

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

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

1:30 pm

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

**Web:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9347787681?pwd=a3MrVUUxa3VMSmIPWXJLeU5NUzNjQT09>

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

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## AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Changes to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Approve Minutes from January 25, 2022 Meeting (*enclosed*) *Action*
5. SWMPC Staff Report
6. Transit Updates
7. Local Road Agency Updates
8. MDOT Updates
9. New Business (*enclosed*) *Action*
  - FY 2022 MDOT Project Amendments
  - Approval of 2023-2026 MDOT Projects
  - Approval of 2023-2026 Transit Projects
10. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment
11. Adjournment

Comments can be sent prior to the meeting to Brandon Kovnat at [kovnatb@swmpc.org](mailto: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](mailto:gallagherk@swmpc.org)

# NILES BUCHANAN CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (NATS)

## Joint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Policy Committee Minutes

**January 25, 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											
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	(vacant)		x	A											
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Evan Smith	x		A											
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	Eric Lester, M.D.		x	V											
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (Policy)	(vacant)		x	A											
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (TAC)	Kevin Stack	X		A											
Bertrand Township	Butch Payton	x	x	V											
Buchanan Township	Lynn Ferris	x	x	A											
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (1)	Robert Benjamin		x	A											
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	Roseann Marchetti		x	P											
Cass Co. Planning Commission	(vacant)	x													
Cass Co. Road Comm. (Policy)	Sandra Seanor		x	A											
Cass Co. Road Comm. (TAC)	Joe Bellina (TAC Chair)	x		A											
City of Buchanan	Don Ryman		x	A											
City of Buchanan	Heather Grace	x		A											
City of Niles (1)	Georgia Boggs		x	A											
City of Niles (2)	Serita Mason		x	V											
City of Niles (3)	Jessica Nelson		x	A											
City of Niles Community Dev. Director	(vacant)	x													
City of Niles Dial-A-Ride Transit	Kelly Getman-Dissette	x	x	V											
City of Niles Public Works Dir./Airport	Joe Ray	x		V											
Howard Township	Bill Kasprzak	x	x	P											
Kinexus	(vacant)	x													
Mason Township	Doug Feters	x	x	A											
MDOT - Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	V											
MDOT - Southwest Region	Brian Sanada	x	x	P											
MDOT - Southwest Region (Alternate)	Amy Lipset	Alt	Alt	A											
MDOT - Transportation Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	V											
Milton Township	Susan Flowers	x	x	A											
Niles Charter Township	Richard Cooper (P. Ch.)	x	x	P											
Ontwa Township	Dawn Bolock	x	x	P											
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians	(vacant)	x	x												
Village of Edwardsburg	Dennis Peak	x	x	A											
Federal Highway Administration	Andy Pickard	NV	NV	A											
Federal Transit Administration	Susan Weber	NV	NV	A											
EGLE - Air Quality	Breanna Bukowski	NV		A											
MDOT - Modeling	Jon Roberts	NV		A											
MDOT - Office of Passenger Trans.	Fred Featherly	NV		A											
Michiana Area Council of Governments	Caitlin Stevens	NV	NV	A											
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	x	x	P											
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Brandon Kovnat	NV	NV	P											

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

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

Technical Advisory vice chair, Joe Ray, 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 September 28, 2021, combined Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meeting. Made by Bill Kasprzak seconded by Roseann Marchetti. **Motion approved.**

5. **SWMPC Staff Report**

Kovnat gave a summary of the 2021 obligation report, which shows how much federal transportation funds were obligated in Fiscal Year 2021.

Gallagher discussed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). This is the new Transportation bill, which was passed November 15, 2021, and replaces the FAST Act. She said that more information could be found at <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/> she explained that NATS was allocated an additional \$155,517 from the IIJA in 2022. Estimates for 2023-2026 have not yet been released.

6. **Local Agency Updates and Amendments.**

6.1. **Public Transit:** Getman-Dissette said Niles Dial a Ride has been providing service to Buchanan as of October 1, 2021. She said they have been short staffed for a while and it's gotten worse due to COVID.

6.2. **Local Road Projects**

**Cass County Road Commission:** Design is beginning for the Mason Street and Reum Road projects.

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

**City of Niles:** The 13<sup>th</sup> Street and Lake Street projects were had a combined bid with the low bid nearly identical to the programmed amount.

6.3. **TAP Projects:** Kovnat reminded the committees that TAP stands for Transportation Alternative Program, and funds non-motorized transportation projects. TAP is split between statewide competitive funds and the NATS a direct allocation. Currently NATS has two TAP projects programmed.

