

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

Tuesday, January 25, 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=a3MrVUUxa3VMsmlPWxJLeU5NUzNjQT09>

**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 September 28, 2021 Meeting (*enclosed*)
5. SWMPC Staff Report
6. Local Agency Project Updates (*enclosed*) (*Action*)
  - Public Transit
  - Local Road Agencies
  - Transportation Alternatives Project Updates & Amendments
7. MDOT Updates and Amendment
  - FY 2022 Projects (*enclosed*) (*Action*)
8. New Business
  - 2022 Safety Targets
  - 2024-2026 Project Approval
9. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment
10. 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

**September 28, 2021, Niles District Library & via Zoom**

NATS MEMBER ORG./POSITION	MEMBERS (2019)	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		V				V			
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	(vacant)		x												
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Evan Smith	x		A		A		A				A			
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	Eric Lester, M.D.		x	V		V		V				V			
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (Policy)	(vacant)		x												
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (TAC)	Kevin Stack	X		A		V		V				V			
Bertrand Township	Butch Payton	x	x	V		A		V				P			
Buchanan Dial-A-Ride		x	x												
Buchanan Township	Lynn Ferris	x	x	A		A		A							
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (1)	Robert Benjamin		x	V		A		A				A			
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	Roseann Marchetti		x	V		V		V				P			
Cass Co. Planning Commission	(vacant)	x													
Cass Co. Road Comm. (Policy)	Sandra Seanor		x	V		V		V				V			
Cass Co. Road Comm. (TAC)	Joe Bellina (TAC Chair)	x		V		V		V				V			
City of Buchanan	Don Ryman		x	V		V		V				V			
City of Buchanan	Heather Grace	x						V				A			
City of Niles (1)	Georgia Boggs		x	V		A						A			
City of Niles (2)	Serita Mason		x	A		V		V				V			
City of Niles (3)	Jessica Nelson		x	A		A		A				V			
City of Niles Community Dev. Director	(vacant)	x													
City of Niles Dial-A-Ride Transit	Kelly Getman-Dissette	x	x	V		V		V				V			
City of Niles Public Works Dir./Airport	Joe Ray	x		V		A		V				V			
Howard Township	Bill Kasprzak	x	x	A		V		A				P			
Kinexus	(vacant)	x													
Mason Township	Doug Feters	x	x	A				A				A			
MDOT - Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	V		V		V				V			
MDOT - Southwest Region	Brian Sanada	x	x	V		V		V				V			
MDOT - Southwest Region (Alternate)	Amy Lipset	Alt	Alt	A		A		A				A			
MDOT - Transportation Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	V		V		V				V			
Milton Township	Susan Flowers	x	x	V		A		V				V			
Niles Charter Township	Richard Cooper (P. Ch.)	x	x	V		V		V				P			
Ontwa Township	Dawn Bolock	x	x	V		V		V				V			
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians	(vacant)	x	x												
Village of Edwardsburg	Dennis Peak	x	x	A		A		A				A			
Federal Highway Administration	Andy Pickard	NV	NV	A		A		A				A			
Federal Transit Administration	Susan Weber	NV	NV	A		A		A				A			
EGLE - Air Quality	Breanna Bukowski	NV		A		A		A				A			
MDOT - Modeling	Jon Roberts	NV		A		A		A				A			
MDOT - Office of Passenger Trans.	Fred Featherly	NV		P		V		A				V			
Michiana Area Council of Governments	Caitlin Stevens	NV	NV	A		A		A				A			
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	NV	NV	P		V		V				P			
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Brandon Kovnat	NV	NV	P		V		V				V			

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

Others present: Jerrid Burdue, SWMPC; Bob Durham, Cass County Public Transit

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 May 25, 2021 combined Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meeting. Made by Sandra Seanor, and seconded by Roseann Marchetti. **Motion approved.**

5. **SWMPC Staff Report**

Gallagher gave an update on the 2024-2026 call for projects. Eighteen applications were submitted to use NATS Surface transportation funds. Other applications NATS agencies may be able to apply for are the rural task force, due Friday October 1, and the CMAQ, due Wednesday October 6.

