

# NILES BUCHANAN CASSS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE and POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

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**Date & Time:** Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 1:30 pm

**Location:** Niles District Library – 620 E Main St, Niles, MI 49120  
**Lower-Level Community Room**

**Zoom Link:** [NATS Meeting Zoom Link](#)

**Audio:** Call in Number: 1 (312) 626-6799  
Meeting ID: 921 578 9818  
Passcode: 288785

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## Agenda

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Changes to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of November 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes (*Action*) pg. 2
5. SWMPC Staff Report
6. Local Agency Updates
  - 6.1. 2026 Road Project Updates Pg. 6
  - 6.2. Local project Amendments (*Action*) pg. 8
  - 6.3. Community Updates (Developments, Land Use Changes, new Plans, Policies etc.)
7. Niles Dial A Ride Transit Updates
8. MDOT Updates
  - 8.1. Current and Planned MDOT Projects – *Jon Smith* pg. 14
  - 8.2. MDOT Project Amendments (*Action*) pg. 16
  - 8.3. Southwest Region Updates – *Adrain Stroupe*
  - 8.4. Statewide Updates – *Jim Sturdevant/Danniel Brooks*
9. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment
10. Adjournment

Comments can be sent prior to the meeting to Brandon Kovnat at [kovnatb@smpc.org](mailto:kovnatb@smpc.org) or calling (269) 925-1137 x 1524. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please contact Kim Gallagher at (269) 925-1137 x 1518 or by email at [gallagherk@smpc.org](mailto:gallagherk@smpc.org)

**NILES-BUCHANAN-CASS TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**  
November 25, 2025 – Meeting Attendance

**Committee Members in Attendance**

Organization	TAC	Pol	Representative
City of Buchanan	x	x	Tony McGhee
City of Niles Dept. Public Works	x		Zack Holt
Village of Edwardsburg	x	x	Dawn Bolock
Bertrand Township	x	x	Butch Payton
Howard Charter Township	x	x	Bill Kazprzak
Niles Charter Township	x	x	Richard Cooper
Berrien County Road Department	x		Kevin Stack
Berrien County Board of Commissioners		x	Sharon Tyler
Berrien County Planning Commission		x	John Humphry ( <i>Virtual</i> )
Cass County Road Commission	x		Joe Bellina
Cass County Board of Commissioners		x	Roseann Marchetti
Cass County Board of Commissioners		x	James Lawrence
Cass County Planning Commission	x	x	Roseann Marchetti
MDOT, Coloma TSC	x	x	Jonathon Smith ( <i>Virtual</i> )
MDOT, Statewide Planning	x	x	Dan Brooks
SWMPC	x	x	Kim Gallagher
SWMPC	Alt	Alt	Brandon Kovnat

**Others in Attendance:** Jim Sturdevant, *MDOT Statewide Planning*; Jerry Marchetti, *Ontwa Township*

**Committee Members Absent**

Organization	TAC	Pol	Representative
City of Niles, Jerry Tyler Memorial Airport	x		Joe Ray
City of Niles (1)		x	Georgia Boggs
City of Niles (2)		x	Serita Mason
City of Niles (3)		x	Ric Huff
Buchanan Township	x	x	Lynn Ferris
Mason Township	x	x	Doug Fetter
Milton Township	x	x	Susan Flowers
Ontwa Township	x	x	Meryl Christensen
Niles Dial A Ride Transportation	x	x	Pepper Miller
Berrien County Community Development	x		Dan Fette
Berrien County Road Department		x	Mark Heyliger
Cass County Road Commission	x		Joe Bellina
Cass County Road Commission		x	Sandra Seanor
MDOT, Southwest Region	x	x	Adrain Stroupe
Kinexus	x		Vacant
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians	x	x	Robert Torzynski

Minutes  
NILES-BUCHANAN-CASS TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE  
November 25, 2025 – Niles District Library

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Technical Advisory Committee Chair, Joe Bellina, called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and Kim Gallagher took roll call.

**Changes to the Agenda**

None.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Approval of October 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion** to approve the minutes from the October 28, 2025 NATS Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee Meeting. Made by Bill Kaspzak and seconded by Roseann Marchetti. **Motion approved.**

**SWMPC Staff Report**

Kim Gallagher announced that local jurisdictions could request funding to collect PASER data on their non-federal aid roads. The funding can be used to rate local road once every three years. SWMPC will award funding based on when the roads were last rated, and when the agency last received funding for data collection.

Gallagher gave a presentation on the Rapid SOS system. RapidSOS uses automatic crash detection using data from cell phones or vehicles to detect a crash and automatically sends a notice to emergency dispatch, and it pings the crash location allowing first responder to know exactly where to go. Showed a promotional video from Rapid SOS titled “13 Seconds” about how the system improved response time in Edwardsburg. Received national attention. Cass County was gifted with the system by RapidSOS. In use in both Cass and Berrien counties.

Brandon Kovnat presented crash data for two areas of concern which committee members had brought up at the previous meeting in October. The safety concerns have been sent to MDOT for further investigation.

