

NILES BUCHANAN CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (NATS)

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2014

October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014

Prepared by
Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
www.swmpc.org
Metropolitan Planning Organization
For the Michigan urbanized area of the
South Bend, Indiana Urban Area and the Elkhart/Goshen, Indiana Urban Area

In Cooperation with
Niles Buchanan Cass Area Transportation Study
Technical Advisory and Policy Committees
www.swmpc.org/nats.asp

**July 2013
Approved**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
INTRODUCTION.....	5
Areas of focus for the Fiscal Year 2014 UWP	6
Niles Buchanan Cass Area Transportation Study Area	7
Local Transportation Issues	9
BUDGET AND FUNDING SOURCES	10
Federal Highway Administration Funding	10
Federal Transit Administration Funding.....	10
Local Jurisdiction Funding	10
Budget by Work Element.....	10
FY 2014 Local Match Calculation.....	11
PROJECT AREAS	12
1.0 Long Range Transportation Plan Implementation.....	13
2.0 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Administration.....	14
3.0 Committee Administration.....	15
4.0 Public Involvement Initiatives	16
5.0 Non-Motorized Transportation Planning.....	17
6.0 Transit & Mobility Planning.....	18
7.0 Human Service Coordination.....	19
8.0 Asset Management.....	20
9.0 Travel Data Collection.....	21
10.0 Regional Data Management.....	22
11.0 Environmental Stewardship.....	23
12.0 Freight Planning.....	24
13.0 Passenger Rail.....	25
14.0 Transit Pass Through	26
Appe.....	27
Appendix A: NATS Committee Members	28
Appendix B: NATS MPO Staff	30
Appendix C: Public Comments Received.....	31
Appendix D: Resolution of Approvals	32

Appendix E: Public Notices..... 34
Appendix F: SWMPC Indirect Cost Rate..... 36
Appendix F: Certificate of Indirect Cost Rate 37
Appendix G: Work Completed in FY 2013..... 38
Appendix H: Memorandum of Understanding with City of Niles 41

The preparation of this report has been financed in part through grants from the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, under the Metropolitan Planning Program, Section 104(f) of Title 23, U.S. Code. The contents of this report do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

INTRODUCTION

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Unified Planning Work Program (UWP) is a federally required document describing transportation planning projects and activities of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) for the Michigan urbanized area of the South Bend, Indiana Urban Area and the Elkhart/Goshen, Indiana urban area also known as the Niles Buchanan Cass Area Transportation Study (NATS), to be undertaken during the period of October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014.

It is the goal of the NATS metropolitan planning organization (MPO) that the projects developed in this document will benefit community residents and businesses by encouraging maximum interaction and cooperation among local, State, and Federal agencies; and by seeking to improve our transportation decision-making process.

The UWP is a description of the Partners, Projects, Programmatic Tasks, Products, and Budgets adopted by NATS Committees and the SWMPC Board. It is designed to carry out a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process that considers the various planning factors specified by the Moving Ahead for the Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), the current authorizing transportation legislation.

On July 6, 2012, President Obama signed into law, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). Funding surface transportation programs at over \$105 billion for fiscal years (FY) 2013 and 2014, MAP-21 is the first long-term highway authorization enacted since 2005. MAP-21 represents a milestone for the U.S. economy – it provides needed funds and, more importantly, it transforms the policy and programmatic framework for investments to guide the growth and development of the country's vital transportation infrastructure.

MAP-21 creates a streamlined, performance-based, and multimodal program to address the many challenges facing the U.S. transportation system. These challenges include improving safety, maintaining infrastructure condition, reducing traffic congestion, improving efficiency of the system and freight movement, protecting the environment, and reducing delays in project delivery. MAP-21 builds on and refines many of the highway, transit, bike, and pedestrian programs and policies established in 1991.

The 2014 NATS UWP demonstrates a desire from the SWMPC to make the transportation planning process transparent and accessible to all. The 2014 UWP focuses on specific projects that the MPO is engaging in.

Areas of focus for the Fiscal Year 2014 UWP include:

1. Implementation of new federal and state transportation bills.
2. Implementation of 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
3. Implementation of the 2013-2040 Long Range Transportation Plan What Moves You Berrien and Cass Counties: Creating a Transportation Vision for the Region.
4. Completion of the Berrien County Coordinated Transit Consolidation Feasibility Study.
5. Continuation of the development of a NATS Walk and Roll Plan.
6. Continued research and development of the importance of freight in a multi-modal transportation system.
7. Integration of the Transportation Alternatives Program for the fiscal years 2014-2017.
8. Continued emphasis on a multi-modal transportation system that includes rail, transit, and non-motorized transportation.
9. Coordination between the two MPO regions.

The SWMPC program emphasizes the examination of the transportation system with an objective of developing plans and projects that are realistically implementable. This approach places importance on the linkage between planning, programming, and implementation.

Niles Buchanan Cass Area Transportation Study Area



This Page Intentionally Left Blank

Local Transportation Issues

The transportation planning program conducted by the SWMPC is designed to be responsive to federal and state regulations and concurrently address local transportation issues. The “local issues’ are not unique to the Niles Buchanan Cass area. Their study and analysis fits within the prescribed federal/state transportation planning guidelines.

There is an awareness of the linkages between transportation and economic development, quality of life, and the logical development of urban areas. This awareness has frequently brought transportation issues to the forefront. The following identification of key issues is clearly not comprehensive. It includes only a broad identification of current discussion in this urbanized area. As expected, it is a mix of policy, political, financial, and technical concerns.

1. Preservation and Maintenance of the Transportation System
2. Continued Intergovernmental Cooperation in Transportation
3. Continued Focus on Public Participation, Environmental Justice, and Title VI
4. Transportation and Economic Development including Freight Transportation
5. Emphasis on Including Safety in the Transportation Planning Process
6. Transportation Financing Issues and Financial Constraint
7. Public Transportation Service Levels and Delivery Alternatives
8. Multi-Modal Systems Review and Integration to Include Transit, Bikeways and Pedestrian Facilities, and Freight
9. Consideration and Examination of the Inter-relationship Between Land Use, the Services Delivered by the Transportation System, and the Quality of Life in Berrien County
10. Meeting Air Quality Standards Prescribed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Identification of Ways to Reduce Climate Impact
11. Consultation with Other Partners in the Development of the Transportation System
12. Review of Potential Environmental Impacts (Mitigation) and Encourage Minimal Impacts Prior To and During Construction
13. Identification of Performance Measures
14. Consideration of Sustainability and Healthy Livable Communities in the Transportation Planning

As presented, there is no order of priority to these issues. The issues will be addressed by the examination, evaluation, and analysis through the transportation planning activities included in this work program. The activities will take place over time and most likely cannot be comprehensively covered in any single program year. Their identification highlights the interconnectedness that transportation planning has with other areas of planning.

BUDGET AND FUNDING SOURCES

Federal Highway Administration Funding

NATS receives federal funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for transportation planning, and legislation requires local match for federal funds. FHWA contributes 81.85% (\$77,122) to the NATS activities, and the local match required is 18.15% (\$17,102).

Federal Transit Administration Funding

As with FHWA funding, NATS receives funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for transportation planning, and legislation requires local match for federal funds. The FTA supports 80% (\$27,546) of the NATS activities, and the local match required is 20% (\$6,887). Because the City of Niles operates the Niles Dial-A-Ride, the City is responsible for the local match dollars.

Local Jurisdiction Funding

The nine participating local units of government and one tribal government contribute local match based on each jurisdiction's share of the population. The 2010 Census population figures are used to determine each jurisdiction's population (2000 Census figures are used for Pokagon Band population numbers, as 2010 tribal data have not yet been released). The Niles Dial-A-Ride (DAR) provides 20% of available pass-through dollars as local match from local funds. The NATS TAC and Policy Committee are responsible for approving the budget.

FHWA & FTA Federal and Local Budget

	Federal Share	Local Match	Total
FHWA (PL)	\$77,122	\$17,102	\$94,224
FTA (5303)	\$27,546	\$6,887	\$34,433
Total	\$104,668	\$23,989	\$128,657

Budget by Work Element

Work Element	Federal Highway and Local Match Funds	Federal Transit and Local Match Funds	Total*
Program Management	\$42,401	\$12,683	\$55,084
Database Management	\$20,729	\$6,200	\$26,929
Long Range Planning	\$16,018	\$4,791	\$20,809
Short Range Planning	\$10,365	\$3,100	\$13,465
Other Planning	\$4,711	\$1,409	\$6,120
Transit Pass-Through	\$0	\$6,250	\$6,250
Total	\$94,224	\$34,433	\$128,657

*Totals may differ slightly throughout the document due to rounding.