6. **Agency and Project Updates**

6.1. **Public Transit**

**Niles Dial A Ride:** Getman-Dissette announced that Niles Dial A Ride signed an agreement with the City of Buchanan to provide transit service. Buchanan Dial A Ride will no longer be a separate agency. Service will start on Friday [October 1] with no cutbacks in service

**Cass County Public Transit:** Durham said that Cass County Transit renewed their contract with Dowagiac Dial A Ride. There has been a small increase in ridership.

6.2. **Local Road Agencies**

**Cass County Road Commission:** Bellina informed the committees that the Mason Street project has been constructed. Design will begin shortly for the 2022 projects

Bellina gave an update on the US-12/Edwardsburg project. It was originally programed as a pedestrian cording at Claire. Due to traffic back-ups at the Edwardsburg Schools, the project has changed to a traffic study for school pick up/drop off. The Edwardsburg schools have hired a consultant. The study will be funded jointly through NATS Transportation Alternative Program funds and MDOT.

**Berrien County Road Department;** Stack said that the Portage Road project was completed. They are working with the contractor to schedule work on the Walton Road Bridge.

**City of Niles:** The 13<sup>th</sup> Street and Lake Street projects will be combined into a single bid.

6.3. **MDOT**

Smith did not have anything additional updates for the FY 2021 or FY 2022 MDOT projects. Smith clarified that the work on US-12 was an asphalt overlay in 2021 and a second overlay ion 2022.

7. **New Business**

7.1. **MDOT Amendments:** Smith explained the amendment to the M-51 project. He said that there was a small portion of M-60BR where it intersects M-51 which needed repairs and it made sense to add it to the M-51 project. No cost change was requested.

**Motion** for the Technical Advisor Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the MDOT project amendment to the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program as presented. Made by Kevin Stack, and seconded by Butch Payton. **Motion approved.**

**Motion** for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Roseann Marchetti, and seconded by Sandra Seanor. **Motion approved.**

- 7.2. **2024-2026 Project Selection Scoring System:** Gallagher explained that 18 applications had been submitted with a total request of approximately \$4 million. NATS is only allocated approximately \$1.8 million. This necessitates a method to score/rank project as one tool for making decisions.

Kovnat briefly explained the project scoring system. He said that the scoring was based on National Performances Measures as a way to show that NATS is considering these factors in project selection. All final project selection decisions are made by the Policy Committee and they are able to base their decisions on other factors as well.

**Motion** for the Policy Committee adopt the NATS 20204-2026 Project Scoring System. Made by Butch Payton second by Eric Lester. **Motion Approved.**

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

None.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2021 at 1:30 at the Niles District Library and online via Zoom.

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

# NATS 2021 Project Status Reports – January 2022

## MDOT Projects

Contact: Jon Smith, MDOT Engineer [SmithJ29@michigan.gov](mailto:SmithJ29@michigan.gov)

### FY 2022

Project Name	Limits	Project Description	Update
M-51	US-12 & M-51 Interchange M-51 from Chestnut(Walmart) to Main Street. US-12 from Bond St. to M-60	Replace interchange with a Indirect (michigan) left configuration. Asphalt resurfacing of US-12 & M-51	Design is in progress with Plan Review meeting on 12/16/21, scheduled let date of November 2022.
Traffic Signal Improvement	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	Design in progress. Scheduled let date of December 2023
Traffic Signal Improvement	M-62 & US-12 Street	Installation of detection for actuation	Project came in 3.06% under the Engineers Estimate.
Traffic Signal Improvement	M-139/Fron St & M-51/Main Street in Niles	Modernize signals and install detection.	Design in progress with FPC meeting on 12/2/21, scheduled let date of March 2022.

## MDOT Amendment Requests

Contact: Brian Sanada, MDOT Region Planner  
[sanadab1@michigan.gov](mailto:sanadab1@michigan.gov)

Add a project (JN 214172) to optimize traffic signals along MDOT corridors

Routes	M-51 corridor signals on M-60BR, M-139, and US-12
Description	Optimize signal timing
Federal Cost	\$252,000 total – aprox. \$84,000 in the NATS area
State Cost	\$0



## Local Road Project Updates

### **Berrien County Road Department**

Contact: Kevin Stack, County Engineer [kstack@bcroad.org](mailto:kstack@bcroad.org)

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

### **Cass County Road Commission**

Contact: Joe Bellina, Chief County Engineer [jbellina@casscoroad.com](mailto:jbellina@casscoroad.com)

Design for Mason Street from Calvin Center to Tharp Lake and for Reum Road will being shortly.

