

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Advisory Committee

MINUTES

June 22, 2010

Niles City Council Chambers

1:30 P.M.

TAC Members Present:	Jason Auvil, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Pat Bellaire, Village of Edwardsburg Joe Bellina, Cass County Road Commission Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Barbara Cook, Cass County Planning Commission Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township Neil Coulston, City of Niles DPW/Airport Kelly Getman-Dissette, Niles Dial-A-Ride John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development Erin Kercheval, MDOT Coloma TSC Joseph Kring, Bertrand Township Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Kimberly O'Haver, Buchanan Dial a Ride Joe Ray, City of Niles Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio)
TAC Members Absent:	Paul Boggs, Milton Township Willie Brown, City of Buchanan Fred Featherly, MDOT-Multi-Modal Juan Ganum, City of Niles Planning Irving Frost, Howard Township Darrell Harden, MDOT Southwest Region Jim Kidwell, Niles Charter Township 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
SWMPC Staff Present:	Anna Rahtz Trevor Thomas
Others Present:	Joanne Johnson, Disability Network SWMI Jan Personette Don Ryman, Berrien County Board of Commissioners

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Chairman Bellina called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. and led the group in introductions.

2. Minutes

- Motion by Berndt, seconded by Getman-Dissette, to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2010 TAC meeting, with the change of the Niles DART project updates in the minutes. Motion approved.*

3. Staff Report

- The new transportation planner Trevor Thomas introduced himself. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering and a Master's in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan. He interned at the New York City Department of Transportation and AARP.

4. Project Updates

○ 2009

○ MDOT

- US-12 BR over St. Joseph River – environmental assessment under way
- US-12 from M-60 to Edwardsburg (preliminary engineering) – started
- US-12 from M-60 to Edwardsburg (right-of-way) – not started, may need to be moved to 2010

○ Niles Dial-a-Ride

- Computer software purchase – in progress
- Computer purchase – completed
- Bus replacement – completed; funding remaining from cost savings
- Bus shelters – request for bids going out this week
- Maintenance equipment, bus washing equipment, and facility equipment – in progress
- Radio system purchase – in progress (2010)
- Trolley repair – ongoing

○ 2010

○ Berrien County Road Commission

- Stateline Road and Third Street – July 2nd letting
- Lake Street/East Main Street/Galien-Buchanan Road – waiting for authorization
- Bertrand Road – waiting for authorization

○ Cass County Road Commission

- Redfield Street – obligated; construction beginning July 19th
- Gumwood Road – beginning construction July 6th
- Ironwood Road – starting construction
- Elkhart Road – obligated June 9th
- Bell Road – held preliminary environmental review
- Lakeshore Drive – GI held; not yet obligated (waiting on TIP amendment)

○ City of Niles

- East Main – completed
- Lake Street - completed

○ MDOT

- US-12 BR resurfacing – under construction

○ Niles Dial-a-Ride

- In progress of submitting application to FTA for 2010 projects

5. Old Business

- None

6. New Business

• 2011-2014 TIP final document approval

- Rahtz asked if all committee members had had a chance to thoroughly read the draft TIP document, and distributed extra copies. She asked if anyone had any further questions or comments about the document. She stated that the document would be revised as necessary and then presented to the full SWMP Commission on July 20, 2010, and then submitted to MDOT, FHWA, and FTA.
- Lenze reminded the committee members that "total project costs" are needed for all projects going into the TIP. This has to be a close estimate of the total amount of money being spent on

a project in all phases, all years, for both construction and engineering. Rahtz added that this is a new column in the TIP, and that the column formerly known as "Total Project Cost" is now "Total Phase Cost," which is the cost in the particular year or phase for construction only.

- Ryman asked what the US-12 traffic operations project was for, and Rahtz responded that it is for a freeway signing upgrade.
- O'Haver asked why Buchanan Dial-a-Ride was not listed as an agency that contributes projects to the NATS Transportation Improvement Program. Rahtz responded that she had been told that Buchanan Dial-a-Ride submitted projects in the Michiana Area Council of Governments' TIP (South Bend area). O'Haver commented that she had not submitted projects in any TIP for the past few years but thought that she would be submitted bus replacement requests to NATS in the following year. Lenze suggested that she contact Fred Featherly at MDOT.
- Rahtz read through the public comments that were received on the document. The committee members provided responses to the comments and said that Rahtz could follow up with them individually to get more details. It was asked if the responses to the comments had to be in the actual TIP document, and Lenze stated that they at least need to be submitted separately along with the document so that MDOT and FHWA know that the comments were acknowledged and addressed.
- Bellina noted that the air quality section was different in the TIP and the UWP. Lenze stated that he was getting the accurate information from Pete Porciello at MDOT and would relay it to the staff to revise in the documents.
- *Motion by Auvil, seconded by Coulston, to approve the final draft of the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved.*