**Edwardsburg TAP Project:** The project was originally proposed to use NATS TAP funds on a pedestrian crossing in Edwardsburg which would connect the Edwardsburg Schools to a path on US-12 leading to the Edwardsburg Sports Complex. The School district has conducted a traffic study and has decided to route all pick up/drop off traffic to a single intersection at US-12 & Section St. This plan now makes the Section Street intersection meet the MDOT signal warrants. MDOT plans to fund and construct a full traffic signal at the intersection including a pedestrian crossing. The current path on US-12 ends at Claire Street. To make this work for non-motorized users, the path on US-12 will need to be extended from Claire St. to Section St.

Edwardsburg and the Cass County Road Commission are proposing to reallocate the NATS TAP funds of \$92,249 from the pedestrian signal to extending the non-motorized path. The design for the path has not yet begun therefore total cost and local match amount is not yet known, but the rough estimate is that the total cost would be around \$120,000. Kovnat said that the current amendments were only to cancel the TAP funded signal. Once costs are known another monument will be needed to add the non-motorized path.

**Buchanan TAP Project:** NATS had awarded TAP funds to Buchanan to build a non-motorized path along Schirmer Parkway. The city has been working with MDOT and a local trail committee on a final plan. The path called the McCoy Creek Trail Extension will continue the McCoy Creek trail from its current trail head along Schirmer road, then follow River/Walton Road across the St. Joseph River to a trail head at the River St. Joe Brewery. The project will use NATS TAP and has been conditionally awarded statewide competitive TAP. NATS committees will need to add this project to the TIP, now that the plan is complete.

## **7. MDOT Updates and Amendments**

There was a question about whether MDOT was still going to resurface M-51 since they had done work on it fairly recently. Smit responded that the most recent resurfacing of M-51 was only heavy maintenance work; the proposed project will be longer lasting repair.

A new signal optimization project was presented. Smith explained that the project was not to replace equipment but to work on signal programing to improve corridor timing.

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve all of the Amendments to the NATS 202-2023 Transportation Improvement Program as included in the meeting packet. Made by Bill Kasprzak and seconded by Dawn Bolock.

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

## **8. New Business**

8.1. **FY 2022 Safety Targets:** Kovnat gave a presentation about the MDOT safety targets. To set targets, MDOT uses previous year's crash data as well as using Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and economic factors to predict the crashes in future years. Based on the model there should have been a reduction in fatalities due to COVID related travel reductions. This did not occur (both statewide and nationally), and researchers are still working to understand what is occurring.

Gallagher said that NATS has an option to set their own target is they could show how they were set. The other option is for NATS to support the statewide targets which would not incur any penalty to TwinCATS if the state fails to meet the targets and requires no local data.

**Motion** by the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the resolution to adopt and support the 2022 statewide safety targets as presented. 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 Roseann Marchetti and seconded by Brian Sanada. **Motion approved.**

**Approval of 2023-2026 Surface transportation Projects:** Kovnat said that the Transportation Improvement program (TIP) was a listing of all federal funded road and transit projects within an MPO planning boundary. He then showed the 2024-2026 funding for the Surface transportation Program (STP) which NATS is directly allocated. He said these funds are based on estimates from the fall and do not represent the current IJJA allocations. Kovnat then reminded the committees about the call for project process. A scoring methodology was approved by NATS in September 2021. Then a project review Subcommittee met in October to discuss the scored applications. This committee agreed upon a fiscally constrained list of projects to recommend to NATS for approval which was included in the meeting packet. The projects not recommended are included in an illustrative list which used if additional funds become available before the next call for projects. The illustrative list is ranked by score but there was an agreement to hold another meeting to program projects based on the IJJA funding amounts.

**Motion** by the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee:

- Include the FY 2023 projects in the NATS 2020-2023 TIP in the 2023-2026 TIP
- Add the 2024-2026 recommended list of projects as presented to the 2023-2026 TIP
- Approve the ranked list of illustrative projects

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 Dawn Bolock and seconded by Roseann Marchetti. **Motion approved.**

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

Marchetti requested an update be provided about the Gumwood & Redfield St. Roundabout.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2022 at 1:30 at the Niles District Library and online via Zoom.

*Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Transportation planner*

## MDOT Amendments to the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program

Add the following projects phases to FY 2022

Job #	Project Name	Limits	Description	Phase	Federal Fund Source	Federal Budget	State Budget	Total phase Budget
214935	M-139	US-12 to M-140	Mill and Two Course Hot Mix Asphalt Overlay	PE	ST	\$876,368	\$194,332	\$1,070,700
214938	US-12	Mayflower Road to M-139	Mill and Two Course Hot Mix Asphalt Overlay	PE	NH	\$345,407	\$76,593	\$422,000
215065	US-12	over St. Joseph River	Bridge removal and replacement, scour countermeasure, Approaches	PE	BFP	\$16,370	\$3,630	\$20,000
				PES	BFP	\$1,129,530	\$250,470	\$1,380,000
214939	US-12 E	M-139 to Leet Road	Concrete Pavement Repairs	PE	NH	\$554,779	\$123,021	\$677,800
				CON	NH	\$4,993,013	\$1,107,187	\$6,100,200
202654	M-40	Various Routes in Cass County	Non-freeway signing	PE	STG	\$350,000	\$0	\$350,000