### **City of Niles**

Contact: Joe Ray, Public Works Director [DPWdirector@nilesmi.org](mailto:DPWdirector@nilesmi.org)

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



## Edwardsburg Pedestrian Project

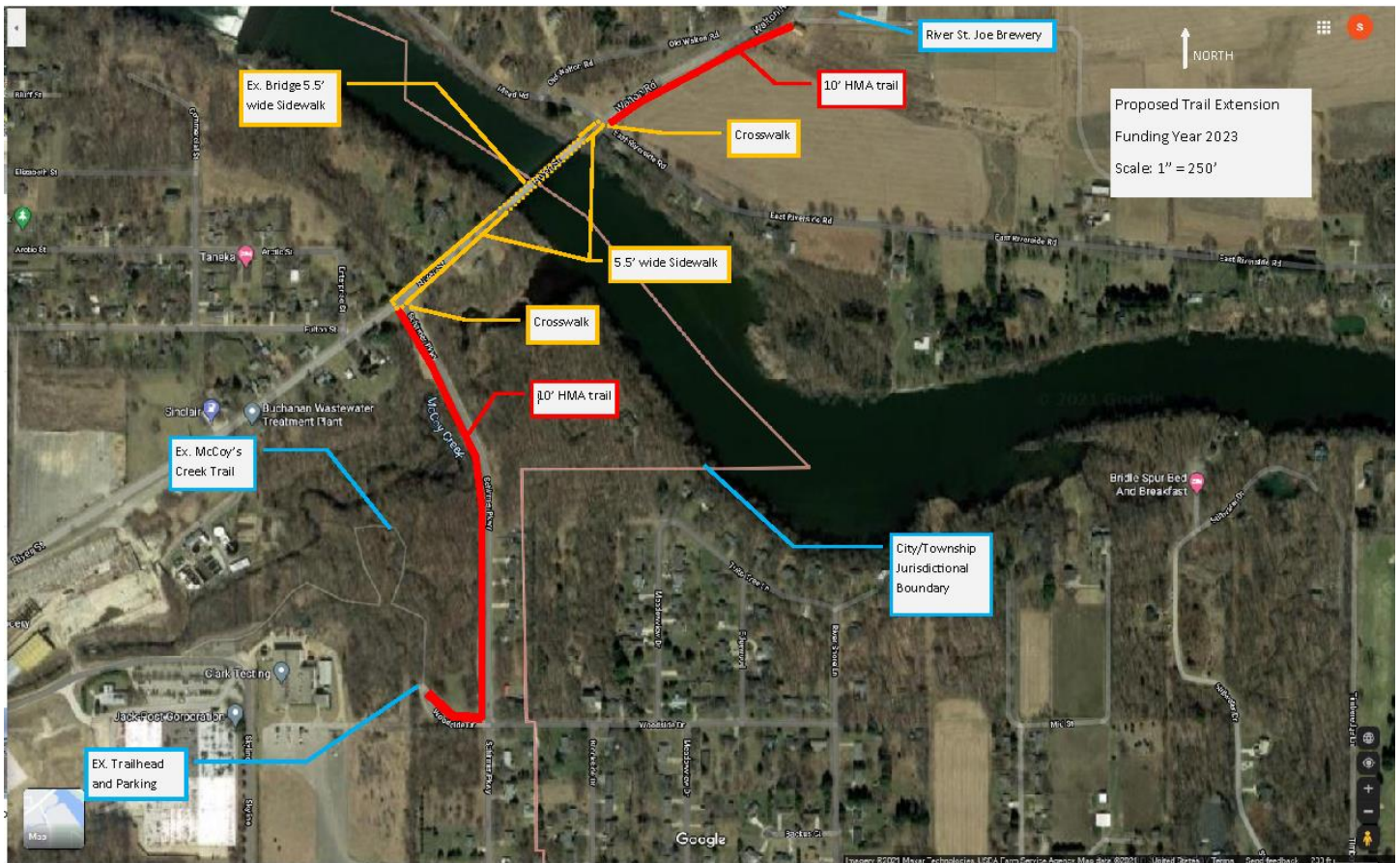
The initial project was proposed as a pedestrian crossing signal for US-12 at Clair Street. Based on a traffic study from the Edwardsburg School District, all traffic for drop off and pick up will be diverted from Clair St. to Section Street. The increased turning at Section Street will now meet MDOT signal warrants. MDOT has agreed to install a full traffic signal on US-12 at Section Street including a pedestrian crosswalk and signals. to make this function the non-motorized path on US-12 will need to be extended from Clair Street to Section Street.