- **TIP Amendments (to FY 2008-2011 TIP)**

- **MDOT Projects (2010)**

- Add in FY 2010, the project named M-139 for bridge replacement of the M-139 (Main Street) bridge over St. Joseph River. Phase is SUB. Federal cost (BRT) is \$387,280, state cost (M) is \$96,820, and total cost is \$484,100. MDOT job number 104152.
- Add in FY 2010, the project named US-31 for bridge work (expansion joint replacement, new concrete approaches) on US-31 NB and SB over St. Joseph River, 2.0 miles W of Niles. Federal cost (BHN) is \$605,084, state cost (M) is \$151,272, and total cost is \$756,356. MDOT job number 106514.
- Amend in FY 2010, the project named EPE/PE/ROW Trunkline GPA (Early Preliminary Engineering / Preliminary Engineering / Right of Way Trunkline General Program Account). Federal cost (ST) changed from \$81,850 to \$149,986, state cost (M) changed from \$18,150 to \$31,304, and total cost changed from \$100,000 to \$181,290.
- *Motion by Berndt, seconded by Auvil, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the amendment of the FY 2008-2011 TIP to include the above three MDOT amendments. Motion approved.*

- **Cass County Road Commission Project (2010)**

- Amend in FY 2010, the project named Lakeshore Drive. Limits changed from "Fisk to Barron Lake Road" to "Barron Lake Rd to Huntly Rd." Length changed from .73 miles to .99 miles.
- *Motion by Getman-Dissette, seconded by Ray, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the amendment of the FY 2008-2011 TIP to include the above CCRC amendment. Motion approved.*

- **2011 Projects**

- Amend in FY 2011, the Berrien County project named Bertrand Rd. Limits changed from "Red Bud Trail to Weaver Rd" to "Weaver Rd to Mayflower Rd." Length changed from 4 miles to 1.80 miles. Project description changed from "Resurface road, minor drainage" to "Resurface." Advance construct status was removed. Federal cost changed from \$313,000 to \$350,577, county cost changed from \$307,000 to \$87,644, and total cost changed from \$620,000 to \$438,221.

