

CONSULTATION

Public Involvement

SWMPC staff employed several different strategies to engage the public throughout the development of this plan.

1. Monthly MPO Committee Meeting in which the public were invited to attend the monthly meetings to make comments.
2. Bi-weekly email messages that interested citizens have signed up for.
3. Bi-weekly email messages to the various media outlets covering the region. The list can be found at the end of this section in Table 21.
4. Legal notices announcing when additional comments were being sought.
5. Targeted mailings to schools in the planning region.
6. Community Open House Forums held from March-May at the Niles Public Library from 5-7.
7. One day engagement day at Edwardsburg High School.

PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING OUTREACH EFFORTS

What follows is a brief discussion of the Community Open House Forums.

- March 27, 2013 Community Open House Forums -5 attendees (2 SWMPC staff in attendance).
- April 24, 2013 Community Open House Forums-5 attendees (3 attendees-2 SWMPC staff in attendance). No comments were listed on the comment sheets
- May 24, 2013 Community Open House Forums-3 attendees (2 attendees-1 SWMPC staff in attendance). No comments were listed on the comment sheets, but several notes were taken.

Each of the three forums opened with a brief presentation regarding the MPO process and described the plan development process. The next piece was to open the discussion to attendees. Then attendees were asked to fill out survey sheets, the responses were collected and responded to by SWMPC staff, at least one week after the meeting.

Questions on Survey

1. Do you have any concerns or questions regarding transportation in general?

-We would like to see a non-motorized bike trail that would start at the Edwardsburg administration building go west past the sports complex and continue to pleasant lake and connect back to the school property. A total of approximately 4 miles. We need advice on what to apply for grants and TAP funds.

-Keeping the road in good shape, I feel we need to become consumer friendly with the trucking industry.

2. Are there transportation projects that you think need to be done?

-Continue to bring the county transit system into the next generation for the county.

-After hours dial a ride close at 5pm. Have set areas, when and people can be pick up and taken to other spots and then the same route to return.

3. What types of transportation do you think we should be focusing on?

-Transportation the more areas outside of city limit of Niles

4. Where are the transportation “hot spots” in your community?

Niles-Hardy’s, Rite Aid, Wal-Mart, Martins, Save A Lot, Dollar Store

5. Additional comments, suggestions, or concerns?

-We need to have a traffic count on Elkhart and Adamsville Road. Two primary roads that are in need of serious repair.

-Look into funding and jobs in the county for roads and non-motorized transportation. (Response required- email jessscdc@gmail.com)

Notes Taken by Staff

- Importance of US 31 and the tie to the south, Evansville, IN and how that will also tie into Kentucky and other surrounding regional markets.
- High school trail concept in Edwardsburg and the tie to the sports complex.
- Aging community in Berrien and Cass counties and how family farms are being developed into sprawling residential developments
- Using the rail service for workers to live in Michigan and work in IN or IL.
- Internet infrastructure in the area to allow for working from home.
- Education the best roads for passenger vehicles versus truck traffic.
- Weight restrictions and frost laws are different in each county
- Bus coordination in the county and region
- How are students at LMC, SMC, and Andrews getting around, can they use the transit systems
- Long wait times connecting from Niles Dial A Ride to Berrien Bus going from the southern part of Berrien County to the north.
- Expense of using the multiple bus systems.
- Transit service ending at 5pm, and it stops people from shopping or from connecting to night jobs.
- M-62 and State Road 23 through Granger, IN and the non-motorized development
- Use Niles Dial A Ride service only to Taco Bell because it is only 3.00 and past that location it is 4.00.

Public Comment Session May 29, 2013 Niles Public Library 5-7 PM

Attendees: Jerry and Roseanne Marchetti (public) and Gautam Mani (SWMPC staff)

- J. and R. Marchetti reiterated the need for Adamsville Road to be done sooner than 2016. The road is in really bad condition, and ambulance drivers have to warn their passengers and medical personnel that major bumps are coming. J and R Marchetti said that they had been talking to the Cass County Road Commission and other decision-makers constantly about making Adamsville Road a priority, and that there was definitely public consensus to get the project done. They said that a similar consensus existed for Elkhart Road.
- J. and R. Marchetti asked for clarification as to how much money was programmed on the MPO and RTF segments, and how far each segment extended. Mani stated that he did not have the latest version of the RTF balance sheet, but that he would take a look.
- J. and R. Marchetti asked about traffic counts on Adamsville Road and Elkhart Road. Mani said he would take a look into these items to see if SWMPC had any counts for those roads. At the very least, SWMPC would have counts used in the application process.
- J. and R. Marchetti examined the Socioeconomic data section from the plan noted that the population in Ontwa Township has continued to grow since 2010, particularly immediately around the lakes. Mani said that is consistent with trends SWMPC staff and others were observing. Mani explained that while Berrien County continues to lose population, Cass County's population is still generally increasing as growth moves in from Elkhart. J. and R. Marchetti noted that people from Chicago and northern Indiana who had previously had summer cottages along the lakes are now tearing those cottages down and building permanent homes where they can spend their retirement.
- J. Marchetti said that a non-motorized trail from Edwardsburg High School connecting to the sports complex and the nearby lakes would be a great asset to the community. Mani explained that it is difficult to use federal transportation funds, other than Transportation Alternatives funds, for trails that will not serve a commuter purpose. Mani explained that a group known as Southwest Michigan Alliance for Recreational Trails (SMART), organized by SWMPC, existed to discuss ways to make progress on recreational trails in the 9 counties of Southwest Michigan. Mani noted that he would add J. and R. Marchetti to the general email list for that group, so that they could stay up to date and find resources to get the trail project funded.

