

NILES BUCHANAN CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (NATS)
Joint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Policy Committee Minutes
August 28, 2018

Present		Committee	
Name	Representing	TAC	Policy
Evan Smith	Berrien County Community Development	x	
Kim O'Haver	Buchanan Dial A Ride	x	x
Robert Ziliak	Cass County Board of Commissioners		x
Roseann Marchetti	Cass County Board of Commissioners		x
Sandra Seanor	Cass County Road Commission		x
Joe Bellina	Cass County Road Commission	x	
Don Ryman	City of Buchanan	x	x
Joe Ray	City of Niles	x	
Craig Bradfield	Howard Township	x	x
Jonathon Smith	MDOT Coloma Business Office	x	x
Brian Sanada	MDOT Southwest Region	x	x
Susan Flowers	Milton Township	x	x
Richard Cooper	Niles Charter Township	x	x
Kelly Getman-Dissette	Niles Dial A Ride	x	x
Dawn Bolock	Ontwa Township	x	x
Michael Majerek	Berrien County Board of Commissioners		x
Eric Lester, M.D.	Berrien County Planning Commission		x
Barbara Cook	Cass County Planning Commission	x	
Andrea Dewey	Federal Highway Administration*	x	x
Jim Sturdevant	MDOT Bureau of Transportation Planning	x	x
Jon Roberts	MDOT Urban Travel Analysis*	x	
Kim Gallagher	SWMPC	Staff	
Brandon Kovnat	SWMPC	Staff	
Others Present:			
Eric Mullen	MDOT Bureau of Transportation Planning		
Mack Green	Wightman for City of Buchanan		

*Non-voting member

Absent		Committee	
Name	Representing	TAC	Policy
Brian Berndt	Berrien County Road Commission	x	
Butch Payton	Bertrand Township	x	x
Lynn Ferris	Buchanan Township	x	x
Serita Mason	City of Niles		x
Bob Sutton	Mason Township	x	x
Amy Lipset	MDOT - Southwest		x
Georgia Boggs	City of Niles		x
Jan Personette	Four Flag Chamber of Commerce	x	x
Rich Low	Village of Edwardsburg	x	x

1. **Call to Order / Introductions and Pledge of Allegiance**

Joe Bellina, Technical Advisory chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. Dawn Bolock led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Changes to the Agenda**

A short presentation on Howard Township Truck Route Ordinance was added to the agenda, as requested by Joe Bellina.

3. **Public Comment**

None

4. **Approve Minutes from the June 26, 2018 Meeting**

Motion to approve the minutes from the June 26, 2018 joint Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee Meeting. Made by Craig Bradfield, second by Kelly Getman-Dissette. **Motion Approved.**

5. **Staff Report**

Speed Studies: Kim Gallagher said that she had received numerous call about speed studies and she asked the Committees if they wanted to request a presentation on speed studies from the Michigan State Police (MSP).

Michael Majerek added that The MSP sets speed limits in townships. For a speed study, the MSP takes down any speed limit signs and measures the speed of drivers. They set the limit as the speed of 85% of drivers. He also noted that unless the MSP had set the speed limit the default was 55 mph, but a 25 mph limit could be set as default for certain residential areas without a study. Michael explained that they had a presentation by the MSP who said the law limited their ability to use local input to set speed limits. This led Berrien County to sign the resolution requesting the law be amended (See attached).

Joe Bellina asked if the County had any alternative methods for determining speed limits Michael replied that there was no alternative yet, but they still believe that the current method need to be amended.

Amendment process changes: Brandon Kovnat presented a new Amendment timeline. He said that amendments would now only be voted on every other month and that the deadline to submit requests to SWMPC would be the first Monday of the month when a vote will occur. Brandon explained that these changes were necessary because of added requirements such as the need for a pre meeting conference with MDOT and air quality conformity rules.

6. **Community Land Use and Zoning Member Updates**

None.

7. **Public Transit**

Berrien Countywide Service Plan: Kim Gallagher said that the draft plan was sent to them on July 27. After comments from the Connect Berrien Committees, the final plan was sent on August 28. The plan will be uploaded to the Connect Berrien website. A public meeting will be scheduled as well.

Niles Dial a Ride: Kelly Getman-Disette said that the 2018 grants were executed. They are expecting a new bus shortly. They are also back in their own building that was rebuilt after the flooding last spring.