FY 2014 Local Match Calculation

Jurisdiction	Population*	% of Total Population (2010)	Share of FHWA Local Match	Share of FTA Local Match	Share of FTA Pass-Thru Match	Share of Total Local Match
Bertrand Township	2,657	4.73%	\$ 808	\$ 326	\$0	\$ 1,134
Buchanan Township	3,523	6.27%	\$ 1,073	\$ 432	\$0	\$ 1,505
Howard Township	6,207	11.05%	\$ 1,890	\$ 761	\$0	\$ 2,651
Mason Township	2,945	5.24%	\$ 897	\$ 361		\$ 1,258
Milton Township	3,878	6.90%	\$ 1,181	\$ 475	\$0	\$ 1,656
Niles Charter Township	14,164	25.21%	\$ 4,312	\$ 1,736	\$0	\$ 6,048
Ontwa Township	5,290	9.42%	\$ 1,610	\$ 649	\$0	\$ 2,259
City of Buchanan	4,456	7.93%	\$ 1,356	\$ 547	\$0	\$ 1,903
City of Niles	11,599	20.65%	\$ 3,531	\$ 1,422	\$0	\$ 4,953
Village of Edwardsburg	1,259	2.24%	\$ 383	\$ 154	\$0	\$ 537
Pokagon Band	199	0.35%	\$ 61	\$ 24	\$0	\$ 85
Total	56,177	100.00%	\$ 17,102	\$ 6,887	\$0	\$ 23,989

Source: City, township and village populations are based on 2010 Census; Pokagon Band population number was supplied by the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians.

Local FTA Pass-Thru Match from local grant passes through City of Niles but in the table above is only attributed to “Local grants” and not “City of Niles” in far-right column.

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) also uses its funds to provide a variety of staff services. The MDOT budget for FY 2014 follows:

MDOT FUNDS-State Planning, and Resource Funding (SPR)

Work Element	Funding Amount
Program Management	\$5,600
Database Management	\$4,446
Long Range Planning	\$15,181
Short Range Planning	\$5,557
Other Planning	\$5,448
Total	\$36,232

The items that follow highlight the project areas that the NATS MPO staff will focus on throughout the fiscal year. This document is meant to inform the reader of the variety of projects that will be focused on in FY 2014. It should also be noted that there are many opportunities that come to the MPO staff that may not be specifically listed in the document that are related to the project areas that would complement the items currently identified.

Each page will identify the project area that will be focused on and will discuss the specific work areas, final products, and partners. The right column of the page will focus on more detailed programmatic tasks that the MPO staff will engage in that is utilized for accounting and billing purposes for SWMPC, MDOT, FHWA, and FTA.

PROJECT AREAS

- 1.0 Long Range Transportation Plan Implementation
- 2.0 Transportation Improvement Program Administration
- 3.0 Committee Administration
- 4.0 Public Involvement
- 5.0 Non-Motorized Transportation Planning
- 6.0 Transit and Mobility Planning
- 7.0 Human Service Coordination
- 8.0 Asset Management
- 9.0 Travel Data Collection
- 10.0 Regional Data Management
- 11.0 Environmental Stewardship
- 12.0 Freight Planning
- 13.0 Passenger Rail
- 14.0 Transit Pass Through

1.0 Long Range Transportation Plan Implementation

SWMPC staff will continue to engage community members in transportation management practices that improve access and mobility, air and water quality, sustainable land use development, and address the impacts of climate change and mitigation strategies within the NATS area.

Work Areas

1.1 Document Implementation

Staff will implement the What Moves You: Creating a Transportation Vision for Berrien and Cass Counties, monitor current and future projections of populations, household, and employment locations with MPO communities. Key objectives will be outreach efforts to continue to inform and educate the public and other stakeholders about the goals, strategies, projects, and programs in long range plan. Special attention will be placed upon the incorporation of rail, non-motorized, and transit planning.

1.2 Environmental Considerations (Climate Change & Air Quality)

SWMPC Staff will continue to educate Committee members on the new research and information being presented from FHWA, EPA, and others regarding climate, air quality, and water quality. Key objectives will be to include recent research and best practices into the NATS planning process.

1.3 Multi-Modal

Coordinate with the businesses and key agencies in developing a better comprehensive understanding of the various air, water, transit, rail, and freight distribution point in Berrien County. The key objective of this work area will be to utilize funding to coordinate freight discussions in the planning region.

1.4 Performance Measures

Develop measurable objectives to track the progress of the What Moves You: Creating a Transportation Vision for Berrien and Cass Counties to better understand what successes the region has achieved. Key objectives will be to monitor the federal and state release of performance measures and targets and to incorporate that information into the NATS planning processes and policies.

Partners

Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG), FHWA, FTA, MDOT, Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance, League of Michigan Bicyclists, Lakeland Health Care, Community members, Disability Network, Senior Citizen agencies, Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers, Transit agencies.

1.0 Program Tasks

Program Management

- Provide staff support at regular NATS TAC and Policy Committee meetings.
- Provide quarterly progress reports to federal and state agencies.
- Continue to update transportation website pages.

Database Management

- Monitor maps displaying where key development pressures are located and overlay where sensitive environmental lands are located.
- Collect American Community Survey data reflecting changes in population, housing, and employment in the region.

Long Range Planning

- Implement the transportation plan that will guide the long-term investments in the region's transportation system.
- Maintain the regional planning process in response to guidance in the metropolitan planning regulation.
- Continue to convene transportation stakeholders to implement the long term transportation strategies identified in the LRP.
- Identify infrastructure and connection deficiencies within the transportation network.

Short Range Planning

- Develop additional projects that meet the needs of the What Moves You Berrien County: Creating a Transportation Vision for Berrien County for inclusion in the 2014-2017 TIP or for the TIP Illustrative List.
- Continue to incorporate the NATS Walk and Roll Subcommittee recommendations into the LRP plan.
- Coordinate planning efforts with the NEPA process.

2.0 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Administration

SWMPC staff will monitor and coordinate the selection, funding, and development of area federal aid eligible transportation projects. Staff will work to ensure that federal, state, and local transportation funds are used fully and efficiently and that funded projects meet the needs of area communities and fulfill the goals set out in the What Moves You: Creating a Transportation Vision for Berrien and Cass Counties.

Work Areas

2.1 Oversee FY 2014-2017 TIP Project Administration

Staff will solicit frequent updates on all active projects listed in the FY 2014-2017, monitoring their progress, providing reminders of important project deadlines, and notifying agencies of newly available funds. The objective of this work area is to ensure the full use of federal, state, and local resources available to area transportation agencies.

2.2 Administer Changes to FY 2014-2017 TIP Project Table

Staff will accept and process amendments to the TIP, including changes to currently listed projects, deletions of these projects, and new project additions. Additionally, when necessary, staff will convene separate meetings to select local agency projects to use newly available federal funds. The objective of this work area is to provide flexibility to local transportation agencies, while ensuring that projects meet state and federal regulations, make best use of available funds, and conform to regional transportation goals.

2.3 Implementation of FY 2014-2017 TIP

Staff will implement and monitor the 2014-2017 TIP. Collaboration with member communities will continue to happen as changes occur and policies or projects may need to change. The objective of this work area is to ensure that the TIP conforms to the region's expressed transportation goals.

2.4 Monitoring of Air Quality for the MPO

Key objectives include monitoring the EPA and MDEQ agency reports for changes in air quality standards that would impact the agencies and projects within the 2014-2017 TIP.

Partners

NATS TAC and Policy Committees, NATS member communities, NATS Walk and Roll Subcommittee, MDOT, FHWA, FTA, MDEQ, Transit agencies.

2.0 Program Tasks

Program Management

- Provide staff support at regular NATS TAC and Policy Committee meetings.
- Organize and administer additional TIP-related meetings as necessary.
- Publish an Annual Listing of Obligated Projects for FY 2013.

Database Management

- Maintain publicly available copies of the TIP e-file on the SWMPC website.
- Maintain publicly available copies of the TIP table on the SWMPC website.

Long Range Planning

- Implement 2013-2040 LRP goals and objectives as they pertain to TIP projects.

Short Range Planning

- Monitor the financial constraint document for FY 2014-2017 TIP.
- Monitor the status of FY 2014-2017 TIP projects.
- Monitor projects being amended into the TIP for air quality conformity.
- Amend or administratively modify the FY 2014-2017 TIP as needed to incorporate changes in projects.
- Continue to coordinate the local agencies receiving Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funds.
- Provide local agencies with assistance in identifying local match funding sources.
- Coordinate community transportation needs with regional transportation goals in the selection and development of transportation projects.
- Continue to improve upon the online SWMPC TIP application.
- Review project changes and their potential impact on environmental justice areas.
- Monitor bid savings on projects.

3.0 Committee Administration

SWMPC staff will provide the planning and development of NATS Committee meeting information along with the general administration of the Committees.

