

NILES-BUCHANAN-CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE and POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

1:30 pm

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

Web: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9489277047?pwd=RzkydlFacGFHNkVWeURpak1kSEcxUT09>

Audio: Call in Number: 1 (312) 626-6799
Meeting ID: 948 927 7047
Passcode: 000619

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Changes to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Approve Minutes from the January 24, 2023 Meeting *Action* pg. 2
5. Staff Report
6. Local Agency Updates pg.5
7. Transit Updates
8. MDOT Updates pg. 6
9. MDOT Amendment Requests *Action* pg. 7
10. Road & Bridge Condition Performance Targets *Action* pg. 8
11. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment
12. Adjournment

Comments can be sent prior to the meeting to Brandon Kovnat at kovnatb@swmpc.org or by 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 Attendance
January 24, 2023, 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 | A | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners (2) | (Vacant) | | x | A | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept. | Dan Fette | x | | A | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Berrien Co. Planning Commission | Eric Lester, M.D. | | x | A | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Berrien Co. Road Dept. (Policy) | (Vacant) | | x | A | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Berrien Co. Road Dept. (TAC) | Kevin Stack | X | | IP | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bertrand Township | Butch Payton | x | x | A | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | IP | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cass Co. Planning Commission | (Vacant) | x | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cass Co. Road Comm. (Policy) | Sandra Seanor | | x | IP | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cass Co. Road Comm. (TAC) | Joe Bellina (TAC Chair) | x | | IP | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City of Buchanan | Don Ryman | | x | V | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City of Buchanan | Heather Grace | x | | A | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City of Niles (1) | Georgia Boggs | | x | IP | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City of Niles (2) | Serita Mason | | x | V | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City of Niles (3) | (Vacant) | | x | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City of Niles Community Dev. Director | (Vacant) | x | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City of Niles Dial-A-Ride Transit | Pepper Miller | x | x | IP | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City of Niles Public Works Dir./Airport | Joe Ray | x | | IP | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Howard Township | Bill Kasprzak | x | x | IP | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kinexus | (Vacant) | x | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mason Township | Doug Feters | x | x | A | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MDOT - Bureau of Trans. Planning | Jim Sturdevant | x | x | IP | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MDOT - Southwest Region | Josh Grab | x | x | V | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MDOT - Southwest Region (Alternate) | (Vacant) | Alt | Alt | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | IP | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ontwa Township | Dawn Bolock | x | x | A | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | IP | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Southwest Michigan Planning Comm. | Brandon Kovnat | NV | NV | IP | | | | | | | | | | | |

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

Others Present in Person: Richard Gerbeth, Patricia Gerbeth, Rick Gerbeth, Perter Agostino, Jackie Phlug

Minutes
Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study
Joint Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 24, 2023

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Changes to the Agenda

Gallagher said there was no staff report. The local updates will be given during the discussion on FY 2023 funds.

3. Public Comment

Richard Geberth introduced himself as the owner of the property on the Northeast corner of Redfield Rd. and Gumwood rd. The proposed Gumwood realignment would be built through the middle of his property. He said that he had already made comments about the Gumwood Realignment at both of the NATS Subcommittee meetings [held on December 13, 2022, and January 11, 2023]. A summary of these comments can be found in the January 11, 2023 NATS Subcommittee meeting minutes.

Peter Agostino, a lawyer representing Richard and Patricia Gerbeth, said he had asked about a two roundabout option for the Gumwood and Redfield intersections. He was told that the single roundabout option was based on the recommendation from an Engineering study [[2014 Study by CESO consultants](#)]. Agostino notated that the study, in fact, said that two roundabouts were also a possible solution, and would cost much less to construct. Two roundabouts would require about 0.4 acres while the realignment of gumwood requires taking 15 acres of private property. He believed that the single roundabout was not only bad for the Gerbeth's but a waste of public funds.

Patricia Gerbeth said she still didn't understand why the Realignment was necessary. She added that the loss of trees and the environmental impact of the project should be taken into consideration.

Jackie Phlug introduced herself as a property owner ¼ mile from the proposed intersection. She said the project would remove trees in front of her home, which she only found out about recently when the engineering firm designing the project contacted her. She claimed that contrary to what she read in the paper, the [Cass County] Road Commission did not discuss the impacts with all affected property owners. She expressed concerns about the project increasing traffic speeds and thus causing more crashes.

Rick Gerbeth, the son of Richard & Patricia Gerbeth, expressed concern about how the realignment would bring the road very close to his parent's front door. He said this would compromise their safety and the pollution would be detrimental to their health. He requested that, if two roundabouts couldn't be built, the project be altered to rebuild gumwood further away from his parent's house than currently proposed.

