

NILES-BUCHANAN-CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY TECHNICAL ADVISORY and POLICY COMMITTEES MEETING

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

1:30 pm

In Person: Niles District Library
620 E Main St, Niles, MI 49120

Web: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9347787681?pwd=a3MrVUUxa3VMsmlPWXJLeU5NUzNjQT09>

Audio: Call in Number: 1 (312) 626-6799
Meeting ID: 934 778 7681
Passcode: 687880

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Changes to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Approve Minutes from February 28, 2022 Meeting *(enclosed) Action*
5. New Business
 - Cass County Road Commission Project Amendments *(enclosed) Action*
 - Edwardsburg TAP Project Amendment *(enclosed) Action*
 - Discussion of unprogramed federal fund balances *(enclosed)*
6. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment
7. Adjournment

Comments can be sent prior to the meeting to Brandon Kovnat at kovnatb@swmpc.org or calling (269) 925-1137 x 1524. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please contact Kim Gallagher at (269) 925-1137 x 1518 or by email at gallagherk@swmpc.org

NILES BUCHANAN CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (NATS)

Joint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Policy Committee Minutes

February 22, 2022, Niles District Library & via Zoom

NATS MEMBER ORG./POSITION	MEMBERS (2022)	TAC	POL	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners (1)	Michael Majerek		x	V	V										
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	(vacant)		x	A											
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Evan Smith	x		A	A										
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	Eric Lester, M.D.		x	V	V										
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (Policy)	(vacant)		x	A	A										
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (TAC)	Kevin Stack	X		A	A										
Bertrand Township	Butch Payton	x	x	V	V										
Buchanan Township	Lynn Ferris	x	x	A	A										
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (1)	Robert Benjamin		x	A	A										
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	Roseann Marchetti		x	P	IP										
Cass Co. Planning Commission	(vacant)	x													
Cass Co. Road Comm. (Policy)	Sandra Seanor		x	A	V										
Cass Co. Road Comm. (TAC)	Joe Bellina (TAC Chair)	x		A	V										
City of Buchanan	Don Ryman		x	A	A										
City of Buchanan	Heather Grace	x		A	A										
City of Niles (1)	Georgia Boggs		x	A	A										
City of Niles (2)	Serita Mason		x	V	V										
City of Niles (3)	Jessica Nelson		x	A	A										
City of Niles Community Dev. Director	(vacant)	x													
City of Niles Dial-A-Ride Transit	Kelly Getman-Dissette	x	x	V	V										
City of Niles Public Works Dir./Airport	Joe Ray	x		V	V										
Howard Township	Bill Kasprzak	x	x	P	IP										
Kinexus	(vacant)	x													
Mason Township	Doug Feters	x	x	A	A										
MDOT - Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	V	V										
MDOT - Southwest Region	Brian Sanada	x	x	P	IP										
MDOT - Southwest Region (Alternate)	Amy Lipset	Alt	Alt	A	A										
MDOT - Transportation Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	V	V										
Milton Township	Susan Flowers	x	x	A	A										
Niles Charter Township	Richard Cooper (P. Ch.)	x	x	P	IP										
Ontwa Township	Dawn Bolock	x	x	P	A										
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians	(vacant)	x	x												
Village of Edwardsburg	Dennis Peak	x	x	A	A										
Federal Highway Administration	Andy Pickard	NV	NV	A	A										
Federal Transit Administration	Susan Weber	NV	NV	A	A										
EGLE - Air Quality	Breanna Bukowski	NV		A	A										
MDOT - Modeling	Jon Roberts	NV		A	A										
MDOT - Office of Passenger Trans.	Fred Featherly	NV		A	V										
Michiana Area Council of Governments	Caitlin Stevens	NV	NV	A	A										
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	x	x	P	IP										
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Brandon Kovnat	NV	NV	P	IP										

P. Ch.: Policy Chair; Alt: Alternate; NV: Non-voting; P: Present in Person; V- Present virtually; A: Absent.

Others Present: Pepper Miller, Niles Dial A Ride

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Technical Advisory chair, Joe Bellina, called the meeting to Order at 1:30 pm. Kim Gallagher led roll call.

