Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
376 West Main Street, Suite 130 • Benton Harbor, MI 49022-3651

NILES-BUCHANAN-CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

COMBINED TECHNICAL ADVISORY and POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Brandon Kovnat, *Transportation Planner*
Kim Gallagher, *Transportation Planner*
(269) 925-1137 Ext: 1524 & 1518

DATE: January 28, 2020
TIME: 1:30 PM
PLACE: Niles District Library
620 E Main St, Niles, MI 49120

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 November 26, 2019 Meeting** ***(Enclosed)*** Action
5. **Staff Report**
6. **Public Transit Updates**
   - Berrien Bus presentation on new fixed routes *(Evan Smith)*
   - Niles Dial a Ride *(Kelly Getman Dissette)*
   - Buchanan Dial a Ride *(Kim O'Haver)*
7. **Road Project Updates & Amendments**
   - Add bridge project on Redfield Street ***(Enclosed)*** **Action**
8. **MDOT Project Updates & Amendments**
   - Changes and an addition for signal projects ***(Enclosed)*** **Action**
9. **New Business**
   - Discussion about the Transportation Alternatives Program
10. **State and Federal Updates**
11. **Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment**
12. **Adjournment**
    - The next NATS meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 25, 2020 @ 1:30 pm.**

NILES BUCHANAN CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (NATS)

Joint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Policy Committee Minutes – **November 26, 2019**

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	P	P		P	P		P	P	P	P	
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	(vacant)		x												
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Evan Smith	x		P	P	P		P	P		A	A	P	A	
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	Eric Lester, M.D.		x	A	A	A		P	P		P	A	A	A	
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (Policy)	(vacant)		x												
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (TAC)	Brian Berndt	Retired		P	P	A									
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (TAC)	Kevin Stack	X			P	P		P	P		P	A	A	P	
Bertrand Township	Butch Payton	x	x	P	P	P		P	P		P	P	P	P	
Buchanan Dial-A-Ride	Kim O'Haver	x	x	P	P	P		A	P		A	P	A	P	
Buchanan Township	Lynn Ferris	x	x	A	A	P		P	P		P	P	P	P	
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (1)	Michael Grice		x	P	A	A		P	P		A	A	A	A	
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	Roseann Marchetti		x	P	P	A		P	P		P	P	P	A	
Cass Co. Planning Commission	(vacant)	x													
Cass Co. Road Comm. (Policy)	Sandra Seanor		x	A	P	P		P	P		P	P	P	P	
Cass Co. Road Comm. (TAC)	Joe Bellina (TAC Chair)	x		P	P	P		P	A		P	P	A	P	
City of Buchanan	Don Ryman	x	x	P	A	A		P	A		A	P	P	P	
City of Niles (1)	Georgia Boggs		x	A	P	A		A	P		A	P	P	P	
City of Niles (2)	Serita Mason		x	A	P	P		A	P		P	P	A	P	
City of Niles (3)	Jessica Nelson		x									P	P	P	
City of Niles Community Dev. Director	(vacant)	x													
City of Niles Dial-A-Ride Transit	Kelly Getman-Dissette	x	x	P	P	A		P	P		P	P	P	A	
City of Niles Public Works Dir./Airport	Joe Ray	x		P	P	A		P	A		P	A	P	P	
Howard Township	Bill Kasprzak	x	x	P	P	P		P	P		P	P	A	P	
Kinexus	(vacant)	x													
Mason Township	Doug Fetters	x	x	P	P	P		A	A		A	A	A	A	
MDOT - Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	P	P	P		P	A		P	A	A	A	
MDOT - Southwest Region	Brian Sanada	x	x	P	A	P		P	P		A	P	P	P	
MDOT - Southwest Region (Alternate)	Amy Lipset	Alt	Alt	A	P	A		A	A		A	A	A	A	
MDOT - Transportation Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	P	A	P		A	P		P	A	A	A	
Milton Township	Susan Flowers	x	x	P	A	P		P	P		P	A	A	A	
Niles Charter Township	Richard Cooper (P. Ch.)	x	x	P	P	P		P	P		P	P	P	P	
Ontwa Township	Dawn Bolock	x	x	P	P	P		P	P		P	P	P	P	
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians	(vacant)	x	x												
Village of Edwardsburg	Dennis Peak	x	x	A	P	P		P	A		A	A	A	A	
Federal Highway Administration	Andrea Dewey	NV	NV	A	P	A		P	A		A	A	A	A	
Federal Transit Administration	Susan Weber	NV	NV	A	A	A		A	A		A	A	A	A	
EGLE - Air Quality	Breanna Bukowski	NV		A	A	A		A	A		A	A	A	A	
MDOT - Modeling	Jon Roberts	NV		P	P	A		A	A		A	A	A	A	
MDOT - Office of Passenger Trans.	(vacant)	NV													
Michiana Area Council of Governments	Caitlin Stevens	NV	NV									P	P	A	
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	NV	NV	A	A	P		P	P		P	P	P	P	
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Brandon Kovnat	NV	NV	P	P	P		P	A		P	P	P	P	

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

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1) **Call to Order / Introductions and Pledge of Allegiance**
Technical Advisory chair, Joe Bellina called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

2) **Changes to the Agenda**
None.