Work Areas

3.1 Committee Administration

Staff will develop Committee meeting materials such as agendas, minutes, and special correspondence as requested by members. Staff will review membership and bylaw, work on special tasks as requested by members. Key objectives for this task include monitoring of the membership of the committees and the amending of bylaws as needed. Staff will also work to develop a Committee handbook for members to use as a reference guide.

3.2 Reporting/Documentation

Staff will write documents that need to be approved by the Committee members such as the Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Report. Key objectives for this task include publishing of the annual report, completion of the annual Unified Planning Work program, and the annual evaluations completed by the MPO member communities for the MPO staff.

3.3 Communication

Staff will send at least twice monthly email communications to members of the public and Committees regarding meeting reminders, trainings, and legislative information from the federal and state legislatures. Key objectives for the task include updating of the SWMPC's database, communication with legislative bodies, and maintaining an open forum for discussion with the public.

3.4 Education

Staff will give 4 presentations to members on various transportation topics and new techniques to improve our transportation system. Staff will update Committee members on staff training opportunities. Key objectives of this task will entail seeking training opportunities offered by FTA, FHWA, and MDOT and other similar organizations on emerging planning objectives and providing technical and policy training to members of the public and MPO member communities as well.

3.5 Planning Commission Meetings Review

Staff will work with communities to encourage the incorporation of best practices in land use, transportation, and other key areas. Key objectives of this task will be to monitor the changes conditions of the planning area, supply comments and suggestions on project developments to include transportation accommodations or best practices, make recommendations to Committee members to take necessary action, when needed.

Partners

NATS communities, MDOT, Transit agencies, Disability Network, SWMPC Mobility Manager, Michigan Transportation Planners Association, NIRPC, Michigan Works, County public schools, Planning Commissions.

3.0 Program Tasks

Program Management

- Preparation of meeting items such as agendas and minutes.
- Write fiscal year 2013 Annual Report.
- Write fiscal year 2015 Unified Planning Work Program.
- Write quarterly progress reports.
- Development of Committee handbook.

Database Management

- Monitor changes in population, household, and employment changes.
- Maintain Committee web pages.
- Update national functional classifications based upon MDOT's time schedule for the MPO.
- Update email contact lists monthly.

Long Range Planning

- Michiana Area Council of Governments in their long range and short range developments and administration.
- Better engage the MACOG MPO representatives to ensure coordinated transportation planning between the two MPOs.

Short Range Planning

- Engage in discussions with Mason Township regarding their new admission into the MPO process.
- Coordinate with federal and state agencies on the potential inclusion of a new member community within the MPO.

4.0 Public Involvement Initiatives

SWMPC staff will actively collaborate with agencies, MDOT, and FHWA to better engage and understand the needs of the citizens in the planning region.

Work Areas

4.1 Public Participation Plan

Staff will monitor the strategies implemented in the 2012 Plan. In 2014 staff will review the strategies implemented and adjust those accordingly. Staff will continue to strive to engage members of the public. Key objectives of this work area will include the annual evaluation of the plan and the annual evaluation of the tasks that were implemented.

4.2 Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan

Staff will strive to ensure that no person is discriminated against according to Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1987 Civil Rights Restoration Act. Key objectives of the work task include the annual completion of the Title VI reporting forms to MDOT Title VI Program or Activity Annual Certification Form, to complete the Title VI Accomplishments for the reporting year, and to provide translation mode for SWMPC website.

4.3 Community Education/Outreach (volunteer coordination)

Staff will seek out opportunities to engage members of the public in the transportation planning process per federal and state guidelines.

Partners

NATS communities, MDOT, FHWA, FTA, Disability Network, Volunteer Center, Berrien County School Districts, Lake Michigan College, Southwestern Michigan College, Transit agencies.

4.0 Program Tasks

Program Management

- Provide 4 articles a year in Spanish newspapers.
- Provide a translation mode for SWMPC website.
- Attend training activities that focus on civil rights and public involvement initiatives.
- Annual Title VI report to MDOT.
- Update participation and other SWMPC websites.

Database Management

- Update SWMPC database of collected names and organizations.
- Continue to develop graphs and maps to explain transportation process.

Long Range Planning

- Engage citizens, communities, and others in developing new strategies to reach out to the public.
- Assess the effectiveness of the Public Participation's Performance Measures.

Short Range Planning

- Sponsor education and other relevant transportation training
- Monthly email updates to interested citizens and stakeholders.
- Continue to engage and reach out to church groups and schools to solicit and keep them informed of the transportation process.

5.0 Non-Motorized Transportation Planning

SWMPC staff will promote non-motorized planning within the NATS area with the goal of achieving transportation infrastructure that meets the travel needs of all community members, including pedestrians, bicyclists, users of mass transit, people with disabilities, older adults, and young children. In doing so, staff hope to support the safety and accessibility of area residents while encouraging healthy and environmentally sustainable travel modes and providing for attractive and economically vibrant streetscapes.

Work Areas

5.1 Walk and Roll Subcommittee Planning

Staff will work with the NATS Walk and Roll Subcommittee promoting non-motorized infrastructure within the MPO processes. Key objectives of this task include development of an inventory list highlighting the existing and future non-motorized locations, preparation of maps noting where facilities exist and where there are gaps, and holding NATS member community stakeholder meeting for non-motorized priority identification, and holding at least 1 public input meeting to gain an understanding of where projects should be developed by the public.

5.2 Regional Non-Motorized Transportation Planning

Staff will work to tie NATS member communities/agencies into such regional planning efforts as the 9-County Non-Motorized Mapping and the promotion of a federal bike route system running through the area. Key objective areas of this task will be to provide assistance to communities on how they can incorporate non-motorized planning efforts in their community and to continue to educate people on the benefits of a multi-modal transportation system.

5.3 Non-Motorized Community Outreach

Staff will communicate the importance of good non-motorized infrastructure to NATS member communities/agencies and residents, as well as promoting safety. Key objectives of the task area will be to improve knowledge of the importance of complete streets among area residents and local elected officials, improve knowledge of the importance of safe bicycling and walking behavior, and increase the awareness of the availability of existing walking and biking facilities among area residents.

5.4 Transportation Alternatives Program

Engage members of the community and other eligible agencies in the call for TAP funds matching the NATS 2014-2017 TIP years.

Partners

NATS Walk and Roll Subcommittee, Berrien county public schools, Berrien County Health Department, Southwest Michigan Traffic Safety Committee, Lake Michigan College, Disability Network of Southwest Michigan, League of Michigan Bicyclists, Michigan Trails and Greenways Coalition, MDOT, NATS communities, Transit agencies.

5.0 Program Tasks

Program Management

- Organize and administer Walk and Roll Subcommittee meetings.
- Participate in staff non-motorized training opportunities.
- Maintain non-motorized information on SWMPC website.
- Actively encourage public participation in non-motorized issues.
- Build and maintain area non-motorized outreach contact lists.
- Participate with the SMART Task Force administered by the SWMPC.

Database Management

- Maintain database of information on area non-motorized crashes.
- Compile relevant population data for non-motorized planning, including rates of vehicle ownership, commuting modes, and population in age groups of particular need.
- Maintain database of road attributes that bear on non-motorized infrastructure development.

Long Range Planning

- Participate in local and regional non-motorized planning initiatives in accordance with goals laid out in the current Long Range Plan.
- Meet with the Walk and Roll Subcommittee, the full TAC and Policy Committees, local units of government, and the area public to continue developing long range non-motorized planning strategies.

Short Range Planning

- Develop non-motorized inputs for project selection criteria for upcoming TIP.
- Develop short term implementation strategies for identified high-priority non-motorized locations, looking to make use of CMAQ and other funding sources.
- Collaborate with law enforcement and other relevant agencies to address unsafe walking and biking locations.

6.0 Transit & Mobility Planning

SWMPC staff will continue to foster livable communities by ensuring public transportation and mobility options are accessible and integrated throughout the study area.

Work Areas

6.1 Transit Agency Coordination

Develop recommendations and strategies to improve transit service in the region, to increase access to employment and services, to promote economic development opportunities, and to reduce dependence on single-occupant vehicles. Key objectives will include the coordination with all transit systems within and around the region to provide increased access to services outside of the planning areas.

6.2 Transit Policy

Review recommendations from federal, state, and local transit policies along with transit agencies from around the country to optimize transit best practices policies. Ensure consistency in goals, priorities, and performance criteria throughout the study area. Key objectives to meet will include the promotion of the Federal Transit Administration's policy to encourage private enterprise participation in the planning and provision of transportation services, and to have meaningful engagement with local transit agencies and the public for better coordination and consistent county wide policy development.