The new proposal is to abandon the current TAP project which was to Install Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon for pedestrian crosswalks, and to reprogram the \$90,249 in NATS TAP funds toward as a non-motorized path along US-12 from Clair to Section Street.



# McCoy Creek

The McCoy's Creek Trail Extension will be a multi-use path connecting the existing McCoy Creek Trail to public access areas on the St. Joseph River and River St. Joe Brewery and Flatwater Farms. The proposed trail will be 10 ft. wide along Schirmer Parkway and Walton Rd. and include two 5.5. Sidewalks on the Walton St. Bridge.



## Funding

The proposed project will be obligated in 2023 and use all of the remaining balance in 2023, which includes carry over from previous years. MDOT has made a conational grant award for the following amounts:

NATS TAP	\$169,888
Statewide TAP	\$169,888
Match	\$ 256,318
Total Project Cost	\$596,088



## Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study Safety Performance Targets for 2022

Performance Measure	Description	2014-2018 Data		State Prediction 2020	2016-2020 Data		State Prediction 2022	Did the state meet its prediction?
		NATS	State		NATS	State		
Number of fatalities.	The number of fatalities due to a vehicular crash.	8.4	987.4	999.4	8.8	1028.2	1065.2	No
Fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT).	The rate of serious injuries based on the total miles driven in the area.	1.76	0.99	0.97	1.81	1.051	1.098	No
Number of serious injuries.	The number of serious injuries due to a vehicular crash.	41.0	5,415.6	5,520.4	46.0	5,673.2	5,733.2	No
Serious injuries per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT).	The rate of serious injuries based on the total miles driven in the area.	8.49	5.41	5.34	9.46	5.778	5.892	No
Non-motorized fatalities, serious injuries.	The number of pedestrians and bicyclists seriously injured or killed due to a vehicular crash.	3.8	742.4	735.8	3.8	762.8	791.6	No

Note: The term “prediction” replaces the term target. The target for safety is zero deaths (Toward Zero Deaths). The prediction reflects the reality of what we expect given current conditions.

Recommended Projects to use NATS Surface Transportation Funding for 2024 -2026

Proposed year	Agency	Name	Limits	length	Primary Work type	Description	Federal	Match	Total Participating Cost
2024	Berrien County Road Department	Bertrand Rd	Portage Rd to US-31 Bypass	1.02	Resurface	HMA trench & widen with overlay	\$222,433	\$77,567	\$300,000
2024	Cass County Road Commission	Cassopolis Road	Old 205 to US 12	0.80	Resurface	2.5" Cold Milling HMA Surface replace with 1.5" HMA,36A base course, 1" HMA,36A top course, Shoulder Class II and Pavement Marking	\$134,053	\$46,747	\$180,800
2024	City of Niles	Wayne Street	North 5th to North 13th street	0.50	Resurface	Mill and resurface structure covers, upgrade sidewalk ramps as necessary to meet current standards pavement markings.	\$252,514	\$88,057	\$340,571
2025	Berrien County Road Department	Bertrand Rd	US-31 Bypass to Red Bud Trail	1.55	Resurface	HMA trench & widen with overlay	\$374,520	\$83,050	\$457,570
2025	Cass County Road Commission	Elkhart Road	May Street to Village of Edwardsburg Limits	0.82	Resurface	1.5 HMA, 36 A top course overlay, Shoulder Class II and Pavement Marking	\$100,841	\$22,361	\$123,202
2025	City of Niles	Sycamore Street	North 9th Street to North 13th Street	0.25	Resurface	Mill and resurface structure covers, upgrade sidewalk ramps as necessary to meet current standards pavement markings.	\$133,256	\$29,549	\$162,805
2026	Berrien County Road Department	Red Bud Trail	US-12 to Bertrand Road	2.58	Resurface	HMA Overlay	\$378,212	\$121,788	\$500,000
2026	Cass County Road Commission	Redfield Street	Cass County line to Batchelor Drive	1.03	Resurface	1.5 HMA, 36 A top course overlay, Shoulder Class II and Pavement Marking	\$122,977	\$27,269	\$150,246
2026	City of Niles	Pokagon Street	North 2nd Street to North 5th Street	0.23	Resurface	Mill and resurface structure covers, upgrade sidewalk ramps as necessary to meet current standards pavement markings.	\$130,811	\$29,007	\$159,818