3) **Public Comment**
None.

4) **Approve Minutes from the September 27, 2019 Meeting**
Motion to approve the minutes from the October 22, 2019 joint Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meeting Made by Serita Mason and seconded by Jessica Nelson. **Motion approved.**

5) **Staff Report**
Kovnat said that the Indiana Michigan River Valley trail is complete. The grand opening ceremony took place on November 9.

6) **Public Transit Updates**
   a) **Niles Dial-a-Ride:** None.
   b) **Buchanan Dial-a-Ride:** None.

7) **Road Project Updates**
   a) **Redfield Guardrail:** Bellina reminded the committees that this was originally a 2019 project but had been moved to 2020. The state was able to change this because the project is funded through a statewide competitive safety grant. The reason for the delay was that there were issues getting permits from the state Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).
   b) **Lake Street from Airport Rd. to Huntly Rd.:** Bellina said that the Project is obligated and a bid has been approved.
   c) **Third Street:** Stack said it was in design.
   d) **Lake Street bridge over railroad:** Ray said that the project is in design. It is going slow due to issues dealing with the rail company.

8) **TIP amendments**
   a) **Cass County Road Commission projects:** Two projects from the Cass County Road Commission need to be added to the 2020-2023 TIP. The projects are both resurfacing projects funded with rural surface transportation fundsg but are within the MPO boundary. The projects are as follows: Barron Lake Road from Cook St. to Pokagon Hwy, and Calvin Center Road from US-12 to grange St. – *see meeting packet for full details*
   b) **MDOT projects:** MDOT presented three amendments (See packet for full details):
      - A cost decrease to a Regionwide sign replacement project.
      - The addition of the construction phase in 2023 to resurface the carpool lot off of U-31 at Niles-Buchanan Road.
      - The addition of Engineering for 2020 & Construction for 2023 for a project on US-12 from Edwardsburg east to Brady road. MDOT will be adding 8 ft. shoulders on each side, as well as a left turn lane at US-12 and Brady Rd.

Kovnat noted that amendments in the packet for an off turn Right turn lane at M-62 and May Street (job # 202018) was actually just an administrative modification. The project has already been approved by NATS. Only changes to the letting date were made; the committee would not be voting on this project.

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

9) **New Business**

a) **Safety Performance Targets:** Gallagher and Kovnat presented background information about safety performance measures. A resolution was presented for NATS to adopt the state's safety performance targets for 2019 (see resolution in meeting packet).

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the resolution adoption the state safety performance targets. Made by Kim O'Haver, second by Joe Ray. **Motion approved**.

b) **2020 Meeting dates:** Kovnat presented the meeting dates for calendar year 2020. He noted that the January meeting will be the second Monday of the month because the third Monday is Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the policy committee approve the 2020 meeting dates. Made by Joe Ray, second by Bill Kasprizak. **Motion approved**.

Gallagher announced that the December 2019 meeting was cancelled due to lack of new business

10) **State and Federal Updates**

Brian Sanada said that on January 16, 2020 there would be a presentation on the *Driving Change* safety campaign. This was a bicycle safety educational campaign in Grand Rapids. In 2015 there were 73 non-motorized crashes resulting in 11 fatalities & serious injuries. In 2016, there were 42 crashes with 2 fatalities & serious injuries.

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

Bellina said that the Edwardsburg Sports Complex has its opening on November 5. This facility was a major reason that the -Village & township decided to build a non-motorized path along US-12 and why they are requesting TAP funding for a pedestrian crossing signal.

Stack discussed the strike at Reith Riley. He said that two Berrien County Road Department projects were affected. The construction contracts can't be canceled because they are on federal aid routes with state contracts.

Stack mentioned that the higher state gas tax was showing results:- Berrien County Road Department was getting an additional $4 million. While the department can fund new projects, there is no new capacity. He said he has to compete for contractors with MDOT; a case of supply and demand. He added that many construction companies would be working on US-31, leaving less open for other work.

12) **Adjournment**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve all recommendations from the Technical Advisory Committee made at this meeting. Made by Serita Mason and seconded by Bill Kasprizak. **Motion approved**.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 28, 2019 @ 1:30 pm.

Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate planner

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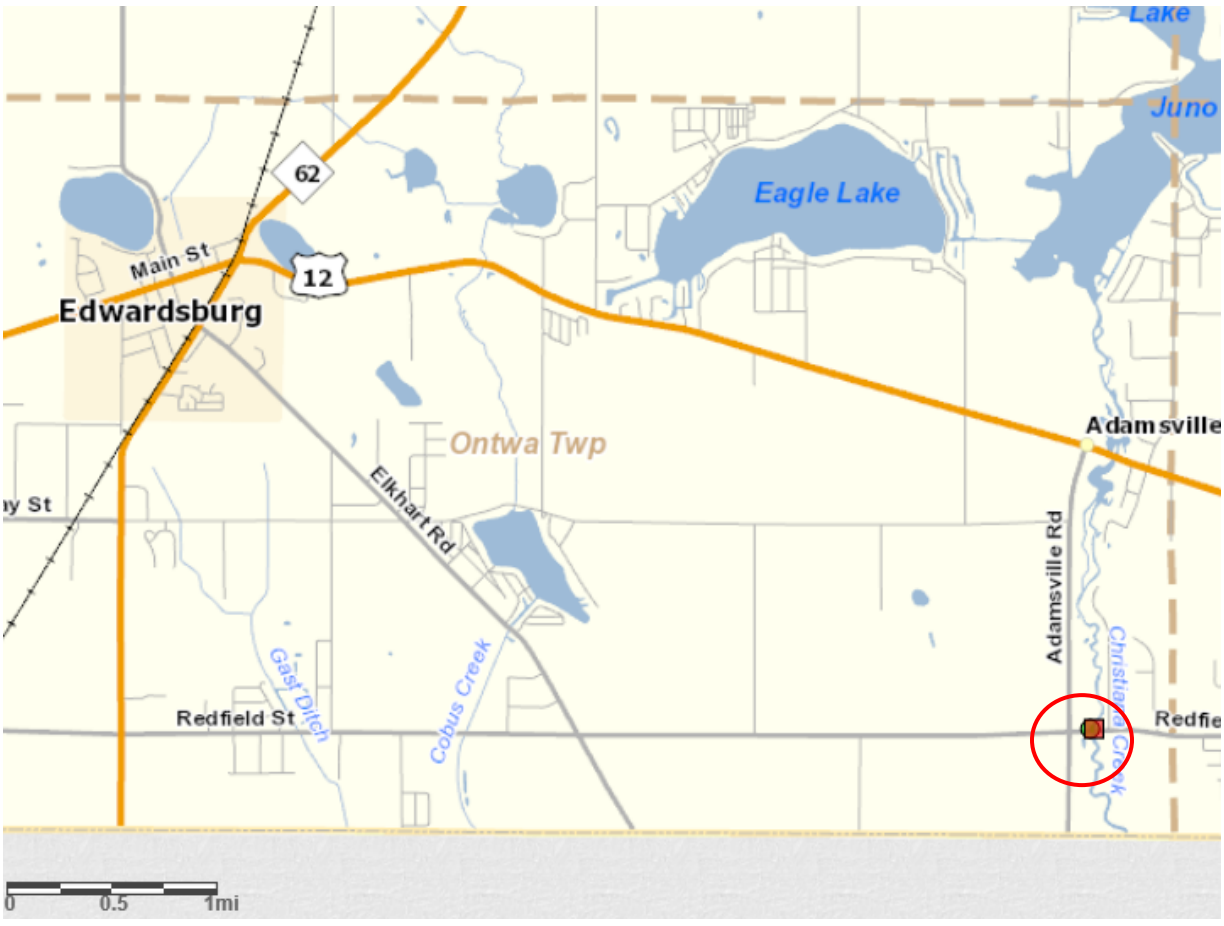
Request to Add Project to the
NATS 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement program

Project Name:	Redfield Street Bridge
Fiscal Year of award:	2020
Responsible Agency:	Cass County Road commission
MDOT Job Number:	209728
Project Limits	Bridge over Christiana Creek
Project Length:	60 feet
Location:	Ontwa Township
Primary Work Type:	Resurface
Phase	CON

Project Description:

Miscellaneous bridge capital preventative maintenance

Fund Source	Federal	State	Local	Total
BHT Federal Surface Transportation funds dedicated toward bridge projects	$41,600	$7,800	$2,600	$52,000



MDOT TIP Amendment Request

For the January 28, 2020 NATS TAC & Policy Meeting

Traffic signal modernizations in 2020 – Cost Increase

Fund Source	Approved	Revised	Increase
Federal	$856,169	$1,301,430	$445,261
State	$0	$0	$0
Total	**$856,169**	**$1,301,430**	**$445,261**

This is a 50% cost increase. Includes four signals in the NATS area.

Traffic signal modernization – Add PE phase for 2021

Fund Source	Proposed
Federal	$357,500 (PE only)
State	$0
Total	**$59,583**

Includes 6 signals in the NATS area. Construction phase will occur in 2024.