6.3 Transit Agency Technical Assistance

Facilitate technical and procedural support to all transit agencies within the study area and surrounding area to ensure consistency throughout the transit system. Key objectives of this task will include the continued exploration of new opportunities to engage transit users in the transit planning process, and to improve understanding of mobility conditions in the region and thereby inform policy discussions.

Partners

Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, Transit agencies, member communities in NATS, Berrien Bus, and MDOT.

6.0 Program Tasks

Program Management

- Prepare quarterly progress reports.
- Assist in the development of policies and procedures for the transit systems.
- Review ridership information.
- Maintain key transit websites and the MyWayThere.org websites for transit agencies and riders.

Database Management

- Update mapping applications as needed to assist in visualization.
- Analyze and map geospatial datasets from 2010 Census.
- Selection, analysis, mapping and dissemination of common origins and destination for transit dependent populations.

Long Range Planning

- Review and update past and current transit studies.
- Develop transportation goals and strategies, incorporating input from the agencies and jurisdictions, the public and federal policy guidelines.
- Foster dialogue and information sharing to better serve transit planners and operators in the region
- Evaluate transit projects and programs proposed for inclusion in the FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the long-range transportation plan.

Short Range Planning

- Provide and participate in workshops, and courses to develop technical skills and broader perspectives on transportation-related subjects.
- Review and comment on projects produced by local partners.
- Evaluate all current and potential TCATA transit routes in regard to the efficiency and regional connectivity.
- Transit routes and schedules as needed.
- Assist in the development marketing activities to promote utilization of public transit.

7.0 Human Service Coordination

Staff will continue to address the importance of various transportation needs for the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and low-income residents in conjunction with ongoing public transit, para-transit, and community-based transportation planning activities.

Work Areas

7.1 Community Access

Identify and explore solutions to barriers that presently limit the independent mobility of seniors, persons with disabilities, or low income workers. Continue the coordination of community transportation services in the study area. Coordinate and facilitate the discussion of identifying job access areas for low-income individuals. Key objectives of this area include the continued implementation of the Berrien County Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan.

7.2 Berrien County Transportation Coalition

Provide technical assistance to the Berrien County Transportation Coalition and provide an ongoing forum for members to discuss any local transportation needs, especially those of older adults, people with disabilities and people with lower incomes. Key objectives of this task will include assisting organizations to help establish or expand community-based transportation services, including active transportation, non-emergency medical transportation, senior services center transportation and veteran transportation, and to participate in and provide coordination, outreach, and technical assistance to the local human service agencies including; Berrien County Health Department, Area Agency on Aging, Department of Human Services, Mental Health, local governments, human service agencies and community organizations that seek to enhance and extend safe mobility for the area's rapidly growing elderly population.

Partners

Public and private transportation providers, Michigan Department of Transportation, local jurisdictions, human service and aging agencies, private non-profit and for profit organizations, NATS communities, Transit agencies.

7.0 Program Tasks

Program Management

- Organize and administer Berrien County Transportation Coalition meetings.
- Compose quarterly reports for MDOT and FTA.
- Maintain website pages that provide information to the transit community regarding outreach meetings and other information.

Database

- Research activity patterns and travel characteristics of the elderly.
- Update and manage database of transportation providers in region for MyWayThere mobility website.

Long Range Planning

- Create and administer surveys as needed.
- Provide technical assistance to agencies to improve coordination of policies, training, procurement and services.

Short Range Planning

- Maintain MyWayThere.org mobility website.
- Attend and provide technical assistance to Local Advisory Committees throughout the study area.
- Attend various human service coordination meetings throughout the study area.
- Provide technical assistance to MDOT when needed regarding Statewide Mobility Planning process.
- Assist agencies in composition of grants for FTA programs.
- Coordinate with regional offices of CTAA, MPTA, and RTAP for local low cost training opportunities.

8.0 Asset Management

SWMPC staff will promote and assist with the collection of road surface data throughout the NATS area, with the goal of better understanding trends in road quality, communicating these trends to the general public – especially as reduced funding levels lead to lower levels of road maintenance, identifying roads in greatest need of repair, and developing strategies to make the most efficient use of road maintenance and repair funds.

Work Areas

8.1 Collection and Reporting of Surface Condition Data for Federal Aid Eligible Roads

SWMPC staff will coordinate with the Berrien County Road Commission and the regional MDOT office to collect PASER ratings for the entire NATS federal aid eligible road network every two years. Staff will then report this data to the state Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC), in addition to providing data needed for state reimbursement. The data submitted will be used by MDOT to gain an accurate view of state-wide road conditions, and it will also be used by SWMPC and local road agencies to gain a better understanding of local conditions.

8.2 Local Asset Management Rating and Planning

Staff will publicize the availability of state reimbursements for rating local roads, and will assist localities with the performance of such ratings where needed. Staff will submit the local ratings data to the state TAMC to provide a better understanding of local conditions, and staff will also make the data available to the local agency for their own planning purposes. Additionally, staff will assist localities in preparing local asset management plans where requested. As with state-level asset management planning, the goal of these local plans is to improve the efficiency with which road repair funds are used.

8.3 Promotion and Monitoring of Local Agency Investment Reporting

Staff will promote and monitor local agency participation in the state TAMC's Investment Reporting process. Staff will provide reminders and assistance to local agencies, encouraging them to document their transportation infrastructure investments through the state's Investment Reporting Tool. This work element serves to provide the state with a better understanding of the condition and value of the area transportation network.

Partners

Area city and village transportation agencies, township managers, the state Transportation Asset Management Council, MDOT, Transit agencies, Berrien County Road Commission, NATS communities.

8.0 Program Tasks

Program Management

- Attend PASER data collection trainings.
- Publicize PASER and IRT trainings to local agencies, and help organize in person trainings where necessary.
- Publicize the availability of local PASER collection reimbursements, as well as SWMPC's ability to aid in PASER data collection.

Database Management

- Collaborate with MDOT and Berrien County Road Commission to collect federal aid eligible PASER data.
- Collaborate with local road agencies to collect local road PASER data.
- Process and submit federal aid eligible and local road PASER data to MDOT.
- Generate reports of current and historical PASER ratings, present to NATS committees, and display on SWMPC website.

Long Range Planning

- Work to incorporate PASER ratings and asset management data into the updated LRP.

Short Range Planning

- Incorporate PASER ratings into short range planning activities, using the data to help identify areas in greatest need of improvement and to generate full asset management plans.
- Encourage the incorporation of transportation best practices into local master plans.

9.0 Travel Data Collection

SWMPC staff will assist in collecting information on area travel flows and road attributes. The collected data will provide valuable inputs to state and local planning processes, giving a clearer picture of the usage of area transportation networks and the ability of existing and planned transportation infrastructure to accommodate this usage.

Work Areas

9.1 Traffic Count Collection

Staff will solicit and fulfill traffic count requests from area transportation agencies and MDOT in order to satisfy local planning requirements and to provide input to state-produced travel demand models. Staff will work to integrate these counts with those performed by other area agencies, and will make the counts publicly available in both map and database form via the SWMPC website.

9.2 Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) Road Observations

Staff will work to fulfill HPMS responsibilities within both the NATS area and the broader three county region. Staff will focus on collecting, organizing, and submitting data on road attributes, verifying state data on such features as lane numbers, posted speed limits, and the presence and type of traffic signals. Staff will also perform and submit HPMS traffic counts where requested by MDOT. Staff will work to meet HPMS requirements, and in so doing will improve state-level knowledge of area transportation resources.

9.3 Seasonal Traffic Count Collection

SWMPC will begin working with MDOT modelers to develop the necessary tools and data collectors to accurately reflect the changes in population, households, and employment numbers during the summer season. SWMPC will also begin to collect traffic count data on a series of roadways, where they believe that seasonal traffic patterns change. In addition, a greater emphasis will be placed upon early coordination with the Indiana DOT and the MPOs in northern Indiana to coordinate models and planning.

Partners

Area city and village transportation agencies, township managers, MDOT, Berrien County Road Commission, Cass County Road Commission, MACOG, INDOT.

9.0 Program Tasks

Program Management

- Publicize to local transportation agencies the opportunity to obtain traffic counts through SWMPC.
- Prepare quarterly progress reports.
- Coordinate with MDOT on new data collection for seasonal changes.
- Produce maps that highlight the changes in traffic flows throughout the calendar year.

Database Management

- Perform requested local traffic counts, integrating these with counts requested for travel demand modeling and HPMS data.
- Upload collected counts to a publicly available database and display on the SWMPC website.
- Work toward housing and displaying MDOT, county road commission, and SWMPC traffic counts in a single location.
- Organize and submit requested HPMS data to MDOT

Long Range Planning

- Incorporate relevant traffic counts in travel demand modeling process for the LRP.

Short Range Planning

- Supply area traffic counts where necessary for the short range planning process.
- Utilize traffic count and HPMS data to encourage communities to incorporate this information into their transportation project priorities.