Mani noted the outreach effort that SWMPC made to Edwardsburg High School was successful in bringing up issues that were not previously considered by the MPOs. J. and R. Marchetti concurred that US-12 and Conrad was a highly problematic intersection, and that the railroad tracks were particularly difficult to drive over. J. and R. Marchetti stated that in some areas bicyclists' ride three or four abreast on shoulders that are not wide enough to handle that capacity safely.

One Day Engagement Day at Edwardsburg High School

One of the most successful outreach strategies during the development of this plan was the one day engagement activity that transpired at Edwardsburg High School. SWMPC staff regularly reach out to high school teachers in the planning area and one teacher, Mr. Jeff Kozinski welcomed staff into his classroom for a mock TIP selection process. The students were put into small groups and given a total amount of money that could be spent; they were also given estimations of project costs such as traffic lights, resurfacing, and chip seal. All of the costs were based on project costs estimated from the 2014-2017 NATS TIP projects. The following information was collected from the students of Edwardsburg High School sophomore and junior classes and displayed in Table 64.

Table 64 - Edwardsburg High School Students Engagement Responses

Transit	Number of Times Mentioned	Bridge	Sidewalks	Number of Times Mentioned	Bicycle Facility (Trail, Path, Bike Lane)	Number of Times Mentioned	Rail Road	Number of Times Mentioned	Stop Signs/Stop Lights	Number of Times Mentioned	Roads	Number of Times Mentioned
Bus Stop on Pokagon rd.	1	No comments were received regarding bridges	Sidewalks on Grey rd	1	Non motorized Trail	4	Rail Road on US 12	2	Stop light at Conrad & Redfield	2	Adamsville Rd.	5
Transit Bus on Mason St.	1		Sidewalk from Gas Station to School	2	Add bike paths to Adamsville rd.	1	Conrad rd Rail Road Tracks	1	Stoplight at US 12 & Conrad	15	Redfield	11
Bus Shelter on US 12	1		Sidewalks nearby US 12 & M-62	1	Bike Lane U.S. 12	5	US 12 & M-62 Rail Road Tracks	1	M205 and US 12		Born St.	1
Bus Shelter on M60	1		Edwardsburg sidewalk improvements	2	Redfield	5	Fix intersection in town to make it more efficient with the train tracks.	1	Stop lights US 12 & Gurnwood	2	M-62	3
Bus Shelter in Niles	1		Sidewalks Elkhart rd.	1	Conrad Road	2			5 Points		M205	2
Bus shelter at Marathon Gas Station	2		New Sidewalks should be added to make walking more convenient for people. They will be added by Lunkers and the gas station so people can walk from place to place.	1	Bike lane on Beebe rd. because the street riders will have an easier time and enjoy the scenery.	1			Traffic Signals at intersection of M-62 & US 12		US 12	14
M-62 and Redfield	1		Redfield from Fir to Conrad	1	Non motorized Trail 5 miles Elk rd to Cass	1			Pine Lake and Daily		Elkhart road	18
Bus Stop at Lunkers	1		3 miles of sidewalks on May St.	1	Bike Trail 2 miles Elkhart rd.	1			US 12 and Adamsville		Decatur Road	2

Transit	Number of Times Mentioned	Bridge	Sidewalks	Number of Times Mentioned	Bicycle Facility (Trail, Path, Bike Lane)	Number of Times Mentioned	Rail Road	Number of Times Mentioned	Stop Signs/Stop Lights	Number of Times Mentioned	Roads	Number of Times Mentioned
Bus Shelter on US 12			Sidewalk on US12 from Pre-School to the Gas Station		Bike Lane Conrad & US 12	1			Pine Lake & Dailey Stop Light		May Street	4
Edwardsburg & Transit Bus Replacement									Traffic Light at Gumwood and US 12		Conrad	3
Bus shelters in Dowagiac, Cass, Edwardsburg, and other cities in Cass County need bus shelters	1		Sidewalks on May St. to go to the Golf Course	1	Bike Lane on May rd.	1						
Bus Shelter on US 12 Eagle Lake	1		2 miles of sidewalk on Elkhart rd.	1	Bike Lane on May rd. for 1 mile starting at Conrad	1			Add stoplight on U.S. 12 at intersection with Section Street.		Dailey Road	4
Bus shelter by McDonalds and add a bus in Edwardsburg.	1				6 Miles of Bike trail along Saint Joseph River in Niles. This could benefit bikers and also have a scenic trail it would be good for the community. This might help people be more active.	1			Add stoplight at Pine Lake rd and Dailey Rd.		Ironwood	1
Bus Shelter by Edwardsburg School	1				Bike Lane on Bertrand St. Trail	1			Stop Light at the intersection of M-62 and Redfield.		Calvin Center Road	1
Purchase 2 transit buses and also 2 bus shelters. People will be able transport from place to place easier.	1				Bike Path on May St. for 1 mile	1			Daily and M60 add stoplight		M-60	2
Transit bus for the working class	1				Bike rout on Cass Road from Calvin Hill St. to Redfield	1			Signal on Corner of Old 205 & US 12		Gumwood Road	4
Build a bus shelter for transit bus	1				Bike trail around Diamond Lake	1					Pine Lake Street	3