- Add in FY 2011, the Berrien County project named Red Bud Trail, Bertrand Rd, Orange Rd, Portage Rd, and Ontario Rd. Limits are "Red Bud Trail from US-12 to Buchanan City limits, Bertrand Rd from St. Joseph River to County line, Orange Rd from Bertrand Rd to State Line, Portage Rd from Bertrand Rd to State Line, and Ontario Rd from Third St to M-51." Length is 5.00 miles, primary work type is resurface, project description is "Hot patching and single seal coat," and phase is CON (construction). Federal cost is \$76,900, county cost is \$19,250, and total cost is \$96,150.
- Delete in FY 2011, the Cass County project named Bell Road. Limits were Berrien/Cass County Line to Ironwood Road, length was .26 miles, primary work type was resurface, and project description was "Widen road from 20' to 22' with resurfacing of existing surface." Phase was CON, federal cost was \$48,000, county cost was \$12,000, and total cost was \$60,000. Note: being deleted because it is a duplication of project added in FY 2010 on 2/23/10.
- Delete in FY 2011, the Cass County project named Elkhart Road. Limits were Sherman Road to Village of Edwardsburg, length was .36 miles, primary work type was resurface, project description was resurface with structural overlay, and phase was CON. Federal cost was \$34,000, county cost was \$8,500, and total cost was \$42,500. Note: being deleted because it is a duplication of project added in FY 2010 on 2/23/10.
- Delete in FY 2011, the Niles project named Sycamore. Limits were 13th to 17th, length was .49 miles, primary work type was resurface, and project description was "Cold mill and resurface, including construction of ADA ramps where required." Phase was CON, federal cost was \$66,500, county cost was \$14,800, and total cost was \$81,300. Note: project was moved to FY 2014.
- Add in FY 2011, the MDOT project named US-31. Limits are Berrien County, length is 21,17 miles, primary work type is traffic ops/safety, and project description is freeway signing upgrade. Phase is CON, federal cost (NHG) is \$221,936, and total cost is \$221,936. MDOT job number 108921. Comments: 31.04% of project within NATS boundary; total phase cost = \$710,000 federal NHG.
- Add in FY 2011, the MDOT project named US-31 BR. Limits are "Over Dowagiac River," primary work type is bridge replacement, project description is superstructure replacement, and phase is CON. Federal cost (BHT) is \$1,468,729, state cost (M) is \$367,182, and total cost is \$1,835,911. MDOT job number 86785.
- Delete in FY 2011, the Niles Dial-a-Ride project named New Bus. Primary work type was transit vehicle additions, project description was "Purchase 1 diesel cutaway with lift," and phase was T-Cap. Federal cost (5307) was \$117,448, state cost (CTF) was \$29,362, and total cost was \$146,810.
- Amend in FY 2011, the Niles Dial-a-Ride project named Camera System. Name was modified to On Bus Camera System and limits were modified to Niles area. Federal cost changed from \$133,840 to \$181,000. Toll credit amount changed from \$33,460 to \$36,200.
- Add in FY 2011, the Niles Dial-a-Ride project named Generator. Limits are Niles area, primary work type is transit operations equipment, and project description is "Purchase and install generator to power phones, radios, and fuel pump in the event of an outage." Phase is T-Cap, federal cost (5307) is \$5,000, and toll credit amount is \$1,000.
- Add in FY 2011, the Niles Dial-a-Ride project named Bike Racks. Limits are Niles area, primary work type is transit operations equipment, and project description is "Purchase up to 5 bicycle racks and install kits for buses." Phase is T-Cap, federal cost (5307) is \$6,500, and toll credit amount is \$1,300.
- Add in FY 2011, the Niles Dial-a-Ride project named Ramp Lift. Limits are Niles area, primary work type is "Transit maintenance equipment and parts," and project description is "Purchase and install ramp lift in maintenance bay." Phase is T-Cap, federal cost (5307) is \$20,000, and toll credit amount is \$4,000.
- Add in FY 2011, the Niles Dial-a-Ride project named Landscaping. Limits are Niles area,

primary work type is transit facility, and project description is "Refresh mulch and any needed plants; remove tree that impacts rear drive, grind stump, and repair curb." Phase is T-Cap, federal cost (5307) is \$5,900, state cost (CTF) is \$1,475, and total cost is \$7,375.

- Add in FY 2011, the Niles-Dial-a-Ride project named Replacement Tires. Limits are Niles area, primary work type is "Transit maintenance equipment and parts," and project description is "Purchase replacement tires and dispose of old tires." Phase is T-Cap, federal cost (5307) is \$3,600, and toll credit amount is \$720.
 - *Motion by Getman-Dissette, seconded by Gruchot, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the amendment of the FY 2008-2011 TIP to include the above 2011 amendments to make the FY 2008—2011 TIP match up with the 2011 year of the FY 2011-2014 TIP. Motion approved.*
 - Lenze reminded the committee that beginning October 1, 2010 MDOT will be using a schedule of six times per year to process TIP amendments. He noted that it would be wise to submit any amendments that need to be approved in November by the August meeting date for NATS.
 - Bellina commented that the TIP amendment schedule is every other month, with the exception of June and July. Lenze responded that this is to take into account the high level of project activity in June and July.
- **FY 2011 Unified Work Program final document approval**
 - Rahtz asked if all committee members had had a chance to thoroughly read the draft UWP document, and distributed extra copies. She went over the public comments that were submitted about the document, and asked if anyone had any further questions or comments about the document. She stated that the document would be revised as necessary and then presented to the full SWMP Commission on July 20, 2010, and then submitted to MDOT, FHWA, and FTA.
 - *Motion by O'Haver, seconded by Auvil, to approve the final draft of the FY 2011 Unified Work Program. Motion approved.*

7. Public Comment

- None.

8. Privilege of the Floor

- Rahtz stated that Barbara Cook would now be attending the TAC meetings representing the Cass County Planning Commission.

9. Adjournment

- Chairman Bellina adjourned the meeting at 2:18 P.M.
- The next meeting is July 27, 2010 at 1:30 P.M.