10.0 Regional Data Management

SWMPC staff will work to compile regional transportation, population, economic, and geographic data pertinent to all facets of area transportation planning. Staff will collect this data from a variety of sources, including direct observation, MDOT and other state agencies, the United States Census Bureau and other federal agencies, county departments of planning and health, and a variety of non-governmental organizations. In collecting, hosting, and disseminating regional data, staff will directly support ongoing planning initiatives, in addition to providing the resources necessary for benchmarking and performance measurement.

Work Areas

10.1 Data Gathering and Hosting

Staff will make use of a number of resources to gather data on area transportation behavior and safety, the state of transportation infrastructure, current population trends and conditions relevant to transportation decisions, similarly relevant economic conditions. Staff will process and organize this data and will make use of in-house mapping expertise to capture its useful geographic properties.

10.2 Data Analysis and Dissemination

Staff will work to insert regional data as effectively as possible into area transportation planning processes. In particular, staff will work with NATS committees and subcommittees to provide the best possible data inputs for planning decisions. Additionally, staff will use these data to supply the necessary inputs for area benchmarking initiatives and a greater push toward the implementation of performance measurement schemes for both long and short range planning. Staff will also make use of regional data to communicate important transportation-related issues to area residents, focusing on mapping and graphical methods to do so.

Partners

NATS TAC and Policy Committee, MDOT, Transit agencies, Berrien County Planning and Health Departments, Cass County Planning and Health Departments.

10.0 Program Tasks

Program Management

- Provide ongoing GIS software maintenance and technical support within SWMPC transportation planning activities.
- Coordinate the interchange of regional GIS activities with relevant partners by facilitating area meetings.
- Participate in State GIS professional development activities.
- Continue education in GIS cartographic methods, data analyses, online mapping, and GIS tools.

Database Management

- Provide technical assistance to staff and outside jurisdictions/agencies for developing maps and information regarding availability of data.
- Provide data that is developed by SWMPC GIS to staff members and externally to regional partners by developing an online access destination.
- Provide maps in a variety of digital formats and printed products for use in presentation, brochures, and posters.
- Use GIS Tools to enhance analyses capabilities for reports and planning transportation needs.
- Collect, process, and analyze socioeconomic and demographic data necessary to develop and implement regional transportation plans and systems.

Long Range Planning

- Provide ongoing GIS software maintenance and technical support within SWMPC transportation planning activities.

Short Range Planning

- Develop mapping products for SWMPC reports and plans by collaborating in methods for analyses and the drafting of the maps.
- Provide online maps to support specific projects and facilitate public education and outreach.

11.0 Environmental Stewardship

SWMPC staff will actively engage community members in transportation management practices that improve air and water quality, sustainable land use development, and address the impacts of climate change and mitigation strategies within the NATS area.

Work Areas

11.1 Water Quality/Habitat

Work with road agencies in the development of transportation projects that minimize the impacts to water quality for the life of the facility. Promote and demonstrate Low Impact Development, Green Infrastructure, etc. Key objectives of this task include the facilitation of a workshop that focuses on designing culverts at road stream crossings to reduce erosion and improve fish passage, facilitate a workshop on the effects that roads have on stormwater management, and coordinate with road agencies to improve road stream crossings that inhibit fish passage or cause erosion because of improperly sized or placed culverts/bridges.

11.2 Sustainable Land Use Planning

Encourage NATS communities on the benefits of multi-community land use planning and designing high-quality communities that link people and places together through transportation planning. Promote the advantages of this type of planning through case studies and community examples. Key objectives of this task will include building water quality and land use criteria in development of transportation projects in the TIP and educating member communities about the advantages of better coordinated jurisdictional planning outside of their own community.

11.3 Climate Change and Air Quality

Research the current conditions that Michigan and the planning region may experience as a result of changing climate forces. Staff will continue to monitor the “attainment/unclassifiable” status for the region for Ozone and Particulate Matter. Staff will analyze the potential impacts that other states’ nonattainment status has on the study area. Key objectives of this area will include the generation of current and future climate change factors and the mitigations strategies for those factors.

Partners

Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, MACOG, NATS communities, Berrien and Cass County Health Department, MDOT, MDEQ, Friends of St. Joe River, Two Rivers Coalition, local road agencies, and Transit agencies.

11.0 Program Tasks

Program Management

- Participate in staff training opportunities.
- Organize and facilitate workshop presentations for Walk and Roll plan development.
- Maintain information regarding key project areas on website and provide updates to interested stakeholders
- Maintain SWMPC websites that highlight links between transportation and the environment.

Database Management

- Map locations of culverts that pose an issue for fish passage and erosion.
- Map locations of road projects in the TIP that are near sensitive river crossings.

Long Range Planning

- Research climate change and greenhouse gas reductions and develop strategies for mitigating impacts.
- Hold workshop on how climate change can impact Michigan and the study area.

Short Range Planning

- Coordinate the local agencies receiving CMAQ funds
- Develop transportation project applications that highlight the importance of water quality, air quality, and land use planning.
- Incorporate focus area into 2014-2017 TIP application development process and project prioritization.

12.0 Freight Planning

SWMPC staff will continue to incorporate appropriate freight considerations into the transportation planning process to ensure long-term investment decisions that are focused on a balanced, multi-modal system that meet the needs of both passenger and freight movements.

Work Areas

12.1 Freight Subcommittee

Through the formation of a subcommittee, MPO staff will build their basic freight knowledge, with available data and stakeholder engagement. The subcommittee will focus on the key issues facing the freight industry, hold discussion with local jurisdictions and freight companies regarding the freight network and the issues facing the industry over the Long Range Transportation Plan 27 year horizon. Key objectives to achieve would be to identify barriers for freight movement throughout the planning region, use the 2009 Berrien County Needs Assessment as a base for what additional information needs to be gathered for the region (specifically rail and harbor movements), and develop a request for proposals to develop a freight plan for Berrien County.

12.2 Data Collection

Complete a freight assessment that will assist MPO staff to better understand the region's freight system, its characteristics. Identification of the major freight facilities (interstate, commercial, retail, institutional) and identify segments of roadway that are important to the flow of freight within Berrien County and specifically to the NATS region. Collect information on the raw and processed materials moving through the region and the mode by which it moves.

Partners

NATS communities, St. Joseph River Harbor Authority, Cornerstone Alliance, Berrien County Economic Development, 360 Group, U.S. Department of Transportation, NIRPC, MACOG, MDOT, Michigan State University, Southwest Michigan Economic Growth Alliance.

12.0 Program Tasks

Program Management

- Attend and participate in freight planning and implementation workshops hosted by MDOT or other agencies.
- Provide freight business contact information to the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.
- Research freight plans from around the region that would impact the NATS area.

Database Management

- Map locations of important corridors for road, rail, harbor, air.
- Map distribution centers for goods.
- Obtain data from US DOT American Transportation Research Institute.

Long Range Planning

- Incorporate information collected from freight subcommittee into Long Range Transportation Plan development.
- Development of Freight request for proposal to better understand movement by this travel mode.

Short Range Planning

- Meeting preparation and facilitation.
- Prepare committee members for changes that may come from new federal authorizing legislation with emphasis on freight movement.
- Demonstrate the benefits to the public of moving good by freight for conservation of energy.
- Identify congestion points for the movement of goods throughout the region and Midwest.
- Deficiency analysis of harbor, roads, airport, rail for good movement.
- Prepare and facilitate freight public workshop to discuss the local impacts of infrastructure deficiencies and how that impacts businesses.

13.0 Passenger Rail

SWMPC staff value the local importance of keeping the Pere Marquette, Blue Water and Wolverine passenger rail lines in service for residents and visitors to southwest Michigan. SWMPC staff will continue to monitor the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative and how it would impact station communities along the Pere Marquette, Blue Water and Wolverine rail lines.

Work Areas

13.1 Westrain

Continuing the preservation and expansion of the Pere Marquette passenger rail line to the Blue Water and Wolverine high speed rail corridors is crucial to the success to interconnected passenger rail service throughout southern Michigan. Key objectives for this task would include the development of yearly marketing and advocacy objectives for the stakeholders, seeking revenues sources to support Westrain objectives, and to raise the overall awareness of the Pere Marquette passenger rail service.

13.2 Blue Water and Wolverine Passenger Rail Lines

Coordinate and collaborate with the marketing directors and station communities along these lines to highlight the interconnected nature of passenger rail service throughout Michigan. Key objectives would be to include representatives from the station communities along these rail lines in the larger stakeholder group for the Pere Marquette line and to learn how they have been able to increase ridership and visibility along their rail service lines.

