

Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study and Twin Cities Area Transportation Study

Joint MPO Meeting

September 25, 2014

Berrien RESA- 711 St. Joseph Avenue, Berrien Springs, MI

MEETING MINUTES

**Attendees**

*TwinCATS TAC Members Present*

Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission  
Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration  
John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development  
Erin Jolivette, MDOT-Coloma TSC  
Paul Lott, MDOT-Statewide Planning  
Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority  
Lee Scherwitz, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport  
Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township  
Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph

*TwinCATS Policy Members Present*

Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration  
Bill Hodge, Berrien County Planning Commission  
Erin Jolivette, MDOT-Coloma TSC  
Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority  
Lee Scherwitz, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport  
Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township  
Kris Welch, MDOT-Statewide Planning

*NATS TAC Members Present*

Jason Auvil, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians  
Joe Bellina, Cass County Road Commission  
Barb Cook, Cass County Planning Commission  
Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township  
Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration  
Erin Jolivette, MDOT Coloma TSC  
Paul Lott, MDOT-Statewide Planning  
Serita Mason, Niles Dial-A-Ride  
Bill Marx, City of Buchanan  
Melinda Michael, Four Flags Area Council on Tourism  
Kim O'Haver, Buchanan Dial-A-Ride  
Jan Personette, Four Flags Area Chamber of Commerce  
Dennis Schuh, Berrien County Public Transit

*NATS Policy Members Present*

Jason Auvil, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians  
Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township  
Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration  
Erin Jolivette, MDOT Coloma TSC  
Serita Mason, Niles Dial-A-Ride  
Melinda Michael, Four Flags Area Council on Tourism  
Jess Minks, Berrien County Road Commission  
Kim O’Haver, Buchanan Dial-A-Ride  
Jan Personette, Four Flags Area Chamber of Commerce  
Donald Ryman, City of Buchanan  
Evan Smith, Niles Dial-A-Ride  
Kris Welch, MDOT Statewide Planning  
Robert Ziliak, Cass County Board of Commissioners

*SWMPC Staff Present*

Kim Gallagher  
Gautam Mani

**1. Call to Order**

Scherwitz officially called to order the combined meeting of the TwinCATS TAC, TwinCATS Policy, NATS TAC and NATS Policy Committee at 12:00 PM, and led the group in the pledge of allegiance. Mani presented Scherwitz with a plaque commemorating his many years of service to the TwinCATS committees, as this was Scherwitz’s last meeting as chair. He will be on the committees until he retires next June.

**2. Public Comment**

None.

**3. TIP Amendments**

Mani noted that there were several TIP amendments this month for both NATS and TwinCATS, but that he would be asking for **summary motions on all action items** after reviewing them with the group.

On the TwinCATS side, TCATA is requesting an addition of two buses using CMAQ funds and replacement of its current vehicle radios. Berrien County Road Commission is requesting a cost change in its Napier Avenue at Pipestone Road traffic signal upgrade, and a project limits change on the Shawnee Road project in Lake Township for FY 2016. There was one cost change to MDOT I-94 bridge repair work (Job number 110931).

On the NATS side, MDOT had minor cost changes to its M-60 and M-139 projects. These are likely administrative adjustments, but Mani was just informing the MPO just in case.

**4. Public Participation Plan Amendments**

Mani said that due to guidance from the Federal Transit Administration, SWMPC was amending the Public Participation Plan that applied to MPOs. Specifically, SWMPC has added language on page 8 of the plan affirming that our transit agencies follow the MPO public participation plan. Gallagher said that

if we did not have that language in the plan, transit agencies would have to spend a lot of money developing their own public participation plans in order to be in compliance.

Mani noted that this was the only change to the plan. SWMPC will be requesting more substantive changes to the plan in the coming months as we develop a revised outreach strategy and an improved website.

## **5. FY 2015 Meeting Dates**

Mani noted that meeting dates and times would be the same as in the past. TwinCATS will meet the third Monday of each month, and NATS would meet the fourth Tuesday of each month, with exceptions for certain holidays.

The meeting dates are:

### *FY 2015 Meeting Dates- TwinCATS*

October 20, 2014

November 17, 2014

December 15, 2014

January 26, 2015

February 23, 2015

March 16, 2015

April 20, 2015

May 18, 2015

June 15, 2015

July 20, 2015

August 17, 2015

September 21, 2015

### *FY 2015 Meeting Dates- NATS*

October 28, 2014

November 25, 2014

December 16, 2014

January 27, 2015

February 24, 2015

March 24, 2015

April 28, 2015

May 26, 2015

June 23, 2015

July 28, 2015

August 25, 2015

September 22, 2015

#### **6. Summary Motions on Action Items**

A motion by Zebell with support by Gruchot, both of the TwinCATS TAC, to recommend that the TwinCATS Policy Committee approve the September 2014 TwinCATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments (as noted in handout), the MPO Public Participation Plan, and the FY 2015 Meeting Dates. **Motion Passed, with unanimous approval by members of the TwinCATS TAC.**

A motion by Purvis with support by Hodge, both of the TwinCATS Policy Committee, for the TwinCATS Policy Committee to approve the September 2014 TwinCATS Transportation Improvement Program Amendments (as noted in handout), the MPO Public Participation Plan, and the FY 2015 Meeting Dates. **Motion Passed, with unanimous approval of the TwinCATS Policy Committee.**

A motion by Auvil with support by Personette, both of the NATS TAC, to recommend that the NATSPolicy Committee approve the September 2014 NATS Transportation Improvement Program Amendments (as noted in handout), the MPO Public Participation Plan, and the FY 2015 Meeting Dates. **Motion Passed, with unanimous approval by members of the NATS TAC.**

A motion by Auvil with support by Personette, both of the NATS Policy Committee, for the NATS Policy Committee to approve the September 2014 NATS Transportation Improvement Program Amendments (as noted in handout), the MPO Public Participation Plan, and the FY 2015 Meeting Dates. **Motion Passed, with unanimous approval by members of the NATS Policy Committee.**

## **7. Legislative Updates**

Federal- Dewey said that Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx had announced a new initiative to reduce pedestrian and bicycle crashes. As part of this initiative, FHWA state divisions had been instructed to assist communities and DOTs with conducting walking audits to determine areas that are most unsafe for pedestrians and bicyclists.

State- Lott said that he had a clarification: CMAQ funds can still be used to purchase gasoline buses as replacement vehicles. The confusion had come up because engine retrofits must be diesel or other alternative fuel; they cannot be gasoline. But when an entirely new vehicle is being purchased, gasoline vehicles are eligible for CMAQ funds.

## **8. Public Comment**

None.

## **9. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.

*Minutes compiled by Gautam Mani, Transportation Planner, 2014.*