Transit	Number of Times Mentioned	Bridge	Sidewalks	Number of Times Mentioned	Bicycle Facility (Trail, Path, Bike Lane)	Number of Times Mentioned	Rail Road	Number of Times Mentioned	Stop Signs/Stop Lights	Number of Times Mentioned	Roads	Number of Times Mentioned
Transit would stretch to Cass and Dowagiac	1				Bike lane leading into Granger	1					Brownsville Road	2
Additional buses	6				Non-motorized trails for May St.	1					Bell Road	2
Bus stops in Niles, Edwardsburg, Cass, Dowagiac, Marcellus and Vandalia	1				Center of Edwardsburg to Eagle Lake	1					Fir Road	3
					Non-motorized bike trails around the lakes should be added.	1					Beebe Road	1
					from Eagle Lake to Lake Michigan	1						
					Union Rd. to Pike Lake Street bike Trails	1						

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Other Comments from Edwardsburg Students

- Improving transportation will help bring tourists to Edwardsburg and help make our community more efficient and involved.
- The schools will benefit with non-motorized trails because kids will be able to transport to and from school easier.
- Better road system is going to satisfy everyone. These roads are vastly used on a daily basis.

Comments Specifically Related to Safety

- Put a traffic sign on Conrad & May St because that area is prone to a lot of accidents.
- Elkhart road is heavily traveled, with a lot of travelers.
- Getting new sidewalks for Edwardsburg would be beneficial because it would make the town look nice. It would also be safer for students to get from place to place. More students could come to Edwardsburg schools.
- Repaving Redfield drive and Adamsville will provide locals with safer and more durable road conditions.
- Help make transportation more efficient and safer for locals.
- Making transportation easier and safer by adding stoplights and making roads easier to drive on by resurfacing them.
- Sidewalk on US12 from Pre-School to the Gas Station this will allow for safer travel for kids to walk.
- Sidewalks on Elkhart rd will keep people safer for people who live there.
- By improving the roads will make the community safer and it will be pleasant to travel.

CONSULTATION

Previous transportation legislation, SAFETEA-LU, required that MPOs use a consultation process, which is a separate and discrete process from the general public participation process, this process was continued with MAP-21 legislation. This process is meant as a way to better consider the needs of consulted agencies and to eliminate or minimize conflicts with other agencies' plans. By consulting with agencies in this manner during the development of this plan, these groups can compare potential project lists and maps with other natural and resource inventories. The MPO will be able to compare the Draft LRP to any documents received and make adjustments as necessary to achieve great compatibility.

Legislation suggests that contacts with State, local, Tribes, and private agencies responsible for the following areas be contacted:

- Economic growth and development
- Environmental protection
- Airport operators
- Freight movement
- Land use management
- Natural resources

- Conservation
- Historical preservation
- Human service transportation providers

Because the SWMPC is both a regional planning agency and a MPO, relationships with agencies responsible for cultural, land use, and environmental planning are already established. The SWMPC has a wide range of planning expertise which regularly cross-cuts with transportation planning. Expanding the scope of transportation planning to ensure the inclusion of the range of stakeholders and partners will only enhance the quality of the region's transportation plans and projects. A copy of these materials can be found in Appendix E. Table 65 outlines the contacts that were mailed items as part of the consultation portion of the planning process. Table 66 outlines the media contacts that were contacted as part of the process.

Agencies with which the SWMPC requested consultation were sent the following in the mail:

1. A letter explaining the transportation planning consultation process according to MAP-21 legislation.
2. The NATS role in this process.
3. A draft list of 2040 LRP proposed transportation projects.
4. A map displaying proposed projects.
5. Directions on how they might provide their input.

Table 65 - Consultation Contact List

Consultation Contact Name	Specific Department	Community	State
Abonmarche Consultants, Inc.		Benton Harbor	Michigan
Area Agency on Aging Region VI		St Joseph	Michigan
Berrien Bus		Berrien Springs	Michigan
Berrien Co. Community Development		St. Joseph	Michigan
Berrien County	Road Commission	Benton Harbor	Michigan
Berrien County	Parks & Recreation	St. Joseph	Michigan
Berrien County	Administration	St. Joseph	Michigan
Berrien County	Health Department	Benton Harbor	Michigan
Berrien County Board of Commissioners		St. Joseph	Michigan