Add the Edwardsburg Non-motorized Project

Job #	Project Name	Limits	Description	Phase	Federal Fund Source	Federal Budget	Local Budget	Total phase Budget
215516	US-12 Path	Claire Street to Section Street in the Village of Edwardsburg	Construct a non-motorized path	PE	TAP	\$7,521	\$1,880	\$9,401
				CON	TAP	\$82,728	\$20,682	\$103,410

The Project will be funded by NATS allocation of TAP funds but designed by MDOT

## MDOT Projects for 2023-2026 within the Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study Boundary

### Pavement and Bridge Improvement Projects

Year	Phase	Road	Limits	Length	Project Description	Federal Fund Source	Fed Estimated Amount	State Estimated Amount	Total Phase Estimate	Total Project Estimate*
2023	ROW	M-139	US-12 to M-140	5.0	Mill and Two Course Hot Mix Asphalt Overlay	ST	\$163,700	\$36,300	\$10,185,000	\$11,465,000
2023	CON	US-12	Galien Township line to west of Mayflower Road	6.8	One Course Asphalt Resurfacing	ST	\$8,336,423	\$1,848,578	\$10,185,000	\$11,626,700
2023	CON	US-31 N	US-12 to Berrien Township	12.4	Hot Mix Asphalt Overlay	NH	\$12,850,450	\$2,849,550	\$15,700,000	\$31,000,000
2024	CON	US-31 S	US-12 to Niles/Berrien TWP Line	12.2	Hot Mix Asphalt Overlay	NH	\$14,143,680	\$3,136,320	\$17,280,000	\$34,000,000
2024	CON	US-31	Bridge under Buchanan Road in Niles Twp.	NA	Epoxy Overlay, Replace Expansion Joint, P&H Repl, Zone Paint, Approaches	NH	\$1,454,475	\$322,525	\$1,777,000	\$2,047,000
2025	CON	US-12	Mayflower Road to M-139	1.9	Mill and Two Course Hot Mix Asphalt Overlay	NH	\$3,108,663	\$689,337	\$3,798,000	\$4,220,000
2025	CON	US-12	over St. Joseph River	NA	Bridge removal and replacement, scour countermeasure, Approaches	BFP	\$10,313,101	\$2,286,900	\$12,600,001	\$14,000,000
<b>Total</b>							<b>\$50,370,492</b>	<b>\$11,169,510</b>	<b>\$71,525,001</b>	

## Traffic Flow and Safety Projects

Year	Phase	Road	Limits	Project Description	Federal Fund Source	Fed Estimated Amount	State Estimated Amount	Total Phase Estimate	Total Project Estimate*
2023	CON	US-12	East of Edwardsburg easterly to Brady Road	Shoulder widening and intersection turn lanes	HSIP	\$662,815	\$73,646	\$736,461	\$869,622
2024	CON	Regionwide	US12BR (LINCOLN) @ US12BR (GRANT), M51 (5TH) @ SYCAMORE, M62 @ US12 (MAIN), M62 @ REDFIELD RD, M62 @ ELKHART RD, M60BR (OAK) @ MAIN & 13TH ST	Modernizing signalized intersection to current standards	STG	\$1,773,148	\$0	\$1,773,148	\$3,960,771
2025	CON	M-40	Signing Upgrade, Signing Update	Non-freeway signing	STG	\$177,000	\$0	\$177,000	\$2,100,000
2024	ROW	Regionwide	US-12 @ Redbud, M-139 @ M-139	Modernize signals to current standards	STG	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,898,248
2026	CON					\$521,751	\$0	\$521,751	
2024	PE	US-12	at Beebe Road and Adamsville Road intersection in Cass County	Addition of Left turn lane and Passing Flare	HSIP	\$229,927	\$25,547	\$255,474	\$1,506,274
2025	ROW					\$4,500	\$500	\$5,000	\$1,506,274
2026	CON					\$1,121,220	\$124,580	\$1,245,800	
Total						\$4,490,361	\$224,273	\$4,714,634	