Buchanan Dial a Ride

None

8. **Project Status Reports**

Agency	Project	Status
City of Niles	17 th Street	Complete
Cass County Road Commission	Mason St.	Under construction. Completed on Thursday (August 30)
	Gumwood	Construction in September
	US-12 Path	October lettings for 2019 construction
MDOT	US-12 Resurfacing	Under construction. Due to substandard paving, it will repaved & the road will be closed thru Thursday (Aug. 30)
	M-60	Undergoing design for 2019 construction
	M-62	Complete
	US-31	Undergoing design for 2020 construction

M-51 Public Meeting: Brian Sanada said the meeting about the options for the US-12 & M-51 intersection was well attended. Comments received indicated that a direct left was the preferred option, especially by truck drivers. A Roundabout was the least popular option.

9. **Old Business**

None.

10. **New Business**

TIP Amendments: Brian Sanada presented seven project phases to be added to the 2017-2020 transportation Improvement Program (see attached). He said that the crack seal on M-60 is part of a region-wide crack seal project and the costs are an estimate of the amount to be spent

within the NATS planning area. He also explained that the project on M-51 was only using state funds.

Brandon Kovnat said that since the M-51 project is 100% state funded it can be added administratively. He asked Brian to submit the request and present it because it would still need to go before the Inter-agency working group (IAWG) to certify that it was exempt from air quality analysis.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the addition of all seven project phases to the NATS 2017-2020 TIP as presented by MDOT. Made by Don Ryman, second by Craig Bradfield. **Motion approved.**

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

Defining Regionally Significant Projects: Brain Sanada explained that NATS was being asked by MDOT to adopt a local definition for regionally significant projects. He presented three definitions for the Committees to consider (see attached).

Eric Mullen added that this was important because with the increase in state funding more projects will not be using any federal funds. MPO's need to decide which non-federally funded projects require MPO approval and inclusion in their TIP.

A question was raised about the use of the term exempt/non-exempt. Definition #2 had examples of non-regionally significant projects. The original list of definitions included in the meeting packet called these projects "non-exempt," But the version passed out at the meeting indicated that non-regionally significant projects were "exempt."

Brandon Kovnat apologized for the confusion. A project that is not regionally significant under the definition would not require air quality analysis and thus it would be considered "exempt." The use of "non-exempt" in the handout included in the packet was an error.

There was another question about why only capacity increases on principal arterial roads were considered regionally significant and not capacity increases on other federal aid roads.

Andrea Dewey explained that regional significance can be used for a variety of purposes. One use is for defining projects that otherwise would not be included in a TIP, because they do not use federal funds. If an MPO defines these projects as regionally significant these projects are then treated like the other TIP projects. Another definition is used for air quality conformity purposes. This definition refers to the projects that require air quality conformity analysis.

Andrea believed that the presented definitions were not clear on how regionally significant was being defined. She thought that some of the items listed as not regionally significant would not be considered exempt from air quality conformity.

Motion to postpone a vote on defining regionally significant projects. Made by Richard Cooper, second by Joe Ray. **Motion approved.**

UWP Amendment to Add Air Quality Conformity: Kim Gallagher presented an addition to the NATS FY 2019 Unfired Work Program (see attached). She explained that the change was required because Berrien County had been designated non-attainment for air quality under the 2015 ozone standard.

Andrea Dewey added that the reason Cass County was still mentioned was because Cass was in maintenance for air quality under the 1997 ozone standard. Maintenance refers to an area that was non-attainment previously but has since reached attainment. She explained that there was a court case in which a judge ruled that air quality conformity rules under the 1997 ozone standards would still apply. This means that counties that are in attainment under the 2015 standards but were in maintenance under the 1997 rules still need to undergo conformity analysis. She said that the case in question is up for appeal so this may change.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the 2019 NATS Unified Work Program amendment to add the section on Air Quality Conformity. Made by Jim Sturdevant, second by Kim O'Haver. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Robert Ziliak, second by Roseann Marchetti. **Motion approved.**

Howard Township: Joe Bellina presented a resolution from Howard Township that designated truck routes within the Township. He explained that this was a local decision but required that the MPO be made aware of it.

Andrea Dewey asked for clarification of the term "local roads" in the resolution. She said that either local roads could mean any road within the township's control or it could specifically refer to roads designated under the National Functional Classification (NFC) as a local road.

Susan Flowers and Joe Ray raised concerns about how the truck routes would affect traffic in the neighboring jurisdictions.

11. State and Federal Updates

Jim Sturdevant introduced Eric Mullen as his new supervisor. He reminded the Committees that his previous supervisor John Lanum is now working on performance measure reporting.

Jon Roberts said that he would present the future year travel demand model results in February or March.

Andrea Dewey said that the Policy Committee needs to adopt performance targets for pavement condition, bridge condition, and reliability at the September meeting.

12. Privilege of the Floor

None.

13. Adjournment

- The next NATS meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 25, 2018 at 1:30 pm.**