

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
 Joint Technical Advisory and Policy Committee

MINUTES

June 26, 2012

1:30 P.M.

Niles City Council Chambers

Policy Members Present:	Jason Auvil, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Joe Bellina, Cass County Road Commission Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Chuck Collins, Berrien County Road Commission Barb Cook, Cass County Planning Commission Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township Irving Frost, Howard Township Juan Ganum, City of Niles Community Development Kelly Getman-Dissette, Niles Dial A Ride John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development-Representing BC Planning Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region Erin Jolivette, MDOT – Coloma TSC Shelley Klug, Southwest Michigan Economic Growth Alliance Joseph Kring, Bertrand Township Don Kronewitter, Milton Township John LaMore, Berrien County Commissioner Larry Larson, City of Niles Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Dale Lowe, Cass County Commissioner Serita Ann Mason, City of Niles Kim O’Haver, Buchanan Dial A Ride Zach Perkins, Berrien County Commissioner Jan Personette, Four Flags Area Chamber of Commerce Cliff Poehlman, Cass County Road Commission Joe Ray, City of Niles Johnie Rodebush, Cass County Commissioner Don Ryman, City of Buchanan Evan Smith, Niles Dial A Ride Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex-officio)
Policy Members Absent:	Pat Bellaire, Village of Edwardsburg Georgia Boggs, City of Niles John Egelhaaf, SWMPC (ex-officio) Stewart McKenzie, FTA (ex-officio) Jane Mitchell, Buchanan Township Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex-officio) Dennis Patterson, Howard Township Morgan Sweeney, Berrien County Planning Commission Representative, Berrien County Planning Commission Representative, MACOG (ex-officio) Representative, Ontwa Township

SWMPC Staff Present:	Suzann Flowers
Others Present:	Sue Kronewitter, Milton Township Jerry Marchetti, Ontwa Township Jim Klett, Klett Construction Jasmine Love, Citizen Desiree Love, Citizen Denelle Clark, Michigan Works Larry Merritt, Berrien County Road Commission

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- LaMore called the Joint NATS TAC and Policy Committee meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. Rodebush led the group in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. LaMore led the group in introductions.

2. Minutes

Motion by Harden with support by Frost to approve the May 22, 2012 NATS TAC Committee meeting minutes. **Motion passed.**

Motion by Collins with support by Mason to approve the May 22, 2012 NATS Policy Committee meeting minutes, with the following to be added to the May 2012 minutes:

John LaMore did attend the meeting, please note the time and if he ran the meeting upon arrival.

Motion passed.

3. Staff Report

- Berrien County Transit Consolidation Presentation**

Flowers discussed the presentation made by the consultants working on the study, KFH Group, and that they presented their first technical memo at a meeting at Michigan Works on June 6, 2012. All TwinCATS and NATS Committee members received an invitation to this meeting with the Technical Memo attached. Information regarding the findings from KFH Group was presented to the group and questions were answered. Flowers encouraged anyone that had additional questions to contact Kim Gallagher or Christina Pippen regarding the study.

-Ryman made several comments regarding the changes that the consultants were proposing. Flowers again reminded people to read the document to obtain all the facts from the report.

- Presentations to MPO communities/agencies**

Flowers thanked all the member communities who have contacted her regarding presentations to be made regarding the MPO. Flowers had sent letters to all member communities asking them to contact her if they had an interest in having a presentation or discussion regarding the functions and duties that the MPO performs and how it impacts the member community.

4. Project Updates

Fiscal Year	Job Number	Agency	Project Name	Update Information	Date of last update	Bid Savings
2010			M-139 over Dowagiac River bridge work	completed	May-12	
		MDOT	M-139 over St. Joseph River Bridge Replacement	Completed	May-12	

2011		Niles Dial A Ride	Bike racks-purchase up to 5 bicycle racks and install kits for buses	Project has been approved by Niles City Council	May-12	
		Niles Dial A Ride	Generator	Project has not been approved by Niles City Council	May-12	
		Niles Dial A Ride	On bus camera system	The grant was just awarded in September 2011 and the projects will be completed in 2013	Feb-12	
		Niles Dial A Ride	Preventative maintenance	The grant was just awarded in September 2011 and the projects will be completed in 2013	Feb-12	
		Niles Dial A Ride	Ramp lift	The grant was just awarded in September 2011 and the projects will be completed in 2013	Apr-12	
		Niles Dial A Ride	Replacement tires	Completed	Apr-12	
		Niles Dial A Ride	Landscaping	Completed	Apr-12	
	112861	Cass County Road Commission	Pine Lake St. M-60 to Anderson Rd	Completed	Feb-12	
	110364	Cass County Road Commission	Redfield St from Kline Rd to Conrad Rd	Completed	Feb-12	
	109283	Cass County Road Commission	Redfield St. over Christina Creek-	let in Feb, under construction	June 2012	
	107691	Cass County Road Commission	Redfield St and Bertrand Rd Berrien County Line to Ironwood Rd	Completed	Feb-12	
	114517	Cass County Road Commission	Redfield St. M-62 to Brande Creek Rd-	Completed	June 2012	
	108921	MDOT	US-31 freeway signing upgrade	Construction underway	Apr-12	
	104152	MDOT	M-139 (Main St) over St. Joseph River bridge replacement SUB and PE phases	-design phase-public meeting will happen soon and public will be able to view design options	Feb-12	
	108186	MDOT	M-51 slope stabilization near Pucker St	Project moved out of 2011-2014 TIP	Apr-12	