Partners

Cornerstone Alliance, Four Flags Area Chamber of Commerce, Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce, Southwest Michigan Economic Growth Alliance, Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers, Westrain, MDOT, Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, Southwest Michigan Tourist Council, Harbor Country Convention and Visitors Bureau, Grand Valley Metro Council, Amtrak, NATS communities, Transit agencies.

13.0 Program Tasks

Program Management

- Prepare and facilitate Westrain stakeholder quarterly meetings.
- Create webpage on SWMPC website that promotes the Pere Marquette passenger rail line.
- Expand stakeholder membership of Westrain.
- Develop goals and benchmarks for 2013-2014 marketing campaign.

Database Management

- Monitor Amtrak ridership data.
- Monitor performance of 3 passenger rail lines in the region.

Long Range Planning

- Research funding opportunities for Westrain.
- Encourage the preservation and expansion of passenger rail service to key employment and visitor destinations.
- Explore options to promote passenger rail service on the Pure Michigan website for tourism.
- Coordinate with Blue Water and Wolverine passenger rail lines where appropriate.
- Review any proposed connections for the passenger rail lines in Michigan to connect to the South Shore Rail Line.

Short Range Planning

- Increase visibility of train transportation as viable option to driving.
- Develop flyers with maps highlighting key destinations close to the community station stops along the Pere Marquette line.

14.0 Transit Pass Through

The SWMPC will provide \$6,250 dollars to the City of Niles for Niles Dial A Ride to perform specified transit tasks, as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (Appendix H) and also listed as Project 14.0. The work areas that follow outline the specific work tasks that Niles Dial A Ride will perform in exchange for the Transit Pass Through revenue.

Work Areas

A. Long Range Transportation Plan

- Assist in the development of the NATS Walk and Roll Non-Motorized Transportation Plan inventory of existing transit facilities and identification of future planned facilities.
- Work with MPO staff on the development of transit improvements throughout the study area
- Work with MPO staff on the continued effort to coordinate all transit service providers in the study area
- Assist in the implementation of the 2013-2040 NATS Long Range Transportation Plan Goals and Objectives
- Provide MPO staff with information from FTA regarding changes that could impact the LRP

B. Transportation Improvement Program

- Provide technical assistance in the implementation of the public transit element of the Transportation Improvement Program
- Provide MPO with list of obligated transit projects for FY 2013, 30 days after the completion of the fiscal year
- Provide MPO staff with information from FTA regarding changes that could impact the TIP

C. Unified Planning Work Program

- Assist in the development of the public transit element of the FY 2015 NATS Unified Planning Work Program
- Assist in the implementation of the elements in the FY 2014 UWP as it impacts transit

D. Public Participation

- Assist the MPO in the dissemination of information as it relates to the MPO Public Participation Plan

E. Data Collection

- Niles Dial A Ride to monitor their ridership levels
- Niles Dial A Ride to provide quarterly ridership data and email to SWMPC transportation staff

F. Performance Objectives

- Niles Dial A Ride assist in the development of transit related performance objectives for the MPO

Partners

NATS communities, South Bend, IN Transpo, MACOG, Buchanan Dial A Ride, Berrien Bus, Cass County Public Transit, SWMPC.

Appe

Appendix A: NATS Committee Members

NATS Policy Committee

The purpose of the Technical Advisory Committee shall be to provide technical advice to the Policy Committee. The purpose of the Policy Committee shall be to provide policy level guidance, direction and necessary approvals to all aspects of the continuing, comprehensive and cooperative transportation planning process carried out by the lead planning organization responsible for coordinating the transportation planning process in the Niles Buchanan Cass Urban Area as it relates to NATS. Deliberations, findings and approvals of the Policy Committee shall be made after due consideration of the recommendations of the NATS Technical Advisory Committee. **Ex-officio means nonvoting member.*

Policy Committee Members

Chair: Dale Lowe, Howard Township
Vice-Chair: Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township
Jason Auvil, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians
Pat Bellaire, Village of Edwardsburg
Georgia Boggs, City of Niles
Jess Minks, Berrien County Road Commission/Brian Berndt Alternate
*John Egelhaaf, SWMPC
*Fred Featherly, MDOT - Multi-Modal
Irving Frost, Howard Township
John Gruchot, Berrien County Planning Department/Katie Montoya Alternate
Darrell Harden, MDOT - Southwest Region/Jason Latham Alternate
Joe Sobieralski, Southwest MI Econ Growth Alliance
Joseph Kring, Bertrand Township
Kelly Sweeney, Milton Township

Larry Larson, City of Niles
Pam Boyd, MDOT Planning
Kim O'Haver, Buchanan Dial A Ride
Serita Ann Mason, City of Niles
*Stewart McKenzie, FTA
Jane Mitchell, Buchanan Township
Cliff Poehlman, Cass County Road Commission
Robert Ziliak, Cass County Commission
Janet Personette, Four Flags Area Chamber of Commerce
*Robert Rusch, MDEQ - Air Quality Div.
Don Ryman, City of Buchanan/William Marx Alternate
*Bradley Sharlow, MDOT - Travel Demand
Evan Smith, Niles Dial-a-Ride/ Kelly Getman-Dissette Alternate
*Andrea Dewey, FHWA - Michigan Division
Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Transportation Service Center, Coloma/Erin Jolivet
Representative, Michiana Area Council of Governments
Dawn Bolock - Ontwa Township
Additional representative-Four Flags Chamber of Commerce

Technical Advisory Committee Members

Chair: Joseph Bellina, Cass County Board of Commissioners

Vice-Chair: Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township

Jason Auvil, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians

Pat Bellaire, Village of Edwardsburg

Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission

Dawn Bolock- Ontwa Township

Barbara Cook, Cass County Planning Commission

*John Egelhaaf, SWMPC

*Fred Featherly, MDOT - Multi-Modal

Irving Frost, Howard Township

Juan Ganum, City of Niles-Community Development

Kelly Getman-Dissette, Niles Dial-a-Ride/Evan Smith Alternate

John Gruchot, Berrien County Community

Development/Katie Montoya Alternate

Darrell Harden, MDOT - Southwest Region/Jason Latham Alternate

Joe Sobieralski, Southwest MI Econ Growth Alliance

Joseph Kring, Bertrand Township

Kelly Sweeney, Milton Township

Pam Boyd, MDOT Planning

*Stewart McKenzie, FTA

Jane Mitchell, Buchanan Township

Kim O'Haver, Buchanan Dial A Ride

Joe Ray, City of Niles-Public Works

*Bradley Sharlow, MDOT - Travel Demand

Janet Personette, Four Flags Area Chamber of Commerce

*Robert Rusch, MDEQ - Air Quality Div.

Don Ryman, City of Buchanan/William Marx Alternate

*Andrea Dewey, FHWA - Michigan Division

Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Transportation Service

Center, Coloma/Erin Jolivet

Representative, Michiana Area Council of Governments

Appendix B: NATS MPO Staff

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
185 E. Main St, Suite 701
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 925-1137
www.swmpc.org

K. John Egelhaaf-Executive Director

egelhaafj@swmpc.org
(269) 925- 1137 x 12

Suzann Flowers
Associate Planner
flowerss@swmpc.org
(269) 925-1137 x 17

Gautam Mani
Associate Planner
manig@swmpc.org
(269) 925-1137 x 24

Kim Gallagher
Senior Planner
gallagherk@swmpc.org
(269) 925-1137 x 18

Appendix C: Public Comments Received

After the 10-day public comment period, transportation staff did not receive any comments.



SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN PLANNING COMMISSION

185 East Main Street, Suite 701, Benton Harbor, MI 49022
Phone: 269-925-1137 • Website: www.swmipc.org

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE NILES-BUCHANAN-CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2014**

WHEREAS, the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study (TwinCATS) according to the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 134, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the MPO is responsible for the development of a Unified Work Program which is required by both the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration; and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2014 Unified Work Program has been developed pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 134, as amended, and Section 8(f) of the Federal Transit Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the SWMPC approves the Unified Work Program for Fiscal Year 2014.

Dale Lowe, Policy Chairperson
Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study

7/23/13
Date

K. John Egelhaaf, Executive Director
Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

7/24/13
Date

Appendix E: Public Notices

Ad Number: 440484U, Publication: IRIB, I
UWP FY 2014 TwinCATS
and NATS

Public comment period now open
-- Fiscal Year 2014
Unified Work Program

The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) is seeking public comment on the Fiscal Year 2014 Unified Planning Work Program (UWP) for the Twin Cities Area Transportation Study (TwinCATS) and the Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study (NATS). The UWP is a federally required document describing transportation planning projects and activities of the SWMPC for the St. Joseph/Benton Harbor urbanized area and the Niles-Buchanan-Cass urbanized area to be undertaken during the period of October 1, 2013-September 30, 2014. The draft documents are available online in pdf format.