2. **Changes to the Agenda**

None.

3. **Public comment**

None.

4. **Approval of the Minutes from the previous NATS Meeting**

Motion to reapprove the minutes from the January 25, 2022, combined Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meeting. Made by Roseann Marchetti seconded by Bill Kasprzak. **Motion approved.**

5. **SWMPC Staff Report**

Gallagher presented additional information about the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). she encouraged committee members to visit the FHWA website for the bill: www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/

SWMPC held its annual Unified Work Program (UWP) meeting with MDOT and Federal partners. The meeting is where staff and partners review the accomplishments from the previous year and discuss the federal and state requirements for the upcoming fiscal year. The UWP will be approved in May.

6. **Public Transit Updates**

Gallagher announced that Kelly Getman-Dissette has accepted a new job and will be leaving Niles Dial A Ride. Gallagher thanked Kelly for her 12 years of service with public transit. Pepper Miller, the operations supervisor will assume Kelly's responsibilities.

7. **Local Road Agency Updates.**

7.1. **Cass County Road Commission:** Bellina said Mason Street and Reum Road projects were in design. The Grade Inspection meeting for the Gumwood Roundabout was held and they are working on final designs.

7.2. **Berrien County Road Department:** The Walton Bridge project was begun in the fall and will resume work in spring 2022.

7.3. **City of Niles:** Contracts for the 13th Street & Lake street project were approved and construction will begin in April.

8. **MDOT Updates**

Smith did not have any additional updates beyond what was in the packet.

9. **New Business**

9.1. **MDOT 2022 Project Amendments:** Bellina asked about the local match for the Edwardsburg TAP project. He was under the impression that MDOT was going to be 100% responsible for the project including the non-federal match. Sanada said that regardless of any agreements for the signal, MDOT does not typically pay for non-motorized paths.

There was discussion about who was responsible for the project. The path will be within the Village of Edwardsburg. But the local applicant is the Cass County Road Commission on behalf of Ontwa Township. Furthermore the main discussions about a traffic signal (not TAP funded) were with the Edwardsburg School District.

Sanada explained that there will be a traffic signal in Edwardsburg on Us-12 at Section Street. This signal will be paid for through MDOT (with a combination of federal and state funds). MDOT worked with the school district on an agreement to close traffic on Claire Street & US-12 to route all traffic to Section Street.

Sanada said that MDOT would design the non-motorized path from Section Street to Claire Street and administer the bid for construction. They will not contribute matching funds for the TAP grant. The non-federal funds have to come from a local agency.

Seanor said that she was willing to approve the project but questions still remained about who would be responsible for the local match.

There were no questions about the other MDOT FY 2022 project amendments included in the packet.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the MDOT FY 2022 project Amendments to the NATS 202-2023 Transportation Improvement Program as included in the meeting packet. Made by Brian Sanada, and seconded by Bill Kasprzak. **Motion Approved.**

Motion by the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical advisory Committee. Made by Rosanne Marchetti and seconded by Bill Kasprzak. **Motion Approved.**

9.2. **Approval of 2023-2026 MDOT Projects:** Smith added that the projects on US-31 included carpool lot resurfacing and ramp repairs, which explains why the cost seems much higher than a simple overlay. Bellina asked about US-12 east of Brady road. Smith replied that MDOT would do a skip paving as a temporary repair and look at adding a more permanent treatment later. Typically MDOT adds a lot of road projects to the TIP each year as more specific needs and budget are known. There were no questions or additions about the other MDOT 2020-2023 projects

9.3. **Approval of 2023-2026 Transit Projects:** Gallagher said that the transit projects included the capital purchases needed for Niles Dial A Ride to maintain their state of good repair. Kovnat added that the transit list included the only CMAQ funded project for 2024-2026 within the NATS area.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the MDOT and Niles Dial a Ride proposed projects for inclusion in the NATS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program as included in the meeting packet. Made by Brian Sanada and seconded by Bill Kasprzak. **Motion approved.**

Motion by the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical advisory Committee. Made by Rosanne Marchetti and seconded by Bill Kasprzak. **Motion Approved.**

10. **Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment**

None.

11. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2022 at 1:30 at the Niles District Library and online via Zoom.

Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Transportation planner

Local Road Project Updates and Amendments – April 2022

Berrien County Road Department

Contact: Kevin Stack, County Engineer kstack@bcroad.org

The Walton Bridge: Work within the river has been completed; project will start back up in the spring

City of Niles

Contact: Joe Ray, Public Works Director DPWdirector@nilesmi.org

The 13th Street and Lake project were both bid as a single project on January 7th. The combined programed cost was \$584,178. The low bid came in at \$587,003, approximately 0.5% above the programed value.

Cass County Road Commission

Contact: Joe Bellina, Chief County Engineer jbellina@casscoroad.com

Design for Mason and Reum Road is complete and ready for obligation pending NATS approves cost change amendments. These cost increases are primarily due to rising material prices.

Mason Street – Job #206393

Limits	Calvin Center Road to Tharp Lake Road	
Length	0.99 miles	
Work Description	Crush and Shape and Resurfacing	
Cost Increase		
	Currently Approved	Proposed
Federal STBG	\$234,619	\$390,136
Local Match	\$94,381	\$89,889
Total Cost	\$329,000	\$480,035

Using the additional funding from the IJA in 2022

Reum Road – Job #212905

Limits	BR 12 to M 60	
Length	0.55 miles	
Work Description	Mill and resurface	
Cost Increase		
	Currently Approved	Proposed
Federal HIP	\$122,049	\$161,861
Local Match	\$8,688	\$17,516
Total Cost	\$130,737	\$179,377

MDOT Amendment Request

Contact: Brain Sanada, Region Planner sanadab1@michigan.gov

Edwardsburg US-12 Path – Job #215516 – Add TAP funded project:

Project Name	Limits		Description
US-12 Path	Claire Street to Section Street		Construct a non-motorized path
Phase	Federal TAP Budget	Local Budget	Total phase Budget
PE/Design	\$7,521	\$1,880	\$9,401
CON	\$122,757	\$31,126	\$153,883
Total	\$130,278	\$33,006	\$163,284

*PE Phase approved February 22, 2022. MDOT is designing the path. Local funding will be from Ontwa Twp.

NATS Federal Fund Balances 2023-2026 - IIJA Funding					
Funding Source	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Carbon Reduction	\$79,000	\$81,000	\$83,000	\$84,000	\$285,000
TAP	\$47,107*	\$93,931	\$95,810	\$97,726	\$334,574
STBG**	\$74,000	\$82,000	\$96,382	\$86,001	\$338,383

- Balance after deducting the Buchanan Mc Coy Creek Trail funding of \$44,985 in 2023.

** Balance due to IIJA STBG funding increase

Carbon Reduction Funding Program: See attached sheet for information on program.

CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM PROJECT SELECTION TIMELINE

DATE	TASK
June 28, 2022	Call for Carbon Reduction 2023-2026 Projects Released
August 23, 2022	Project Selection Criteria Approved by NATS
Early September 2022 TBD	Project Selection Committee Meeting
September 27, 2022	Proposed projects approved by NATS

NOTE: Carbon Reduction Funding cannot be carried over from one year to the next, however it can be combined with other federal funding sources or advanced constructed to use multiple years of funding.

TAP MPO Funding Program

TAP MPO PROGRAM PROJECT SELECTION TIMELINE

DATE	TASK
June 28, 2022	Call for NATS TAP 2023-2026 Projects Released
August 23, 2022	Project Selection Criteria Approved by NATS
Early September 2022 TBD	Project Selection Committee Meeting
September 27, 2022	Proposed projects approved by NATS

NOTE: TAP funding can be carried over from year to the next which allows a project to utilize multiple years of funding.