Consultation Contact Name	Specific Department	Community	State
Berrien County Conservation District		Berrien Springs	Michigan
Berrien County Drain Commissioner		St. Joseph	Michigan
Berrien County Historical Association		Berrien Springs	Michigan
Berrien County Planning Commission		St. Joseph	Michigan
Berrien County Public Transit		Berrien Springs	Michigan
Berrien Regional Education Service Agency		Berrien Springs	Michigan
Bertrand Township		Buchanan	Michigan
Brandywine Public Schools		Niles	Michigan
Buchanan Community Schools		Buchanan	Michigan
Buchanan Dial a Ride		St. Joseph	Michigan
Buchanan Township		Buchanan	Michigan
CARE-A-VAN		Coloma	Michigan
Cass County	Public Works	Cassopolis	Michigan
Cass County	Road Commission	Cassopolis	Michigan
Cass County	Planning Commission	Cassopolis	Michigan
Cass County	Parks and Recreation	Cassopolis	Michigan
Cass County	Conservation District	Cassopolis	Michigan
Cass County	Board of Commissioners	Cassopolis	Michigan
Cass County	Water Resource Commission	Cassopolis	Michigan

Consultation Contact Name	Specific Department	Community	State
Cass County	Planning Commission	Cassopolis	Michigan
Cass County	Administration	Cassopolis	Michigan
Cass County Council on Aging		Cassopolis	Michigan
Cass County Historical Commission	c/o Cass District Library	Cassopolis	Michigan
Cass County Transportation Authority		Cassopolis	Michigan
Cassopolis/Vandalia Chamber of Commerce		Cassopolis	Michigan
City of Buchanan		Buchanan	Michigan
City of Niles		Niles	Michigan
City of Niles	Dept of Public Works	Niles	Michigan
Consumer's Energy Inc		Covert	Michigan
Consumers Power Company		Kalamazoo	Michigan
Cornerstone Alliance		Benton Harbor	Michigan
Department of Human Services	Berrien County	Benton Harbor	Michigan
Department of Human Services	Cass County	Cassopolis	Michigan
Disability Network of SW MI - Berrien/Cass		St Joseph	Michigan
Edwardsburg Chamber of Commerce		Edwardsburg	Michigan
Edwardsburg Public Schools		Edwardsburg	Michigan
Federal Highway Administration	Michigan Division	Lansing	Michigan
Fernwood Botanical Gardens		Niles	Michigan
Four Flags Area Chamber of Commerce		Niles	Michigan

Consultation Contact Name	Specific Department	Community	State
Friends of Harbor Country Trails			Michigan
Friends of the McCoy's Creek Trail		Buchanan	Michigan
Friends of the St Joseph River		Athens	Michigan
Greater Niles-Buchanan	Committee on Aging	Buchanan	Michigan
Howard Township		Niles	Michigan
Lake Michigan College	Bertrand Crossing	Niles	Michigan
Lewis Cass ISD		Cassopolis	Michigan
Mason Township		Edwardsburg	Michigan
MDEQ	Air Quality Division	Lansing	Michigan
MDEQ	Head Quarters	Lansing	Michigan
MDEQ	Surface Water Quality Division	Plainwell	Michigan
MDEQ Kalamazoo	Water Division	Kalamazoo	Michigan
MDOT	Coloma TSC	Benton Harbor	Michigan
MDOT	Southwest Region	Kalamazoo	Michigan
MDOT	Intermodal Section	Lansing	Michigan
MDOT	Urban/Public Transportation	Lansing	Michigan
MDOT	Statewide Planning	Lansing	Michigan
MDOT	Multi-Modal Transportation Services Bureau	Lansing	Michigan
MDOT	Bureau of Transportation Planning	Lansing	Michigan
MDOT	Non-Motorized Transportation	Lansing	Michigan
MDOT	Passenger Trans Division	Lansing	Michigan

Consultation Contact Name	Specific Department	Community	State
Merritt Engineering Inc		Stevensville	Michigan
MI Dept of Agriculture	Environmental Stewardship Division	Lansing	Michigan
MI Dept of Agriculture & Rural Development		Lansing	Michigan
MI Dept of Natural Resources	Lansing	Lansing	Michigan
MI Dept of Natural Resources	Plainwell	Plainwell	Michigan
Michiana Area Council of Governments		South Bend	Michigan
Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers		Livonia	Michigan
Michigan Economic Develop Corp		Lansing	Michigan
Michigan House 59th District		Lansing	Michigan
Michigan House 78th District		Lansing	Michigan
Michigan House 79th District		Lansing	Michigan
Michigan Senate 21st District	Lansing Office	Lansing	Michigan
Michigan Works	Benton Harbor	Benton Harbor	Michigan
Milton Township		Niles	Michigan
MSU Extension	Berrien County	Benton Harbor	Michigan
MSU Extension	Cass County	Cassopolis	Michigan
National Railroad Passenger Corp		Niles	Michigan
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Berrien County	Berrien Springs	Michigan
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Cass County	Cassopolis	Michigan
Niles Charter Township		Niles	Michigan
Niles Dial A Ride Transportation		Niles	Michigan
Niles Public Schools		Niles	Michigan