TwinCATS:
http://www.swmpc.org/downloads/uwp_draft_6_11_13.pdf

NATS:
http://www.swmpc.org/downloads/nats_fy_2014_uwp.pdf

Comments may be submitted June 28 -- July 8 to Transportation Planners Suzann Flowers, - flowerss@swmpc.org - (269)-925-1137 x17 or Gautam Mani, - manig@swmpc.org - (269)-925-1137 x24.

OR mailed to Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, 185 E. Main St. - Suite 701, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Ht: 7: 1

State of Indiana St. Joseph County ss:

Personally appeared before me, a notary public in and for said county and state, the undersigned *Kim Wilson* who, being duly sworn says that she is of competent age and is President & Publisher of the South Bend Tribune, a daily newspaper which for at least five (5) consecutive years has been published in the City of South Bend, county of St. Joseph, State of Indiana, and which during the time, has been a newspaper of general circulation, having a bona fide paid circulation, printed in the English Language and entered, authorized and accepted by the post office department of the United States of America as mailable matter of the second-class as defined by the act of Congress of the United States of March 3, 1879, and that the printed matter attached hereto is a true copy, which was duly published in said newspaper.

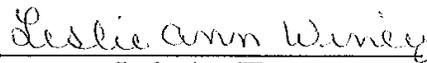
1 time(s), the dates of publication being as follows:

July 1, 2013



Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day

of July 2013



Leslie Ann Winey

Notary Public

Resident of St. Joseph County

AFFP

UWP FY 2014 TwinCATS and NATS

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF BERRIEN) SS

UWP FY 2014 TwinCATS and NATS

Public comment period now open -- Fiscal Year 2014 Unified Work Program
The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) is seeking public
comment on the Fiscal Year 2014 Unified Planning Work Program (UWP) for the
Twin Cities Area Transportation Study (TwinCATS) and the Niles-Buchanan-Cass
Area Transportation Study (NATS). The UWP is a federally required document
describing transportation planning projects and activities of the SWMPC for the St.
Joseph/Benton Harbor urbanized area and the Niles-Buchanan-Cass urbanized area
to be undertaken during the period of October 1, 2013-September 30, 2014. The
draft documents are available online in pdf format.

Jennifer Flewellen, being duly sworn, says:

That she is Classified Manager of the Herald Palladium, a
Daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and
published in St Joseph, Berrien County, Michigan; that the
publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was
published in the said newspaper on the following dates:

TwinCATS: http://www.swmpc.org/downloads/uwp_draft_6_11_13.pdf

NATS: http://www.swmpc.org/downloads/nats_fy_2014_uwp.pdf

June 27, 2013

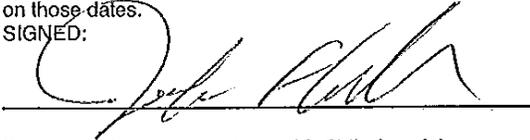
Comments may be submitted June 28 -- July 8 to Transportation Planners Suzann
Flowers, - flowerss@swmpc.org - (269)-925-1137 x17 or Gautam Mani, -
manig@swmpc.org - (269)-925-1137 x24.

OR mailed to Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, 185 E. Main St. -- Suite
701, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

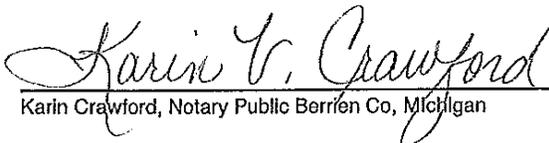
Publisher's Fee: \$ 101.28

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated
on those dates.

SIGNED:



Subscribed to and sworn to me this 27th day of June
2013.



Karin Crawford, Notary Public Berrien Co, Michigan

Appendix F: SWMPC Indirect Cost Rate

Based on FY 2011 Costs					
	Direct Costs		Indirect Costs		Total Costs
SALARIES AND WAGES	\$313,622	(Y)	\$99,924		\$413,546
FRINGE BENEFITS	\$129,353	(Y)	\$37,960		\$167,313
TRAVEL	\$24,167		\$0		\$24,167
TELEPHONE	\$2,012		\$0		\$2,012
PRINTING AND POSTAGE	\$20,522		\$1,648		\$22,170
ADVERTISING	\$1,179		\$0		\$1,179
DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$2,189		\$353		\$2,542
SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	\$14,544		\$2,891		\$17,435
COMPUTER SERVICES	\$5,759		\$18,879		\$24,638
CONFERENCES/TRAINING	\$4,215				\$4,215
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES-OFF SITE	\$43,950		\$0		\$43,950
CONTRACTUAL PERSONNEL-ON SITE	\$42,506		\$0		\$42,506
DIRECT EQUIPMENT	\$481	(Y)	\$0		\$481
PASS THRU	\$8,183		\$0		\$8,183
COMM. EXP.,PER DIEM,MILG.	\$13,035		\$0		\$13,035
CONTENTS,BLDG,LIABILITY,BOND INS.	\$0		\$0		\$0
CONTRACTUAL - LEGAL	\$34,435		\$0		\$34,435
CONTRACTUAL - AUDIT	\$5,300		\$0		\$5,300
RENT/JANITORIAL/RECYCLING	\$0		\$35,290		\$35,290
DEPRECIATION	\$0		\$1,551		\$1,551
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	\$0		\$1,260		\$1,260
Total Expenditures	\$665,452		\$199,756		\$865,208
Total Direct Base (Y)	\$485,481				
Total Indirect Costs (I)			\$199,756		
Indirect Cost Rate Formula:					
Total Indirect Cost(I)	\$199,756				
Total Direct Base(Y)	\$485,481				
Indirect Cost Rate Percentage	41%				

Appendix F: Certificate of Indirect Cost Rate

CERTIFICATE OF INDIRECT COSTS

This is to certify that I have reviewed the indirect cost rate proposal submitted herewith and to the best of my knowledge and belief:

- 1) All costs included in this 2013 proposal to establish billing or final indirect cost rates for FY 2013 are allowable in accordance with the requirements of the Federal award to which they apply and per 2 CFR 225, "Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments." Unallowable costs have been adjusted for in allocating costs as indicated in the cost allocation plan.
- 2) All costs included in this proposal are properly allocable to Federal awards on the basis of a beneficial or causal relationship between the expenses incurred and the agreements to which they are allocated in accordance with applicable requirements. Further, the same costs that have been treated as indirect costs have not been claimed as direct costs. Similar types of costs have been accounted for consistently and the Federal Government will be notified of any accounting changes that would affect the predetermined rate.

I declare that the foregoing is true and correct.

Governmental Unit: Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

Signature:



Name of Official: K. John Egelhaaf

Title: Executive Director

Date of Execution: July 10, 2013

Appendix G: Work Completed in FY 2013

- 1.0 What Moves You Berrien County: Creating a Transportation Vision for Berrien County
 - Completed 2013-2040 Long Range Transportation Plan
 - Collaborated with MDOT in the development of the travel demand model with analysis of proposed changes to the employment, household, and population shifts projected over the next 25 years
 - Develop goals, with corresponding performance measures, for Long Range Plan 2040.
 - Monitored state and federal legislative actions that impacted the planning region
 - Coordinated with MDOT in the development of a travel demand model for Berrien County.
- 2.0 Transportation Improvement Program Administration
 - Published Annual listing of obligated transportation projects
 - Administered the 2011-2014 TIP
 - Monitored the 2011-2014 fiscal constraint table for the region
 - Wrote 2014-2017 TIP
 - Created online TIP submission application form
 - Conducted project selection for 2014-2017 TIP
 - Monitored FY 2013 statewide obligation balances as it impacted the MPO
- 3.0 Committee Administration
 - Conducted and prepared for monthly Committee meetings
 - Performed member community presentations to community boards
 - Wrote the FY 2012 Annual Report
 - Wrote the FY 2014 UWP
 - Conducted and prepared for standing subcommittees
 - Communicated with and engaged new committee members throughout the fiscal year
- 4.0 Public Involvement
 - Provided public notices for TIP Amendments
 - Provided public notices for LRP developments
 - Published Annual Meeting Schedule
 - Public Participation Plan administration
 - Regularly updated over 15 transportation related websites
 - Maintained database of public involvement activities
 - Updated monthly public outreach, media, and consultation mailing lists
 - Communicated with over 600 transportation stakeholders and citizens twice monthly
- 5.0 Non-Motorized Transportation Planning
 - Presented information regarding MDOT's Complete Streets Policy and its impacts on the MPO
- 6.0 Transit and Mobility Planning
 - Reviewed and analyzed transit data from Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA)
 - Provided staff support to Berrien County Transit Consolidation Feasibility Study
 - Manage the Rideshare program using CMAQ funds