Carbon Reduction Program Details

H.R. 3684 p 127 Sec 11403

<https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr3684/BILLS-117hr3684enr.pdf>

Eligible activities:

- A. establish or operate a traffic monitoring, management, and control facility or program, including advanced truck stop electrification systems
- B. public transportation
- C. construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other nonmotorized forms of transportation
- D. advanced transportation and congestion management technologies
- E. infrastructure-based intelligent transportation systems capital improvements and the installation of vehicle-to-infrastructure communications equipment, including retrofitting dedicated short-range communications (DSRC) technology deployed as part of an existing pilot program to cellular vehicle-to-everything (C-V2X) technology
- F. replace street lighting and traffic control devices with energy-efficient alternatives
- G. development of a carbon reduction strategy
- H. a project or strategy that is designed to support congestion pricing, shifting transportation demand to nonpeak hours or other transportation modes, increasing vehicle occupancy rates, or otherwise reducing demand for roads, including electronic toll collection, and travel demand management strategies and programs
- I. efforts to reduce the environmental and community impacts of freight movement
- J. a project to support deployment of alternative fuel vehicles, including— “(i) the acquisition, installation, or operation of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure or hydrogen, natural gas, or propane vehicle fueling infrastructure; and “(ii) the purchase or lease of zero-emission construction equipment and vehicles, including the acquisition, construction, or leasing of required supporting facilities
- K. diesel engine retrofit
- L. a project described in section 149(b)(5) that does not result in the construction of new capacity
- M. transportation emissions at port facilities, including through the advancement of port electrification.

Other requirements, 2-years after the enacting of IIJA, MDOT will be required to create a carbon reduction strategy, in cooperation with MPOs that:

- A. support efforts to reduce transportation emissions
- B. identify projects and strategies to reduce transportation emissions, which may include projects and strategies for safe, reliable, and cost-effective options
 - i. to reduce traffic congestion by facilitating the use of alternatives to single-occupant vehicle trips, including public transportation facilities, pedestrian facilities, bicycle facilities, and shared or pooled vehicle trips within the State or an area served by the applicable metropolitan planning organization, if any
 - ii. to facilitate the use of vehicles or modes of travel that result in lower transportation emissions per person-mile traveled as compared to existing vehicles and modes

- iii. to facilitate approaches to the construction of transportation assets that result in lower transportation emissions as compared to existing approaches; “(C) support the reduction of transportation emissions of the State; “(D) at the discretion of the State, quantify the total carbon emissions from the production, transport, and use of materials used in the construction of transportation facilities within the State; and “(E) be appropriate to the population density and context of the State, including any metropolitan planning organization designated within the State.
- C. support the reduction of transportation emissions of the State
- D. at the discretion of the State, quantify the total carbon emissions from the production, transport, and use of materials used in the construction of transportation facilities within the State
- E. be appropriate to the population density and context of the State, including any metropolitan planning organization designated within the State.

Must be updated every 4-years and submitted to FHWA for approval.

Funding available:

Michigan will receive (*estimates*)

FY	Carbon Reduction	Flex Any Area (35%)	Sub-allocated by Area (65%)	TMA's	Small MPO	Small Urban	Rural
2022	\$ 32,395,504	\$ 11,338,426	\$ 21,057,078	\$ 11,909,379	\$ 2,156,855	\$ 1,439,384	\$ 5,551,460
2023	\$ 33,043,414	\$ 11,565,195	\$ 21,478,219	\$ 12,147,566	\$ 2,199,992	\$ 1,468,172	\$ 5,662,489
2024	\$ 33,704,282	\$ 11,796,499	\$ 21,907,784	\$ 12,390,518	\$ 2,243,992	\$ 1,497,535	\$ 5,775,739
2025	\$ 34,378,368	\$ 12,032,429	\$ 22,345,939	\$ 12,638,328	\$ 2,288,872	\$ 1,527,486	\$ 5,891,253
2026	\$ 35,065,935	\$ 12,273,077	\$ 22,792,858	\$ 12,891,095	\$ 2,334,650	\$ 1,558,036	\$ 6,009,078