	110758	MDOT	M-60 weigh station at US-12 interchange (portable truck weigh station)	-spring 2012 Construction; completed	Feb-12	
	90361	MDOT	US-12 resurfacing from M-60 to Edwardsburg	-let construction 2012 May-October	Feb-12	
	86785	MDOT	M-139 Over Dowagiac River, near N limit of Niles bridge replacement-	2012 Construction	Feb-12	
	112819	MDOT	US-12, .68 miles east of Cassopolis Rd	MDOT is obtaining culvert right of way	Feb-12	
2012	114518	Berrien County Road Commission	Red Bud Trail at Old Bitty Creek	design phase, DEQ permits, obtaining final plan	June 2012	
	112084	Berrien County Road Commission	Bertrand Road; Mayflower to Red Bud Trail	Construction July 16	May-12	
	112101	Berrien County Road Commission	West River Rd, Ullery Rd, Pucker St, and Main St. CON Phase	Completed	June 2012	
	112086	Berrien County Road Commission	Bertrand Rd, Ontario Rd, Fulkerson, and Bell Rd.CON Phase	contract signed	Feb-12	
	112863	Cass County Road Commission	Bertrand Rd from Ironwood Dr. to Batchelor JN 112863 CON Phase	In design, Grade inspection is done, final plans going in	June 2012	
		Niles Dial A Ride	Garage equipment	The projects have been assigned grant numbers and the projects should move forward summer 2012. There will be some project changes for the March meeting., need last approved TIP letter	June 2012	
		Niles Dial A Ride	Garage maintenance	The projects have been assigned grant numbers and the projects should move forward summer 2012. There will be some project changes for the March meeting.	June 2012	
		Niles Dial A Ride	Preventative maintenance	The projects have been assigned grant numbers and the projects should move forward summer 2012. There will be some project changes for the March meeting, need last approved TIP letter	June 2012	

		Niles Dial A Ride	Scheduling software	The projects have been assigned grant numbers and the projects should move forward summer 2012. There will be some project changes for the March meeting, need last approved TIP letter	June 2012	
	108186	MDOT	M-51 near Pucker St. CON Phase-restore and rehabilitate-design phase 2013	construction-consultant working on design; project removed from 2011-2014 TIP	Apr-12	
	111239	MDOT	US-31 Walton Rd over US-31, US-31 NB CON Phase-bridge	let in June 2012; Construction July-September	May-12	

5. Old Business

▪ SE Data Review

Flowers reviewed that the MPO staff had held two meetings to review the current population data, which had been approved several months ago, and asked attendees to review information for the years 2015, 2020, 2025, 2030, 2035, and 2040 in regards to employment, household, and population projections. She explained that the years 2015 and 2020 were the most important since the Long Range Plan numbers are reviewed every 4-5 years. Flowers mentioned that as they finished up reviewing the data that was collected that they will be giving that information to Brad Sharlow at MODT who is performing the modeling for Berrien and Cass County and that on the August agenda, we will be asking for full Committee approval on the forecasting numbers for the forecast years.

▪ Thomas leaving SWMPC

Flowers announced that Thomas will be leaving SWMPC in August/September and that SWMPC Director John Egelhaaf had hired a new planner for the position. His name is Gautam Mani and he will begin in July and will attend the July NATS meeting.

6. New Business

▪ Presentation regarding Berrien County Road Millage

Larry Merritt from the Berrien County Road Commission presented information on the Better and Safer Roads in Berrien County millage request that will appear on the ballot for Berrien County residents in November. Merritt discussed the complexity of transportation funding in Michigan, how much money goes to the PA 51 agencies (county road commissions, cities, and villages) and how much money would be leveraged with a local millage. He also explained how those funds would be distributed within the county. Many questions were asked regarding when the funds collected would be made available for projects, and Merritt's understanding was that funds would be available for construction in 2014.

-Collins reminded folks that filling up their gas tank in MI will make sure that money will come to Michigan to fix roads.