4. Approve Minutes from the November 22, 2022 Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the November 22, 2022, Joint NATS Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee Meeting. Made by Jim Sandra Seanor and seconded by Roseann Marchetti. **Motion approved.**

5. Staff Report

None.

6. Local Agency Updates

Local updates were given as part of agenda item 9, Recommendation for Utilizing NATS Unprogrammed FY 2023 STBG & CRP funds

7. Transit Updates

None.

8. MDOT Updates

Ray said he gets frequent complaints about the condition of M-51. He wanted to have it made clearer that the 2023 M-51 project would have some prep work started this spring, but the main construction would occur in 2024.

9. Recommendation for Utilizing NATS Unprogrammed FY 2023 STBG & CRP funds

Gallagher described each project change and amendment that is required based on the recommendations of the NATS Subcommittee.

Kovnat explained that the Buchan Signal was originally programmed using \$287,304 in CMAQ funds, which were then removed from the project at the last Berrien CMAQ meeting. These funds would be replaced by \$78,783 in CRP and \$208,468 in STBG. If NATS awards the subcommittee's recommendation of \$339,282 to Buchanan, the city's net gain would be \$130,813 after accounting for the lost CMAQ funding.

Bellina gave an update about the Gumwood roundabout. This is an HSIP funded project which will be built in conjunction with the Gumwood realignment [MDOT considers these to be two separate projects]. The final plans for the roundabout have been submitted. A small portion of Right-of-Way still needs to be acquired.

Members of the NATS Subcommittee said that the total STBG funding for Buchanan is correct, but the subcommittee only recommends that these funds be added to the Front Street reconstruction; They do not recommend adding any STBG to the signal replacement.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend the Policy Committee approve the following items:

1. Add \$137,990 of NATS STBG to Bertrand Rd.
2. Add all \$78,783 of NATS CRP to the Front St. Signal
3. Approve the scope change and add \$339,282 of NATS STBG to the Front St. Reconstruction
4. Add the Gumwood Realignment project to NATS 2023-2026 TIP utilizing \$339,292 in NATS STBG along with \$532,244 in Cass RTF funding.

Made by Bill Kazprzak and seconded by Joe Bellina. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee.

Made by Sandra Seanor and seconded by Roseann Marchetti. **Motion approved.**

10. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment

None.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

Minutes Compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Transportation Planner

NATS 2023 Project Status and Amendment Requests

March 2023

LOCAL ROAD AGENCY UPDATES

Berrien County Road Department

Contact: Kevin Stack, Engineering Supervisor – kstack@bcroad.org

Bertrand Road from M-51 East to County Line: Obligated in January and Let in March. The Accepted bid was \$678,572 which is 14% above the programed amount of \$592,952

City of Buchanan

Contact: Richard Murphy, Community Development Director – rmurphy@cityofbuchanan.com

Front Street Reconstruction and the Front & Oak Street signal: NEPA/SHPO were approved in Nov 2022. The GI was submitted in Jan. 2023, and the GI meeting was held in February. They Expect to have the complete biddable package submitted by April 21, 2023. This will put the project on track for obligation in June and the July letting. Construction will occur in Spring 2024.

Cass County Road Commission

Contact: Joe Bellina, Engineering Supervisor – jbellina@cascoroad.com

Roundabout at Gumwood & Redfield: The project is funded through a statewide competitive Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant, which was initially awarded for FY 2022. The Complete biddable package was submitted in April 2022. The Road Commission still needs to acquire Right-of-way for the project to proceed.

Gumwood Realignment: NEPA & SHPO was submitted on Feb 11, 2023.

MDOT 2023 PROJECT UPDATES

Contact: Jon Smith, MDOT Engineer SmithJ29@michigan.gov

| Project | Phase | Estimated Cost | Update |
|---|-------|----------------|---|
| US-12 shoulder rehabilitation from Galien Twp. line to Mayflower Rd. | CON | \$10,185,000 | Design (PE) in progress. Plan completion May 2023 for Oct. 2023 letting. Construction in 2024. |
| US-31 asphalt overlay from US-12 to Berrien Twp. | CON | \$19,000,000 | Construction in progress. Tree clearing work is underway, road work to begin April 17th. |
| M-51 Resurfacing & interchange removal. From Chestnut Ln. to M-60BR | CON | \$26,000,000 | Plan completed Feb. 2023 for Jul. 2023 letting. Construction in 2024. |
| Modernizing signalized intersections at five intersections in the NATS Area | ROW | \$30,000 | Design (PE) in progress. Plan completion Jun. 2023 for Dec. 2023 letting. Construction in 2024. |
| M-139 two course asphalt resurface from US-12 to M-139 | PE | \$422,000 | Design (PE) will begin in FY 2023. Construction in 2026. |
| US-12 concrete pavement repairs from M-139 to Leet Rd. | PE | \$1,107,187 | Project let in Dec. 2022 and came in 0.57% under Engineer's Estimate. Construction will begin in Jul. 2023. |