7.0 Human Service Coordination

- Entered data from handwritten TCATA driver logs for a thirty day period with approximately 12,000 entries that include origin/destination locations, times, passenger type, and no shows
- Analyzed data to look at the feasibility of adjusting or creating new fixed route service(s)
- Provided maps of potential new and revised routes to TCATA management for consideration
- Facilitated the production of a video to educate transit users and human service agencies on the benefits of utilizing TCATA's fixed route services
- Assisted in the expanded use of technology, specifically, the creation of a new website called MyWayThere.org
- Regional Reduced Fare Card for seniors and people with disabilities
- Standardized Operating Policies for future adoption by all Berrien County transit agencies
- Hosted workshops on Determining ADA Para-Transit Eligibility, Coordinating Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Into the Mix, ADA Essentials for Transit Board Members and Local Advisory Committees, FTA Civil Rights Training

8.0 Asset Management

- Collaborated with local entities in meeting the goals of the Asset Management Council established under P.A. 499
- Scheduled, coordinated, and attended Investment Reporting Tool training
- Attended PASER road rating webinar and PASER road rating training
- Conducted PASER rating on all federal aid eligible roads in the northern half of Berrien County
- Assisted local communities with information about local road rating eligibility and local asset management plans
- Began coordinating the development of a local asset management plan with the City of Benton Harbor

9.0 Travel Data Collection

- Performed local traffic count requests
- Coordinated with MDOT in the developed of Highway Performance Monitoring System road observations, which were documented in map and report formats
- Maintained an accurate TAZ delineation and road network database

10.0 Regional Data Management

- Researched variables that would be needed for regional and state comparisons
- Selected and retrieved data files from the U.S. Census Bureau
- Coded selected variables to be mapped in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software
- Displayed selected variables in different graphic representations that would be more usable to government agencies, businesses, and the general public
- Continued to upload regional data to the SWMPC website

11.0 Environmental Stewardship

- Monitored changes to air quality legislation and its impacts on the MPO

- Received Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments (GLISA) grant to evaluate the impacts of climate related changes to the Berrien County region.
- Researched potential impacts of climate change on Southwest Michigan and developed strategies for addressing climate change
- Assisted in the facilitation of the GLISA Climate Change study and 3 public input meetings

12.0 Freight Planning

- Participated in training events and workshops that aided in SWMPC transportation staff's knowledge in freight planning

13.0 Passenger Rail

- Conducted and prepared for 4 Westrain (Pere Marquette) stakeholder meetings
- Developed FY 2013 marketing budget and outcomes
- Expanded the Westrain stakeholder outreach contact list
- Developed outline of Goals and Objectives for Westrain stakeholder group
- Monitored the revenue and ridership data throughout the fiscal year

Appendix H: Memorandum of Understanding with City of Niles

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

***This is a placeholder until this document is signed in August**

Memorandum of Understanding for Pass-Through of FTA 5303 Funds from the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) to the City of Niles for the Undertaking and Completion of the Niles Buchanan Cass Area Transportation Study FY 2013 Work Program, Transit Service Planning, Transit Management & Operations Planning

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be effective October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014 by and between the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) and the City of Niles, WITNESSETH:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to acknowledge that the SWMPC is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Niles Buchanan Cass Area Transportation Study and is the legal recipient of Federal Transit Administration 5303 transit planning funds. In addition, this MOU will define the allocation, disbursement and accounting of FTA Section 5303 funds received by the MPO. These funds will be used for the undertaking and completion of urban transportation planning study projects. U.S. Government financial assistance for said projects is provided initially to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The funds are then allocated by MDOT to the SWMPC for work associated with the Niles Buchanan Cass Area Transportation Study. The parties to this MOU understand that 23 CFR 450.314 Metropolitan Planning Agreement require the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission and the City of Niles to specify cooperative procedures for carrying out transportation planning and programming. To that end, transit agencies shall contribute to the cooperative determination of the metropolitan transportation planning and programming process.

SECTION 2. THE PROJECTS - The City of Niles agrees to the defined allocation, disbursement, and accounting of FTA 5303 funds as outlined in this Memorandum of Understanding. The City of Niles also agrees to the programs, projects, and tasks as outlined in the Fiscal Year 2013 Niles Buchanan Cass Area Transportation Study Unified Planning Work Program and as outlined in Section 2 Parts A-F of this understanding.

TASKS FOR CITY OF NILES (NILES DIAL A RIDE)

G. Long Range Transportation Plan

- Assist in the development of the NATS Walk and Roll Non-Motorized Transportation Plan inventory of existing transit facilities and identification of future planned facilities.
- Work with MPO staff on the development of transit improvements throughout the study area

- Work with MPO staff on the continued effort to coordinate all transit service providers in the study area
- Assist in the implementation of the 2013-2040 NATS Long Range Transportation Plan Goals and Objectives
- Provide MPO staff with information from FTA regarding changes that could impact the LRP

H. Transportation Improvement Program

- Provide technical assistance in the implementation of the public transit element of the Transportation Improvement Program
- Provide MPO with list of obligated transit projects for FY 2013, 30 days after the completion of the fiscal year
- Provide MPO staff with information from FTA regarding changes that could impact the TIP

I. Unified Planning Work Program

- Assist in the development of the public transit element of the FY 2015 NATS Unified Planning Work Program
- Assist in the implementation of the elements in the FY 2014 UWP as it impacts transit

J. Public Participation

- Assist the MPO in the dissemination of information as it relates to the MPO Public Participation Plan

K. Data Collection

- Niles Dial A Ride to monitor their ridership levels
- Niles Dial A Ride to provide quarterly ridership data and email to SWMPC transportation staff

L. Performance Objectives

- Niles Dial A Ride assist in the development of transit related performance objectives for the MPO

SECTION 3. PASS-THROUGH FUNDS - The estimated total cost of the project work associated with this Memorandum of Understanding is \$6,250. These funds will be available contingent upon availability of federal funds to the SWMPC.

SECTION 4. REIMBURSEMENT OF COST PROCEDURES

- A. The City of Niles (Niles Dial A Ride) shall submit quarterly progress and financial reports to the SWMPC within thirty (30) calendar days of the end of each three-month quarter beginning October 1, 2012. The quarters are herein defined as:
 - i. October 1, 2013-December 31, 2013
 - ii. January 1, 2014-March 30, 2014
 - iii. April 1, 2014-June 30, 2014
 - iv. July 1, 2014-September 30, 2014
- B. The invoice shall indicate:
 - i. Total amount of Section 5303 funds and matching funds expended during the subject period and;
 - ii. The amount being requested for reimbursement.
- C. An invoice should include an attached quarterly expenditure report by work task. Identification of expenditures by work task should include a synopsis of work accomplishments and products
- D. Once SWMPC receives the quarterly report from the City of Niles, SWMPC will in turn requisition funds from MDOT in an amount equal to eighty percent (80%) of the City of Niles' total cost for the quarter. Reimbursement of the City of Niles' costs for the quarter shall occur within ten (10) working days of the SWMPC receipt of the requisitioned funds from MDOT. The SWMPC shall not be responsible for reimbursement to the City of Niles for any project costs disallowed by MDOT or FTA.

SECTION 5. PLANNING REQUIREMENTS - The transportation plans and programs which are developed as part of this project shall be formulated on the basis of transportation needs. Due consideration shall be given to comprehensive, long-range land use plans, development objectives, and overall social, economic, environmental factors, energy consumption goals and objectives and the probable affect on the future development of the urban area. The planning process shall include an analysis of alternative transportation system management and investment strategies. The process shall also consider the more efficient use of existing transportation resources. The process shall consider all modes of transportation and shall be continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive to the degree appropriate based on the complexity of the transportation problems. Furthermore, the plans and programs that are developed as part of this project shall encourage to the maximum extent feasible the participation of private enterprise.

SECTION 6. CONTINGENCY CLAUSE - In the event public transportation planning funds are reduced or eliminated, the SWMPC may proportionally reduce or withdraw its obligation to the City of Niles under the above Memorandum of Understanding.

SECTION 7. EXECUTION AND DURATION OF AGREEMENT - This Agreement may be simultaneously executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original having identical legal effect. When dated and signed by the SWMPC, this Memorandum of Understanding should be executed by the City of Niles within thirty (30) days of such date. The SWMPC may withdraw its obligation hereunder if the

Memorandum of Understanding is not executed within the above thirty (30) day period. The effective date of the Memorandum of Understanding shall be October 1, 2013 and the expiration date shall be September 30, 2014 unless other arrangements are hereafter mutually agreed upon by MDOT, SWMPC and the City of Niles.

The SWMPC and the City of Niles do hereby ratify and adopt all statements, representations, warranties, and covenants herein and agree to all of the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

Executed by the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

on this _____ day of _____, 2013

SWMPC Chair

Executed by the City of Niles

on this _____ day of _____, 2013

_____(Title)

