



## NILES-BUCHANAN-CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

### COMBINED TECHNICAL ADVISORY and POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

**Brandon Kovnat**, *Transportation Planner*

**Kim Gallagher**, *Transportation Planner*

(269) 925-1137 Ext: 1524 & 1518

**DATE:** February 25, 2020

**TIME:** 1:30 PM

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

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**AGENDA** Comments will be solicited on each item following discussion and prior to any final action.

1. **Call to Order / Introductions and Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Changes to the Agenda**
3. **Public Comment**
4. **Approve Minutes from the January 28, 2020 Meeting** (*Enclosed*) **Action**
5. **Staff Report**
6. **Public Transit Updates**
  - Niles Dial a Ride (*Kelly Getman Dissette*)
  - Buchanan Dial a Ride (*Kim O'Haver*)
7. **Road Project Updates**
8. **MDOT Project Updates**
9. **MDOT Amendments**
  - New project on US-12 funded through the Rebuilding Michigan Bond Program (*Enclosed*) **Action**
10. **New Business**
  - Additional federal Funding for 2020 (*Enclosed*) **Action**
  - Additional Federal Funding for 2021 (*Enclosed*) **Action**
  - Discussion about the Transportation Alternatives Program Call for Projects
11. **State and Federal Updates**
12. **Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment**
13. **Adjournment**
  - The next NATS meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 23, 2020 @ 1:30 pm.**

## NILES BUCHANAN CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (NATS)

Joint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Policy Committee Minutes – January 28, 2020

Niles District Library, Community Room, 620 E Main St, Niles, MI 49120

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	P											
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	(vacant)		x												
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Evan Smith	x		P											
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	Eric Lester, M.D.		x	P											
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (Policy)	(vacant)		x												
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (TAC)	Kevin Stack	X		P											
Bertrand Township	Butch Payton	x	x	A											
Buchanan Dial-A-Ride	Kim O'Haver	x	x	A											
Buchanan Township	Lynn Ferris	x	x	P											
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (1)	Michael Grice		x	P											
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	Roseann Marchetti		x	P											
Cass Co. Planning Commission	(vacant)	x													
Cass Co. Road Comm. (Policy)	Sandra Seanor		x	P											
Cass Co. Road Comm. (TAC)	Joe Bellina (TAC Chair)	x		A											
City of Buchanan	Don Ryman	x	x	P											
City of Niles (1)	Georgia Boggs		x	A											
City of Niles (2)	Serita Mason		x	P											
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	P											
City of Niles Public Works Dir./Airport	Joe Ray	x		P											
Howard Township	Bill Kasprzak	x	x	P											
Kinexus	(vacant)	x													
Mason Township	Doug Fetters	x	x	A											
MDOT - Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	A											
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	P											
Milton Township	Susan Flowers	x	x	P											
Niles Charter Township	Richard Cooper (P. Ch.)	x	x	P											
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.	(vacant)	NV													
Michiana Area Council of Governments	Caitlin Stevens	NV	NV	A											
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	NV	NV	A											
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Brandon Kovnat	NV	NV	P											

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

Others Present: Jerrid Burdue, SWMPC

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

Technical Advisory Committee vice chair, Joe Ray, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

2) **Changes to the Agenda**

None.

3) **Public Comment**

None.

4) **Approve Minutes from the November 26, 2019 Meeting**

**Motion** to approve the minutes from the November 26, 2019 joint Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meeting Made by Bill Kasprzak Mason and seconded by Serita Mason. **Motion approved.**

5) **Staff Report**

Kovnat announced an asset management summit, which is happening on February 7, 2020, and encouraged any agency who maintains any type of infrastructure (roads, water, communications, etc.) to attend.

6) **Public Transit Updates**

- a) **Berrien Bus:** Evan Smith gave a presentation about Berrien Bus's proposed fixed routes. The presentation will be posted with the meeting notice & minutes from this meeting on the SWMPC website at [www.swmpc.org/natsmeetings.asp](http://www.swmpc.org/natsmeetings.asp).
- b) **Niles Dial-a-Ride:** None.
- c) **Buchanan Dial-a-Ride:** None.

