cass County is scheduled for July 6th to 10th. We are only rating 50% of the network at this time. I will be sending a letter out to those communities and townships that we will be rating to see if you would like to participate.

7. Public Comment

- Musson explained that he received a phone call from Gary Bluschke from United Federal Credit Union, who wanted to discuss the intersection problems at M-51/Chestnut in Niles Township. There have been accidents from people traveling south on M-51 and turning into Lowe's and Wal-Mart. The intersection has been updated in 2004 by the Coloma TSC. The TSC has had discussion in the past with Bluschke with the understanding that United Federal Credit Union would cover the cost of the intersection improvements. The TSC has said that they don't have any funds available to invest in the intersection. Engineering and design is 90% completed. United Federal Credit Union does not have the money. As a result, Bluschke is looking for funding to help to re-engineer the traffic lights from 3 way red light to a 4 way red light with protective left turn phases. Bluschke stated that he would like to develop another branch on the

adjacent parcel, which would bring in 10-12 jobs to the community. Development of this property is dependent on the intersection changes.

Noble explained that 19 people have had accidents at that intersection since 2005 and there was a real problem with the speed. Noble said that he submitted a letter to MDOT requesting a speed study. Woolcock responded and said that there needs to be enforcement at that particular area for six months before any study can take place. Woolcock said that she would send a letter to the township requesting that enforcement be increase in that area for six months. Getman-Dissette explained that there needs to be land use planning and access management planning to prevent this from occurring.

8. Privilege of the Floor

- None

9. Adjournment

Motion by Harden, seconded by Woolcock, to dismiss the meeting. Motion approved.

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 pm. The next meeting is May 26, 2009 at 1:30 P.M.

Minutes compiled by: Nickolas Musson, Transportation Planner, 5/04/09