MDOT PROJECT AMENDMENTS

| JN | Project Description | Location | FY | Amendment | Phase | Fed Source | Cost | Total | Federal | State |
|--------|---|---|------|------------------------|-------|------------|----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| 207378 | Pavement Retroreflectivity Readings | NATS Area | 2023 | Cost Increase | CON | HSIP | Current | \$1,562 | \$1,406 | \$156 |
| | | | | | | | Proposed | \$2,002 | \$1,802 | \$200 |
| 218784 | Pedestrian Crosswalk Improvements | M-51 & 10 th St. intersection | 2023 | Add Phase | PE | HSIP | Proposed | \$20,624 | \$18,561 | \$2,063 |
| | | | 2024 | Add Phase | CON | HSIP | Proposed | \$148,717 | \$133,845 | \$14,872 |
| 214141 | Add a left turn lane & Passing flare | US-12 @ Beebe Rd. & Adamsville Rd. intersection | 2024 | Add Phase | EPE | HSIP | Proposed | \$25,000 | \$22,500 | \$2,500 |
| 216911 | Concrete repairs & shoulder resurfacing | US-31 S from US-12 to the Niles-Berrien Twp line. | 2024 | Add Phase | CON | NH | Proposed | \$2,694,733 | \$2,205,639 | \$489,094 |
| 211815 | Durable all-weather markings with centerline & shoulder corrugations. | Change M-51 & M-40 → M-139 | 2025 | Cost Increase & Limits | CON | HSIP | Current | \$78,329 | \$70,469 | \$7,860 |
| | | | | | | | proposed | \$109,319 | \$98,349 | \$10,970 |
| 211812 | Durable all-weather markings with centerline & shoulder corrugations. | M-139 & M-40 | 2025 | Cost Decrease | PE | HSIP | Current | \$41,803 | \$37,623 | \$4,180 |
| | | | | | | | Proposed | \$925 | \$833 | \$93 |
| | | | 2026 | Cost Decrease | CON | HSIP | Current | \$371,580 | \$334,422 | \$37,158 |
| | | | | | | | Proposed | \$112,850 | \$101,565 | \$11,285 |

2022 - 2025 National Performance Programs: NHPP/NHFP/CMAQ

Michigan Department of Transportation – State Performance Targets

National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) – NHS Pavement Condition

| Performance Measure | Existing Performance targets 2018-2021 | | | New Performance Targets 2022-2025 | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | Baseline Values 2017 | 2 yr. mid Cycle values 2019 | 2021 Target | Baseline Values 2021 | 2-yr. target - 2023 | 4 yr. Target - 2025 |
| Percentage of pavement on the Interstate System in good condition. | 56.80% | 63.10% | 47.80% | 70.40% | 59.20% | 56.70% |
| Percentage of pavement on the Interstate System in poor condition. | 5.20% | 4.90% | 10.00% | 1.80% | 5.00% | 5.00% |
| Percentage of pavement on the non-Interstate National Highway System in good condition. | 49.70% | 48.30% | 43.70% | 41.60% | 33.10% | 33.10% |
| Percentage of pavement on the non-Interstate National Highway System in poor condition. | 18.60% | 19.20% | 24.60% | 8.90% | 10.00% | 10.00% |

The pavement condition is measured using the Pavement Condition Metric (PCM) which is a composite metric using the International Roughness Index (IRI), Cracking, and Rutting for asphalt or faulting for joined concrete. The State exceed the targets it set for the Interstate but did not meet the targets set for the non-interstate NHS.

National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) – NHS Bridge Condition

| Performance Measure | Existing Performance targets 2018-2021 | | | New Performance Targets 2022-2025 | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | Baseline Values 2017 | 2 yr. mid Cycle values 2019 | 2021 Target | Baseline Values 2021 | 2-yr. target - 2023 | 4 yr. Target - 2025 |
| Percentage of NHS Bridges in <u>Good Condition</u> | 56.80% | 63.10% | 47.80% | 70.40% | 59.20% | 56.70% |
| Percentage of pavement on the Interstate System in poor condition. | 5.20% | 4.90% | 10.00% | 1.80% | 5.00% | 5.00% |

Bridge Condition is measured using the National Bridge Inspection Standards, where FHWA required each bridge to be assessed on its substructure, superstructure, deck, and culverts. Condition ratings of 0-9 (0-4 poor, 5-6 Fair, & 7-9 good) ARE assigned for each element or with the lowest rated element determining the overall condition Percentages are based on the total bridge deck area in the state.