7) **Local Road Project Updates**

- a) **Redfield Guardrail:** No update.
- b) **Lake Street from Airport Rd. to Huntly Rd.:** No update.
- c) **Third Street:** Stack said it is in plan review. The date for construction has not been determined yet.
- d) **Lake Street bridge over railroad:** Ray said that the project is on schedule. It is, however, going slow due to issues dealing with the rail company.

Kovnat presented a bridge maintenance project in Cass County. One location is on Redfield Street, which is within the NATS boundary. FHWA was able to process the addition administratively and no vote from the NATS committee was required.

8) **MDOT Project updates and Amendments**

Jonathon Smith said that the M-51 project and the M-139 project were both on schedule.

Kovnat presented a cost increase to a 2020 signal project (see attached), and the addition of a preliminary engineering phase in 2021 for another set of signals.

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the TIP changes as contained in the meeting packet. Made by Kelly Gettman-Dissette and seconded by Kevin Stack. **Motion approved.**

9) **New Business**

Kovnat opened up a discussion about Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds. Seanor talked about the proposed HAWK signal on US-12 between Edwardsburg's Schools and the Edwardsburg spots complex. This project, approved in March 2017, would use NATS's 2018, 2019, and 2020 TAP funds. Seanor said that the schools had 2,500 students, and that there are many students who would cross the road if safety were improved. To improve safety a HAWK signal, a type of pedestrian crossing signal, was chosen because of its proven record. Currently, the Cass County Road Department is working to get approval from MDOT for the signal. Seanor said that the project will definitely be obligated by the spring of 2021.

Kovnat announced that NATS needs to select a project to use the 2021, 2022, and 2023 TAP funds. He said he would send out a call for projects in the next few weeks to solicit applications.

Seanor also discussed the possibility of construction engineering as an eligible expense covered by TAP Funds. She said that it would help smaller agencies fund projects.

10) **State and Federal Updates**

Jonathon Smith said that MDOT was working on getting a project along M-60 BR from M-60 to 17<sup>th</sup> Street which will be 100% state funded.

11) **Policy Committee Approval**

Cooper asked that future agendas add the policy committee vote as an item.

**Motion** for the policy committee to approve all recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee made at this meeting. Made by Bill Kasprzak and seconded by Sertia Mason. **Motion approved.**

12) **Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment**

Seanor said that Ontwa & Edwardsburg had formed a committee for safe routes to school. She also said that Edwardsburg received a grant from CN rail to fix M-62

Ryman asked about the status of the High Speed Rail. There was a discussion about the higher speeds occurring on sections of rail between Detroit & Chicago. The proposal to conduct a feasibility study on a rail connection in New Buffalo was also discussed.

Ryman also asked about the Walton Street Bridge over the St. Joseph River. He said that when the bridge was opened in 1969 he drove a model-T over it as the first vehicle over the bridge. He said that the bridge is now on the critical bridge list. Stack replied that the bridge is scheduled for major repairs in 2021, but assured everyone that the bridge is still safe to use.

13) **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, 2020 @ 1:30 pm.