# Pavement Marking Projects funded with Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Funds

Year	Phase	Project	Location	Fed Estimated Amount	State Estimated Amount	Total Phase Estimate	Total Project Estimate*
2023	PE	Longitudinal pavement marking application	All MDOT Routes in NATS Area	\$1,278	\$142	\$1,420	\$1,990,000
2023	CON			\$253,044	\$28,116	\$281,160	
2023	PE	Special pavement marking application	All MDOT Routes in NATS Area	\$1,278	\$142	\$1,420	\$520,000
2023	CON			\$65,178	\$7,242	\$72,420	
2023	CON	pavement marking retroreflectivity readings	All MDOT Routes in NATS Area	\$1,406	\$156	\$1,562	\$11,000
2024	PE	Longitudinal pavement marking application	All MDOT Routes in NATS Area	\$1,278	\$142	\$1,420	\$2,265,000
2024	CON			\$288,189	\$32,021	\$320,210	
2024	PE	Special pavement marking application	All MDOT Routes in NATS Area	\$1,278	\$142	\$1,420	\$395,000
2024	CON			\$49,203	\$5,467	\$54,670	
2024	CON	Pavement marking retroreflectivity readings	All MDOT Routes in NATS Area	\$1,406	\$156	\$1,562	\$11,000
2025	PE	Longitudinal pavement marking application	All MDOT Routes in NATS Area	\$1,278	\$142	\$1,420	\$2,115,000
2025	CON			\$269,019	\$29,891	\$298,910	
2025	PE	Special pavement marking application	All MDOT Routes in NATS Area	\$1,278	\$142	\$1,420	\$320,000
2025	CON			\$39,618	\$4,402	\$44,020	
2025	CON	Pavement marking retroreflectivity readings	All MDOT Routes in NATS Area	\$1,406	\$156	\$1,562	\$11,000
2026	PE	Application of longitudinal pavement markings	All MDOT Routes in NATS Area	\$1,278	\$142	\$1,420	\$2,090,000
2026	CON			\$265,824	\$29,536	\$295,360	
2026	PE	Application of special pavement markings	All MDOT Routes in NATS Area	\$1,278	\$142	\$1,420	\$395,000
2026	CON			\$49,203	\$5,467	\$54,670	
2026	CON	Pavement marking retroreflectivity readings	All MDOT Routes in NATS Area	\$1,406	\$156	\$1,562	\$11,000
2025	PE	Installation of all-weather pavement markings and corrugations	M-51, M-60, M-139	\$51,799	\$5,755	\$57,554	\$2,225,000
2026	CON			\$450,000	\$50,000	\$500,000	
Total				\$1,796,925	\$199,657	\$1,996,582	

\*Total project estimate includes all phases. It may also include locations outside of NATS area.

## Niles DART Transportation Improvement Plan 2023-2026 Proposed Projects

Fiscal Year	Project Name	Primary Work Type	Project Description	Federal Cost	Federal Fund Source	State Cost	State Fund Source	Total Cost	Comments
2023	Operating Assistance	Transit operations	Public transit operations	150,000	5307	150,000	CTF	300,000	
2023	Preventive Maintenance	Transit maintenance equipment and parts	Preventive maintenance	110,000	5307	27,500	CTF	137,500	
2023	Replacement Bus	Transit vehicle additions/replacements	Replace one cutaway bus	68,000	5339	17,000	CTF	85,000	Replacing Bus 30
<b>Total</b>				<b>328,000</b>		<b>194,500</b>		<b>522,500</b>	
2024	Operating Assistance	Transit operations	Public transit operations	155,200	5307	155,200	CTF	310,400	
2024	Preventive Maintenance	Transit maintenance equipment and parts	Preventive maintenance	110,000	5307	27,500	CTF	137,500	
2024	Replacement Buses	Transit vehicle additions/replacements	Replace up to 3 2016 cutaway buses with 2024 Ford Transit vans	140,000	CMAQ	35,000	CTF	175,000	Replacing 70, 8, 9
2024	Replacement Fencing		Replace perimeter fencing and gates at DART facility	16,800	5339	4,200	CTF	21,000	
2024	Replacement Roof		Repair and replace roofing (including ventilation and ceiling insulation) over the DART maintenance garage.	36,000	5339	9,000	CTF	45,000	
<b>Total</b>				<b>458,000</b>		<b>230,900</b>		<b>622,900</b>	
2025	Operating Assistance	Transit operations	Public transit operations	160,500	5307	160,500	CTF	321,000	
2025	Preventive Maintenance	Transit maintenance equipment and parts	Preventive maintenance	110,000	5307	27,500	CTF	137,500	
2025	Replacement Bus	Transit vehicle additions/replacements	Replace one cutaway bus	72,000	5339	18,000	CTF	90,000	Replacing Bus 31
<b>Total</b>				<b>342,500</b>		<b>206,000</b>		<b>548,500</b>	
2026	Operating Assistance	Transit operations	Public transit operations	160,500	5307	160,500	CTF	321,000	
2026	Preventive Maintenance	Transit maintenance equipment and parts	Preventive maintenance	115,500	5307	28,875	CTF	144,375	
2026	Replacement Bus	Transit vehicle additions/replacements	Replace one cutaway bus	75,200	5339	18,800	CTF	94,000	Replacing Bus 32
<b>Total</b>				<b>351,200</b>		<b>208,175</b>		<b>559,375</b>	