▪ Non-motor meeting for August

Flowers stated that there will be a Walk and Roll Committee meeting in August and those that have an interest in working on the first phase of this project are encouraged to contact her. The purpose of the Walk and Roll group will be to develop an inventory of the existing and planned non-motor facilities, transit stops, crosswalks in the planning region. A series of stakeholder meetings will be

held with each member community and larger region wide meetings will also be scheduled in the coming months. The meeting will take place prior to the regularly scheduled NATS TAC meeting and Flowers will check with the Fire Department to see if they can meet in the same facility.

- **TIP Amendments**

- MDOT

- FY 2012

- Adding US-12, west of Mayflower Rd. to M-139 CON phase, for a federal cost of \$1.989 million, state cost of \$441,000 for a total cost of \$2.430 million
 - Adding Rideshare for Cass County federal and total project cost of 12,000
 - Amending GPA pre-construction phases a change in federal cost from 4,000 to 90,000, state cost change from 1,000 to 20,000 for a total cost and total project change from 5,000 to 110,000
 - Amending JN 115698 PE phase M-62 Indiana State Line to US-12, change in federal cost from 29,000 to 30,000, change in state cost from 6,000 to 6,700, change in total cost from 35,000 to 37,000 and total project cost change from 955,000 to 952,000
 - Amending JN 111239 CON phase US-31 bridge work, federal cost change from 334,000 to 807,000, state cost change from 84,000 to 202,000, change in total phase cost from 418,000 to 1.008 million, and total project cost does not appear correct, but listed as given by MDOT
 - Deleting JN 115698 ROW phase, M-62 Indiana State line to US-12
 - Deleting JN 108186 CON phase, M-51 near Pucker Street

- FY 2013

- Adding GPA CPM Road Trunkline GPA CON phase, federal cost of 749,000, state cost of 166,000 for total cost of 915,000
 - Adding GPA Program Development Scoping Trunkline GPA, EPE phase, federal cost of 39,000, state cost of 12,000 for a total cost of 51,000
 - Adding Rideshare for Cass County federal and total project cost of 12,000
 - Amending JN 115698 CON phase M-62 Indiana state line to US-12, change in federal cost from 749,000 to 748,000, change in state cost from 166,000 to 166,072, change in total project cost from 955,000 to 952,000

- FY 2014

- Adding Rideshare for Cass County federal and total project cost of 12,000
 - Amending JN104152 CON phase for a total state cost of 5.664 million and a change in total project cost from 7.113 million to 7.118 million

A motion by Bellina with support by Ray to recommend to the Policy Committee to approve the TIP requests as presented to be amended into the 2011-2014 NATS TIP. **Motion passed.**

A motion by Harden with support by Poehlman to approve the TIP requests as presented to be amended into the 2011-2014 NATS TIP. **Motion passed.**

- **Legislative Updates**

- **Federal**

Flowers reminded members that the current federal transportation bill extension ends on June 30. Congress is still in conference committee. Tupica added that it appears that we will receive another transportation extension and that a new bill will not be done by the June 30 extension date.

-Lenze added that there is a nonbinding resolution where Michigan would receive 0.95 cents

of every dollar that currently gets sent to Washington, D.C instead of the current 0.92 cents.

○ **State**

Flowers reported that Senator John Proos attended the TwinCATS joint meeting and updated the attendees as to the status of SB 351 which will ensure that the state of Michigan has their federal match requirement for roads. According to a publication from Proos' office dated June 17, 2012 "this bill would direct \$100 million of those additional funds to the State Trunkline Fund, used to generate federal transportation matching funds". Proos discussed how there was always an issue of raising the matching funds money each year and that this should take away that issue. SB 351 has the support of CRAM and the Governor.

7. Public Comment

No public comments were received for June 2012.

8. Privilege of the Floor

-Poehlman discussed Cass County's struggle to get a millage for better roads.

-Bellina stated that they had a much better effort this time around getting a millage passed versus 4 years ago, but it was not enough to get it passed.

-Merritt stated that they will be going to service clubs and community organizations to spread the word.

-Klug stated that the 11th Street Corridor plan is moving forward and that several options on the best way to proceed will be discussed.

-Marchetti stated that in regards to the Cass County millage request that the audiences that were spoken to were small and unless you have a small army to go door to door it can be difficult to spread the word.

-LaMore commented on the 11th Street plan and asked for not so much beautification but something that will drum up business and let people know that you are located along that roadway.

-Harden commented that the Michigan Complete Streets Advisory Council will have their recommendations out soon.

9. Adjournment: 3:07p.m.

Motion by Flowers with support by Harden to adjourn the NATS Joint Technical Advisory and Policy Committee meeting. **Motion passed.**

- The next meeting is **July 24, 2012 at 1:30 P.M.**

Minutes compiled by: Suzann Flowers and Trevor Thomas, Transportation Planners, June 2012