Illustrative List

Agency	Name	Limits	length	Primary Work type	Description	Total Participating Cost
City of Niles	East Main Street	Maple Street to Silverbrook Street	0.61	Resurface	Mill and resurface struture covers, upgrade sidewalk ramps as necessary to meet current standards pavement markings.	\$338,093
Berrien County Road Department	Third Street	Fulkerson Rd to State Line	1.60	Resurface	HMA trench & widen with overlay, Drainage Reconstruct	\$550,000
Cass County Road Commission	Redfield Street	Elkhart Rd. to Ebersole Rd.	1.34	Resurface	1.5 HMA, 36 A top course overlay, Shoulder Class II and Pavement Marking	\$207,371
Cass County Road Commission	Redfield Street	Ebersole Road to Adamsville Road	1.00	Resurface	1.5" HMA,36A top course overlay, Shoulder Class II and Pavement Marking	\$121,593
Cass County Road Commission	White Street	M-51 to Thompson Road	1.50	Restore and Rehabilitate	Crush and Shape HMA Surface and add 4 inch HMA, 36 A. Shouldler Class II and Pavement Marking	\$559,295
Berrien County Road Department	Niles-Buchanan Road	City of Niles to US 31 Bypass	2.58	Resurface	HMA overlay	\$616,000
Cass County Road Commission	Ironwood Drive	Redfield Street to Bell Road	1.76	Resurface	1.5 HMA, 36 A top course overlay, Shoulder Class II and Pavement Marking	\$264,434
Cass County Road Commission	Huntley Road	Yankee Streee (BR 60) to Lake Street	1.01	Resurface	2.5" Cold Milling HMA Surface replace with 1.5" HMA,36A base course, 1" HMA,36A top course, Shoulder Class II and Pavement Marking	\$271,107
Cass County Road Commission	White Street	Thompson Rd. to Barron Lake Road -	1.00	Restore and Rehabilitate	Crush and Shape HMA Surface and add 4 inch HMA, 36 A. Shouldler Class II and Pavement Marking	\$372,863

**Berrien County 2024-2026 CMAQ Project as voted on November 9, 2021**

<b>Fiscal Year 2024</b>			
Allocation		\$804,294	
Agency	Project	Federal CMAQ	Match
Berrien County Road Department	Countywide Signal Upgrade	\$159,894	\$100,000
City of Benton Harbor	Empire & Colfax Signal Improvement	\$288,320	\$72,080
Niles Dial A Ride	Replace Three (3), 2016 cutaway buses with 2024 Transit Vans	\$140,000	\$35,000
Village of Three Oaks	US-12 Non-Motorized Path	\$200,080	\$50,020
SWMPC	Rideshare	\$16,000	\$0
Balance		<b>\$0</b>	

<b>Fiscal Year 2025</b>			
Allocation		\$804,294	
Agency	Project	Federal CMAQ	Match
Berrien Bus	Replace three (3), 2018 gasoline buses with 2025 gasoline buses	\$260,000	\$65,000
TCATA	Replace two (2) 2018 propane buses with 2025 electric buses	\$480,000	\$120,000
Berrien County Road Department	Countywide Signal Upgrade (ACC)	\$48,294	NA
SWMPC	Rideshare	\$16,000	\$0
Balance		<b>\$0</b>	

<b>Fiscal Year 2026</b>			
Allocation		\$804,294	
Agency	Project	Federal CMAQ	Match
Berrien Bus	Replace Five (5), 2019 gasoline buses with 2026 gasoline buses	\$320,000	\$80,000
Lincoln Township	John Beers Sidewalk	\$400,000	\$590,000
SWMPC	Rideshare	\$16,000	\$0
Balance		<b>\$68,294</b>	