Consultation Contact Name	Specific Department	Community	State
Ontwa Township		Edwardsburg	Michigan
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians		Dowagiac	Michigan
Preserve the Dunes		Riverside	Michigan
South Bend Regional Airport		South Bend	Michigan
Southwest MI Econ Growth Alliance		Niles	Michigan
Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency		Benton Harbor	Michigan
Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy		Portage	Michigan
Southwestern Michigan College		Dowagiac	Michigan
Southwestern Michigan College	Niles Area Campus	Niles	Michigan
State Historic Preservation Office	Preserve America	Lansing	Michigan
SW MI Home Builders Association		Berrien Springs	Michigan
The Nature Conservancy		Comstock Park	Michigan
Transpo		South Bend	Indiana
Van Buren/Cass District Health Dept.		Hartford	Michigan
Village of Edwardsburg		Edwardsburg	Michigan
Wightman & Associates, Inc		Benton Harbor	Michigan

Table 66 - Media Contacts

Last Name	First Name	Entity Name	City	State	Zip
Aiken	Scott	Herald Palladium	St Joseph	MI	49085
Albertson	Cyndi	Courier Leader	Paw Paw	MI	49079
Ast	Rick	Herald Palladium	St Joseph	MI	49085
Bayer	Karl	Tri-City Record	Watervliet	MI	49098
Bennett	Michael	Leader Publications	Niles	MI	49120
Boers	Dan	WOTV CHANNEL 8	Grand Rapids	MI	49503
BonFiglio	Jeremy	Herald Palladium	St Joseph	MI	49085
Borrelli	Robert	WSBT Radio NewsTalk 960	Mishawaka	IN	46545
Bourden	Dee	The Elkhart Truth	Elkhart	IN	46515
Breckenridge	Lejene	South Bend Tribune	South Bend	IN	466261001
Brent	Bill	Andrews University	Berrien Springs	MI	49103
Broderick	Melissa	WWMT-CHANNEL 3 NEWS	Kalamazoo	MI	49001
Brown	Dave	Herald Palladium	St Joseph	MI	49085
Brown	Sally	WSBT Radio NewsTalk 960	Mishawaka	IN	46545
Burdorf	Lee	WVPE-88.1 FM	Elkhart	IN	46514
Burkert	Becky	South Haven Tribune	South Haven	MI	49090
Callas	George	WNDV U93	South Bend	IN	46628

Last Name	First Name	Entity Name	City	State	Zip
Ciokajlo	Mickey	Kalamazoo Gazette	Kalamazoo	MI	49007
Cogswell	Dennis	Herald Palladium	St Joseph	MI	49085
Dalgleish	Jim	Herald Palladium	St Joseph	MI	49085
Director	News	WRHC - Radio Harbor Country	Three Oaks	MI	49128
Drzick	David	WWMT-CHANNEL 3 NEWS	Kalamazoo	MI	49001
Dudgeon	Sharon	Andrews University	Berrien Springs	MI	49103
Duhn	Dee Dee	New Buffalo Times	New Buffalo	MI	49117
Durk	Joe	New Buffalo Times	New Buffalo	MI	49117
Dusla	Rosaline	Decatur Republican	Decatur	MI	49045
East	Zack	WCXT 98.3 the Coast	St. Joseph	MI	49085
Eby	John	Dowagiac Daily News	Dowagiac	MI	49047
Ericksen	Beth	Kalamazoo Gazette	Kalamazoo	MI	49007
Flo	Freddie	WVBH 105.3	Benton Harbor	MI	49022
Frey	Marilyn	Herald Palladium	St Joseph	MI	49085
Garrod	Paul	Courier Leader	Paw Paw	MI	49079
Gehl	Pam	South Haven Tribune	South Haven	MI	49090
Giczi	Greg	WNIT-TV 34	South Bend	IN	466347034
Gifford	Jim	WSJM NEWS	St Joseph	MI	49085

Last Name	First Name	Entity Name	City	State	Zip
Goshert	Jerry	Farmer's Exchange	New Paris	IN	46533
Green	Andrew	WSJM NEWS	St Joseph	MI	49085
Greenberger	Ed	WSJV-TV CHANNEL 28 NEWS	Elkhart	IN	46517
Grillot	Jesus	New/Nueva Opinion	Battle Creek	MI	49016
Haight	Debbie	Herald Palladium	St Joseph	MI	49085
Halling	Gregory	The Elkhart Truth	Elkhart	IN	46515
Harmsen	Scott	Kalamazoo Gazette	Kalamazoo	MI	49007
Haroldson	Tom	Kalamazoo Gazette	Kalamazoo	MI	49007
Hartzell	Ted	Herald Palladium	St Joseph	MI	49085
Heibutzki	Ralph	Herald Palladium	St Joseph	MI	49085
Hughes	Andy	Farmer's Exchange	New Paris	IN	46533
Hunt	Anthony	WVPE-88.1 FM	Elkhart	IN	46514
Jackson	Paul	Business Direct Weekly	Kalamazoo	MI	49007
Jewell	Steve	Herald Palladium	St Joseph	MI	49085
Johnson	David	Harbor Country News	New Buffalo	MI	49117
Johnson	Katie	Niles Daily Star	Niles	MI	49120
Jones	Al	Kalamazoo Gazette	Kalamazoo	MI	49007
King	Marshall	The Elkhart Truth	Elkhart	IN	46515