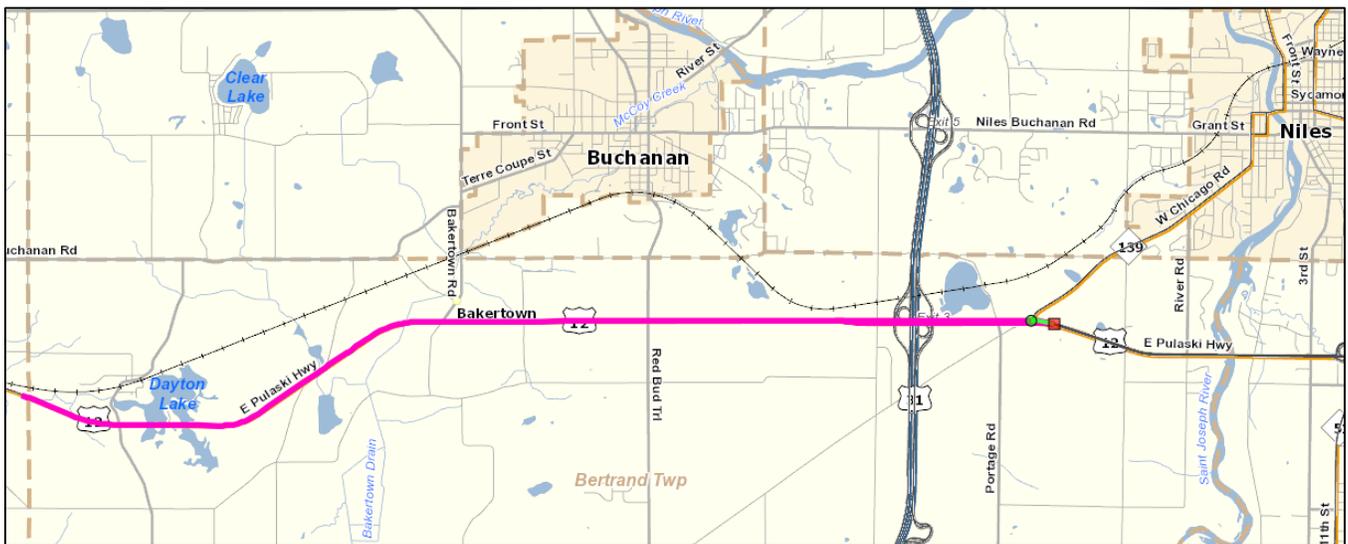
*Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate planner*

# MDOT TIP Amendment Request

For the February 25, 2020 NATS TAC & Policy Meeting

Background: During the "State of the State" address, Governor Whitmer introduced a bonding plan for MDOT. On Thursday, January 30, 2020, the State Transportation Commission passed a resolution supporting this bonding plan of up to \$3.5 billion. These funds will be used to construct projects in MDOT's 5-yr. plan sooner than originally programmed. This will free up federal funds in future years, which MDOT is using in the NATS area to add a project on US-12 in 2021. The project details are shown below:

Year	2021
Name/Road	US-12
Limits	Buchanan Township Boundary East to W. Chicago Road/M-139
Work Type	Resurfacing
Job Number	127449
Federal Cost	\$17,188,500
State Cost	\$3,811,500
Total Cost	\$21,000,000



# NATS Budget

## 2020 Federal Surface Transportation Budget

Agency	Project	Federal	Match	Total	% Match
Cass CRC	Lake Street	\$226,849	\$50,303	\$277,152	18.15%
Berrien CRD	Third Street	\$283,393	\$62,842	\$346,235	18.15%
Cass CRC	Mason Street - ACC	\$28,081	NA	\$28,081	NA
<u>Total Programed</u>		\$538,323			
2020 Allocation		\$579,064			
<b>Unprogramed 2020 Balance</b>		<b>\$40,741</b>			

Notes: Lake Street recently had a bid accepted. The project came in 2.7% under the estimate giving a federal bid savings of \$6,342.

## 2021 Federal Surface Transportation Budget

Agency	Project	Federal	Match	Total	% Match
Cass CRC	Barron Lake Road	\$300,750	\$179,250	\$480,000	37.34%
Berrien CRD	Portage Road	\$279,250	\$120,000	\$399,250	30.06%
<u>Total Programed</u>		\$580,000			
2020 Allocation*		\$622,835			
<b>Unprogramed 2021 Balance</b>		<b>\$42,835</b>			

Notes: A new fund source, the Highway Infrastructure program (HIP) was awarded to all MPOs. NATS will receive \$42,835 in HIP funding. These funds can be used like the Surface Transportation funds are therefore being treated as additional Surface Transportation funds.