

NILES BUCHANAN CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (NATS)

Joint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Policy Committee Minutes

May 25, 2021, via Zoom

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

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

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Technical Advisory chair, Joe Bellina, called the meeting to Order at 1:30 pm. Kim Gallagher led roll call.

2. **Changes to the Agenda**

Bellina asked to add approval of the Minutes from the March 23, 2021 combined Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meeting.

3. **Public comment**

None.

4. **Approval of the Minutes from the previous NATS Meeting**

Motion to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2021 special Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meeting. Made by Roseann Marchetti and seconded by Sandra Seanor. **Motion approved.**

Motion to reapprove the minutes from the March 23, 2021 combined Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meeting. Made by Don Ryman, and seconded by Dawn Bolock. **Motion approved.**

5. **SWMPD Staff Report**

Timeline for the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development: Gallagher showed how SWMPD staff sends multiple calls for projects to develop a multitude of transportation programs. She said applications would be released in June with a September due date.

Traffic Count & PASER updates: Gallagher explained that PASER and traffic counts were the main data needed for project applications. She said SWMPD would rate 100% of the federal aid eligible roads over the summer. SWMPD also has a limited capacity to rate local (non-federal aid) roads upon request. SWMPD will also be taking traffic counts upon request.

Project Scoring Methodology: Gallagher said they were working to update the scoring methodology for the 2023-2026 call for projects. Local road agencies were asked for comments and a draft will be sent to the NATS committees prior to the June NATS meeting.

Former M-86 Pony Truss Bridge Historic Preservation Award: Bellina discussed how a historic bridge was saved by relocation to Cass County resulting in the Cass County Road Commission receiving the Governor's Award for Historic Preservation.

Passenger Rail News: Kovnat announced that Amtrak was reinstating a second train between Detroit and Chicago. He said they were also increasing the area where trains were cleared for 110 mph speeds.

6. **Agency and Project Updates**

6.1. **Public Transit**

Niles Dial A Ride: Gettman-Dissetee said that Niles Dial A Ride had complete their FTA triennial review with no findings.

Berrien Bus: Gettman-Dissetee said that she has an agreement for Niles Dial A Ride to provide for the Buchanan Dial A Ride area.

Cass County Public Transit: Gallagher said that Cass Transit is working on a countywide service plan. as part of this effort, Cass County Public Transit is conducting a survey to gather public input on how to improve service.

6.2. Local Road Agencies

Cass County Road Commission: Bellina said the Barron Lake Road project was let in April with a bid 27% below the programmed amount and construction will begin in August. Mason Street will be let in June.

City of Niles: Ray said that the Lake Street bridge project was nearly complete

Berrien County Road Department; Stack said that the Portage Road project was let in May with a cost coming in below the estimate. The Walton Bridge project will be let in June with construction occurring next spring in 2022.

6.3. MDOT:

Smith said that construction would begin at M-62 and May Street. She said there would be a detour up to US-12 to Conrad.

Bellina and Sanada gave an update about the Edwardsburg signal project. A meeting was held with stakeholders, including school officials. They determined that there are extensive issues with school traffic. Under the current conditions with traffic using Claire Street for pick up and drop off, a pedestrian crossing signal at Claire St. will not work. They are considering routing all traffic to Section street, which would then meet the warrants for a traffic light.

7. New Business

- 7.1. **HIP:** Kovnat gave a reminder that NATS was allocated 269,598 in Highway Infrastructure (HIP) funds. He presented on two projects which a project review committee has recommended for funding.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve amending the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program to add the two HIP funded projects as presented. Made by Kevin Stack, and seconded by Butch Payton. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Sandra Seanor, and seconded by Roseann Marchetti. **Motion approved.**

- 7.2. **MDOT Amendments:** Sanada said he had nothing to add beyond what was included in the packet

Motion for the Technical Advisor Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the MDOT project amendments to the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program as presented. Made by Butch Payton, and seconded by Joe Ray. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Serita Mason, and seconded by Sandra Seanor. **Motion approved.**

- 7.3. **Niles Dial A Ride Safety Plan:** Gallagher explained that the USDOT has performance measures for transit safety. Transit safety plans are used to set targets for these measures. Gallagher said she thought Niles Dial A Ride's safety plan was one of the better safety plans she has seen. The targets will be incorporated into the NATS Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and Long Range Plan (LRP).

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy committee approve a resolution for NATS to set Public Transportation Safety Targets by supporting the targets contained in

the Niles Dial-A-Ride Transportation Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan. Made by Susan Flowers, and seconded by Jim Sturdevant. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Sandra Seanor, and seconded by Serita Mason. **Motion approved.**

- 7.4. **FY 2022 Unified Work Program:** Gallagher explained that the Unified Work Program (UWP) is the listing of all of the activities SWMPC staff would work on, on behalf of NATS, in Fiscal Year 2022. Most of the elements are required by the federal government. The main focus for FY 2022 is developing the 2023-026 Transportation Improvement program. Staff will also begin work with MDOT on updating the travel demand model for use in the next LRP.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy committee approve the resolution that the NATS Policy Committee approve the Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study Unified Planning Work Program for Fiscal Year 2022. Subject to any technical corrections required by MDOT or FHWA. Made by Kelly Getman-Dissette, and seconded by Kevin Stack.

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Sandra Seanor, and seconded by Roseann Marchetti. **Motion approved.**

8. **Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment**

None.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2021 at 1:30 to be conducted via zoom

Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Transportation planner

1.1 Approved 2020-2023 Illustrative List

Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP)

NATS Approved 2020-2023 TIP Illustrative List

City or Township	Project Name	Project Limits	Length (miles)	Project Description	STBG (Federal)	Local	Total Cost	PASER Rating	Drainage	Increase in RSL	Current Daily Traffic Count	Total Score
City of Buchanan	River Street	Wastewater Treatment Plant to the west side of the St. Joseph River.	0.3	Mill 3" and resurface with HMA	\$204,711	\$45,394	\$250,105	1 to 2	Adequate	7 to 9	2,000 to 5,000	19
City of Niles	Lake Street	N 5TH ST to RR Viaduct	0.36	Mill 2" and resurface with HMA	\$120,769	\$26,780	\$147,549	1 to 2	Minor problems	7 to 9	2,000 to 5,000	22
Ontwa Township	May Street	Conrad Road to Brizandine Road	0.52	Mill & Resurface	\$82,669	\$18,332	\$101,001	3 to 4	Adequate	7 to 9	2,000 to 5,000	23
Milton Township	Conrad Road	May Street to US12	0.71	Mill & Resurface	\$112,462	\$24,938	\$137,400	3 to 4	Adequate	7 to 9	2,000 to 5,000	16
Buchanan Township	Red Bud Trail	Miller Road to Hills Haven Road	1.02	HMA overlay	\$280,000	\$62,089	\$342,089	5 to 7	Adequate	15 to 20	2,000 to 5,000	24
City of Buchanan	Red Bud Trail Reconstruction	Front Street to 4th Street	0.25	Full reconstruction of the roadway with sewer work	\$815,949	\$180,934	\$996,883	1 to 2	Inadequate	15 to 20	5,000 to 10,000	34

Urban Area 1.2