Last Name	First Name	Entity Name	City	State	Zip
Kinnaman	Linda	South Haven Local Observer		MI	
Layendecker	Paul	WYFZ 97.5 Y Country	St. Joseph	MI	49085
Layne	Brenda	WSJM NEWS	St Joseph	MI	49085
Lehnert	Dick	Fruitgrowers News	Sparta	MI	49345
Leitz	Ron	Business Direct Weekly	Kalamazoo	MI	49007
Lersten	Andrew	Herald Palladium	St Joseph	MI	49085
Lorenz	Susan	Herald Palladium	St Joseph	MI	49085
Mann	John	WSBT-TV (Channel 22)	Mishawaka	IN	46545
McCallum	Matt	Fruitgrowers News	Sparta	MI	49345
McDonough	Jessie	ABC-57 News	South Bend	IN	46635
Moisenko	Angela	WNIT-TV 34	South Bend	IN	466347034
Montgomery	Bob	WHFB Radio Stations	Benton Harbor	MI	49022
Moody	Pat	WSJM NEWS	St Joseph	MI	49085
Moormann	David	Decatur Republican	Decatur	MI	49045
Moormann	Ramona	Marcellus News	Marcellus	MI	49067
Mumford	Lou	South Bend Tribune	South Bend	IN	466261001
Newsroom	BCR	Berrien County Record	Buchanan	MI	49107

Last Name	First Name	Entity Name	City	State	Zip
Olson	Gayle	WIRX Rock 107	St. Joseph	MI	49085
Parker	Rose	Kalamazoo Gazette	Kalamazoo	MI	49007
Patzer	Sue	WYZ 97.5 Y Country	St. Joseph	MI	49085
Pease	Mike	WNDU-TV (Channel 16)	South Bend	IN	46634
Pienktka	Floyd	Western Michigan University	Kalamazoo	MI	49008
Pierce	Rebecca	Kalamazoo Gazette	Kalamazoo	MI	49007
Pines	Joyce	Kalamazoo Gazette	Kalamazoo	MI	49007
Pullano	Kathy	Journal Era	Berrien Springs	MI	49103
Pullano	Tim	Journal Era	Berrien Springs	MI	49103
RAGZ		WAOR 95.3	Mishawaka	IN	46545
Rietsma	Jef	Kalamazoo Gazette	Kalamazoo	MI	49007
Rite	Karen	WNDV U93	South Bend	IN	46628
Roberts	Jim	WHFB Radio Stations	Benton Harbor	MI	49022
Robins	Andy	WMUK-FM	Kalamazoo	MI	49008
Rohman	Katie	Leader Publications	Niles	MI	49120
Ryder	Jeff	WSMK 99.1	Niles	MI	49120
Sagar	Christine	WSJM NEWS	St Joseph	MI	49085
Sauer	Meg	WSBT-TV (Channel 22)	Mishawaka	IN	46545
Sheldon	Spencer	WSJM NEWS	St Joseph	MI	49085
Shields	Rick	WKZO AM 590	Kalamazoo	MI	49006

Last Name	First Name	Entity Name	City	State	Zip
Simko	Mary	WSBT Radio NewsTalk 960	Mishawaka	IN	46545
Singleton	Ron	WVBH 105.3	Benton Harbor	MI	49022
Smith	Jeff	Andrews University	Berrien Springs	MI	49103
Smith	Rod	Kalamazoo Gazette	Kalamazoo	MI	49007
Stanley	Bill	WHFB Radio Stations	Benton Harbor	MI	49022
Stewart	Heather	WSJV-TV CHANNEL 28 NEWS	Elkhart	IN	46517
Swidwa	Julie	Herald Palladium	St Joseph	MI	49085
Taylor	Marci	WSMK 99.1	Niles	MI	49120
Thomas	Howard	Kalamazoo Gazette	Kalamazoo	MI	49007
Tobias	Princella	Benton Spirit	Benton Harbor	MI	49023
Van Dyke	Robin	WCSY-103.7 COSY-FM	South Haven	MI	49090
Vitale	Phil	Cass County Neighbors	Cassopolis	MI	49031
WNDU	News Director	WNDU-TV (Channel 16)	South Bend	IN	46634
Woodworth	Klay	Western Michigan University	Kalamazoo	MI	49008

CONSULTATION COMMENTS RECEIVED

COMMENT #1 - *Thank you for your May 30, 2013, letter allowing the Department of Environmental Quality (Department) the opportunity to comment on your LRP. There were only a few comments made from the six divisions within our Department. If you are not familiar those divisions (offices) they are as follows: Air Quality Division (AQD), Resource and Redevelopment Division (RRD), Water Resources Division (WRD), Office*

of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance (ODWMA) and the Office of Waste Management and Radiological Protection (OWMRP). As you might expect these five divisions handle a wide range of programs. Staff in the AQD made the general comment that when grinding or crushing concrete adequate dust control measures must be in place. If you have specific questions with regard to this, please contact Mary Douglas, Kalamazoo District Supervisor, and AQD at 269.567.3545. Staff in the RRD made not comment but did offer the following link to the Environmental Mapper, which can be checked at any time to determine if there are known sites of environmental contamination in a specific project area. That link is: <http://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/environmentalmapper/> if you have additional questions with regard to RRD programs you can contact either Frank Ballo, Kalamazoo District Supervisor, RRD, at 269.567.3531 or David Heywood, Kalamazoo Assistant District Supervisor, RRD at 269.567.3522. Staff in the OWMRP remind you to please dispose of solid waste from these projects appropriately. If you have specific questions with regard to waste disposal please contact me at the number below. Additional contacts in our office are: Kameron Jordan, Kalamazoo District Supervisor, WRD, at 269.567.3565, or Jerrod Sanders, Kalamazoo Assistant District Supervisor, WRD at 269.567.3579. Amy Lachance, Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids District Supervisor, ODWMA at 616.490.9590. Lou Schineman, Lansing District Supervisor (Kalamazoo Field Office) OOGM at 517.241.1531.

