

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Joint TAC and Policy Committee

MINUTES

April 19, 2013

9:30 A.M.

Niles City Council Chambers

Policy Members Present:	Joe Bellina, Cass County Road Commission Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region Joseph Kring, Bertrand Township Serita Ann Mason, City of Niles Jess Minks, Berrien County Road Commission Jane Mitchell, Buchanan Township Cliff Poehlman, Cass County Road Commission Don Ryman, City of Buchanan Robert Ziliak, Cass County Commissioner
Policy Members Absent:	Pamela Boyd, MDOT Planning Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration (ex-officio) Irving Frost, Howard Township Erin Jolivette, MDOT – Coloma TSC Dale Lowe, Cass County Commissioner Kim O’Haver, Buchanan Dial A Ride Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex-officio) Jason Auvil, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians/BC Planning Commission Township Pat Bellaire, Village of Edwardsburg Georgia Boggs, City of Niles Dawn Bolock, Ontwa Township Barb Cook, Cass County Planning Commission John Egelhaaf, SWMPC (ex-officio) John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development John Klimek, Berrien County Commissioner Kelly Sweeney, Milton Township Jason Latham, MDOT-SW Region Larry Larson, City of Niles Stewart McKenzie, FTA (ex-officio) Jan Personette, Four Flags Area Chamber of Commerce Evan Smith, Niles Dial A Ride Joe Sobieralski, Southwest Michigan Economic Growth Alliance Representative, MACOG (ex-officio)
SWMPC Staff Present:	Suzann Flowers
Others Present:	Steve Carlisle, Wightman and Associates

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Bellina called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

2. Public Comment

No member of the public was in attendance to provide comment.

3. Staff Report

- **2014-2017 TIP Projects Releasing for 10-day Public Comment Period**

Flowers explained that the point of today's meeting was to put the project listing out for public comment.

Ryman asked if people could not see the entire project listing how they could provide comments. He was referring to the multiple pieces in the Berrien County Road Commission project listing. Flowers noted that she will ensure that the entire listing of projects will be made available on the website so that all information could be seen and that all projects were listed on the map that was brought to the meeting.

Harden noted that staff will need to stop accepting amendments to the FY 2014 listing to allow for an accurate listing in the 2011-2014 TIP and the 2014-2017 TIP. Flowers made the notation and will make sure that all members know this before the May meeting. This is necessary in case plans are not approved or other unforeseen things happen at FHWA.

Flowers also noted that transportation alternatives funds are not programmed into the 2014-2017 TIP and that a call for 2014 projects will be done in July. Harden advised that MDOT is only programming these funds until 2015 because of the uncertainty of the program, as the funding may end at the end of MAP-21. Bellina noted that he is working on a project with MDOT to use TA funds in FY 2016. Flowers stated that she will bring this up to Committee in May to decide how the members would like to proceed, with only programming 2014 funds or beyond.

Motion by Kring with support by Bellina to recommend to the Policy Committee members to approve the 2014-2017 draft projects listing to go out for the 10-day public comment period. **Motion passed.**

Motion by Mason with support by Harden to approve the 2014-2017 draft project listing go out for the 10-day public comment period. **Motion passed.**

4. Privilege of the Floor

Bellina asked Steve Carlisle how the progress was coming on the IN-MI trail project and Carlisle stated that he met with the Township and more details are being developed for the design. Carlisle also spoke with MDOT LAP Bruce and that they can submit plan by the end of July for an August obligation.

Flowers stated that there is a training opportunity for people interested in developing non-motorized transportation systems in the community. MDOT is hosting a Training Wheels course in June and we would like to have the class filled with as many folks as possible.

5. Adjournment at 10:00 a.m.

A motion by Bellina with support by Harden to adjourn the meeting.

The next meeting:

- **April 30, 2013 at 1:30p.m.** A **joint** TAC and Policy Committee will be held at the Niles City Council Chambers (Fire Station) located at 1345 E. Main St., Niles, MI, 49120 to conduct normal business for the NATS metropolitan planning organization. The April 23, 2013 meeting is hereby cancelled.

Minutes compiled by: Suzann Flowers and Gautam Mani, Transportation Planners, 2013