I wish you the best of luck on the success of your projects.

*Fred L. Sellers
District Supervisor
Kalamazoo & Grand Rapids DO
Office of Waste Management and Radiological Protection
Kalamazoo MWF
Grand Rapids T Th
For all Phone Contacts Please Call
Cell 269.569.1476*

RESPONSE - Mr. Sellers,

Thank you for your comments regarding the NATS 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. Our committees heard your comments and received a copy of those comments at their monthly meeting on June 25, 2013. Your comments have been included in our transportation documents and will be used to ensure that any work uses the proper control measures to minimize impacts to our sensitive resources which are abundant in the planning region. In addition, my members were not aware of the Environmental Mapper feature that your agency offers. We will be working with all of our constructing agencies to ensure that all mitigation efforts are taken to preserve and limit any impacts to our resources. We will also be updating our contact listing with the information that you have provided to us. Thank you again for your time and comment during this process.

COMMENT #2

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft documents for your MPO regions. Both of the LRPs and project lists look current and accurate from the MDOT Office of Rail prospective. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

*NATS **Projects:** Office of Rail has no comments on the projects at this time. Please make sure necessary coordination with AMTRAK and MDOT is occurring for the projects involving railroad crossings.*

***LRP:** The sections on rail look fine, no comment at this time.*

*Daniel Harris SSO Manager Office of Rail
MDOT*

*425 West Ottawa P.O. Box 30050
Lansing, MI 48909
Office: 517-335-1005
Cell: 517-896-2799
Email: harrisd16@michigan.gov*

RESPONSE - Mr. Harris,

Thank you for your comments regarding the NATS 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. Our committees heard your comments and received a copy of those comments at their monthly meeting on June 25, 2013. Your comments have been included in our transportation documents and will be used to ensure that we continue to coordinate and collaborate with our many partners at the DOT including rail. Thank you again for your time and comment during this process

COMMENT #3

Hello Suzann,

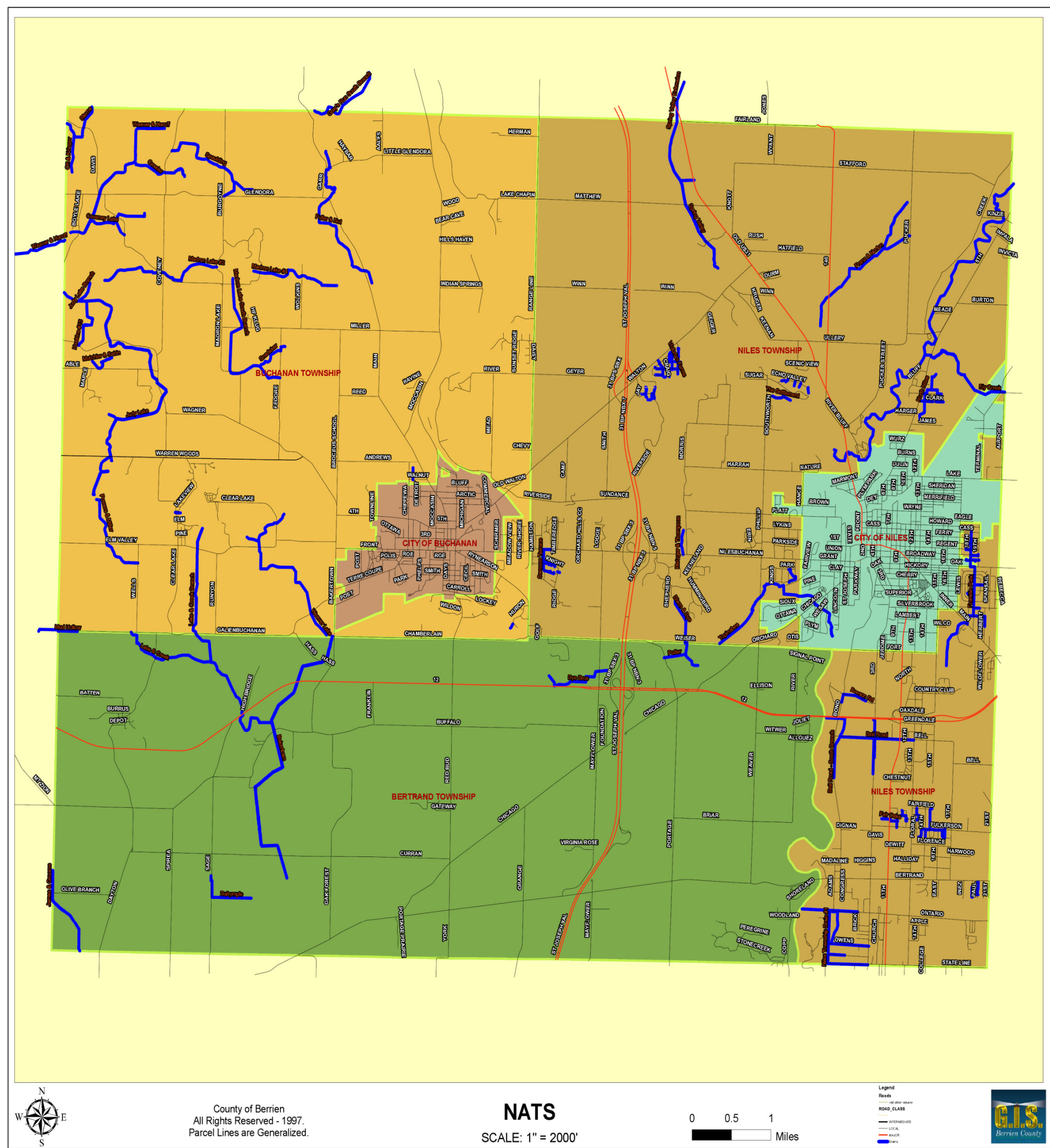
Per our phone conversation this morning and a phone conversation with Lex Winans, Director of GIS/Land Description, Lex Winans will electronically email you on Friday, June 14th jpeg copies of the maps covering the northern and southern locations as indicated in your study. The maps will include a drain layer that will show all the locations of all the county drains under the jurisdiction of the Berrien County Drain Commissioner, Roger Zilke. Please be mindful of the location of the drains during your planning process for the future, proposed projects. There are drains that will be affected by your noted projects. Please contact the drain commissioner prior to the actual commencement of the work. It is my understanding you will forward the maps(once received from Mr. Winans) for the Twin Cities area to Mr. Gautam Mani. If you have any questions after reviewing the maps and during your planning process, please contact our office at 269-983-7111 ext. 8261.

Thanks you

Anne Hendrix

Berrien County Drain Department

Map 39 - Berrien County Drain Map



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RESPONSE - Ms. Hendix,

Thank you for your comments regarding the NATS 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. Our committees heard your comments and received a copy of those comments at their monthly meeting on June 25, 2013. Your comments have been included in our transportation documents and will be used to ensure that county drains are paid special attention to in the planning, designing, construction, and maintenance of transportation infrastructure throughout Berrien County. In addition, we thank you for sending along maps that note where these sensitive drains are located. Thank you again for your time and comment during this process.

COMMENT #4

Greetings:

The proposed projects look reasonable. There are many roads and infrastructures in those area in need of repair.

Sherman Reed

District Conservationist

3334 Edgewood Dr.

Berrien Springs, MI 49103-9553

Office Phone: (269) 471-9111 ext. 101

Office Fax: (269) 471-3773

RESPONSE - Mr. Reed,

Thank you for your comments regarding the NATS 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. Our committees heard your comments and received a copy of those comments at their monthly meeting on June 25, 2013. Your comments have been included in our transportation documents and will be used to ensure that we continue to maintain and make improvements to our transportation infrastructure. Thank you again for your time and comment during this process.

COMMENT #5

Transportation is critical to living a full, engaged life in our communities. Roads, public transit systems, and non-motorized options are but a few of the essential pieces in a vital transportation network. Disability Network Southwest Michigan recognizes that each of these options is important to the mobility of all people in the NATS service area, including people with disabilities. People with disabilities often do not drive due to disability or economic status. It's been our experience that a community that heavily focuses on road improvement to the exclusion of other modes leaves many people with few ways to truly be a part of their communities. To be able to survive in a community, people must be able to get to the grocery store, the bank, and the doctor. To be able to thrive in a community, people must be able to connect and engage with other people and contribute meaningfully in their community. Every one of these essential activities requires meaningful motorized and non-motorized transportation networks.

While the NATS 2040 long range plan offers multiple improvements of the motorized network, only a few projects that appear to include non-motorized components. It is promising that non-motorized aspects are part of some projects, and including more non-motorized elements and features in other projects would offer even greater options for mobility in other areas. After all, people have need to travel to every part of our community or we would not have roads there! There are a variety of design options to ensure that all roads, including rural roads, can be used by drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. The State of Michigan strongly supports “Complete Streets” in our communities, and encourages communities to design, build, and improve streets so they can be used all. Disability Network Southwest Michigan advocates that non-motorized improvements are incorporated into existing project plans, and new projects that increase non-motorized options are prioritized in the planning process. In this way, the Niles Area Transportation Study Long Range Plan can enhance the mobility of all users and ensure that the 2040 Long Range Plan contributes to a truly inclusive, livable region.

*Joanne Johnson, MSW
Community Education and Systems Advocate
Disability Network Southwest Michigan
2900 Lakeview Avenue
St. Joseph, MI 49085
269-982-7761
www.dnswm.org*

RESPONSE - Ms. Johnson,

Thank you for your comments regarding the NATS 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. Our committees heard your comments and received a copy of those comments at their monthly meeting on June 25, 2013. Your comments have been included in our transportation documents and will be used to ensure that non-motorized transportation among all other transportation elements are considered. Thank you again for your time and comment during this process.