The meeting dates for calendar year 2026 were presented.

**Local Agency Updates**

**Construction Updates & Planned 2026 Road Projects**

Kevin Stack gave an update on the Berrien County Road Department’s Red Bud Trail project: They are waiting for SHPO clearance and hoping for approval in January to get on the March letting.

Zack Holt gave an update on the City of Niles’s Pokagon St Project: the project was obligated and is set for the January Letting.

Tony McGhee gave an update on the road work in Buchanan saying that the city had spent nearly \$24 million over two years.

### **Community Updates**

Bellina announced that the Path on Elkhart Rd from M-62 to May St Ribbon was complete with a cutting ceremony to be held on Wednesday November 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Employment & House Data Approval for 2055 Long Range Plan**

Gallagher provided a brief overview on the employment, housing, and population data which will be used for the 2055 long range plan. She reminded committee members that the data was sent to them several weeks earlier for review and comments were received. The revised data that MDOT developed based on the comments, was what was included in the meeting packet. Gallagher noted that the population and housing data for the Village of Edwardsburg is included in the values for Ontwa Township. She explained that the 2055 population & housing forecasts were developed using the recent trends; noting that the population in the NATS areas had declined between the 2010 and 2020 census.

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve The 2023 base year employment, housing, and population data along with the 2055 forecasted housing and population data for use in the NATS 2055 Long Range Plan and the multi state travel demand model under development by NATS, MACOG, and MDOT. Made by Kevin Stack and seconded by Roseann Marchetti.

**Motion approved.**

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

### **Niles Dial A Ride Transit Updates**

Gallagher announced that the millage renewal for Niles Dial Ride which was on the ballot in the City of Niles had passed.

### **MDOT Updates**

#### **Current and Planned MDOT Projects**

The current MiDrive Map was presented, showing that construction on US-12 in Bertrand Township will result in a single lane closure until November 28.

#### **MDOT Project Amendments**

*See meeting packet page 9 for amendment details.*

Kovnat presented the four MDOT projects being amended. There were no questions or comments about the amendments.

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the amendments to the NATS 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program as contained in the meeting packet. Made by Roseann Marchetti and seconded by Butch Payton. **Motion approved**

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

## **Southwest Region Updates**

None.

## **Statewide Updates**

Jim Sturdevant said that he would be officially retiring in January.

## **Approval of 2025 Statewide Traffic Safety Targets**

Kovnat gave a brief presentation on the 2026 safety targets. There was a comment about how the crash data is reported as a 5-year average. In 2020 and 2021, during the pandemic fatalities & serious injuries were significantly higher. These two years are skewing the data for 2020-2024 despite a drop in fatalities & serious Injuries in 2022-2024.

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee agree to support the MDOT statewide traffic safety targets for calendar year 2026 and continue to plan and program projects that contribute to the accomplishment of the state safety targets. Made by Butch Payton and seconded by Roseann Marchetti. **Motion approved.**

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

## **Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment**

None.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 27, 2026 at 1:30 PM.

*Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Transportation Planner*

# Pokagon Street

Job Number: 216119

Submitted by: Zach Holt

Date: 01/19/2026

## Project Details

Fiscal Year:	2026
Responsible Agency	City of Niles
Project/Road Name	Pokagon St.
Limits	2nd Street to 5th street

## Work Description

Mill and resurface
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## Programmed Project Cost

NATS Carbon Reduction	\$391,078	78.22%
Participating Local Match	\$108,922	21.78%
<b>Total Participating Estimate</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Revised Project Costs

	Amount	Percent Change	
Engineer's Estimate	\$234,128.00	47%	From Programmed
Accepted Bid	\$242,095.00	3.45%	From Estimate

Explanation for any cost changes:

## Project Timeline

Project Milestone	Est. Date	Actual	Comments
ProjectWise folder requested		5/27/2025	
NEPA form 5323 Submitted		6/5/2025	
SHPO forms submitted		5/27/2025	
NEPA approval received		9/18/2025	
SHPO approval received		8/8/2025	
Grade Inspection package submitted		7/22/2025	
Grade Inspection meeting date		8/12/2025	
Final ROW Certification submitted		N/A	
Complete Biddable Package submitted		9/19/2025	
Letting Date	Jan/Feb 2026	1/9/2026	
Construction Start	May 2026		
Construction End	June 2026		

# Red Bud Trail

Job Number: 216111

Submitted by: Kevin Stack

Date: 10/17/2025

## Project Details

Fiscal Year:	2026
Responsible Agency	Berrien County Road Department
Project/Road Name	Red Bud Trail
Limits	US-12 to Bertrand Road

## Work Description

HMA Overlay
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## Programmed Project Cost

NATS STBG	\$167,922	80.06%
Participating Local Match	\$41,828	19.94%
<b>Total Participating Estimate</b>	<b>\$209,750</b>	100%

## Revised Project Costs

	Amount	Percent Change	
Engineer's Estimate	\$675,593.06	300	From Programmed
Accepted Bid			From Estimate

### Explanation for any cost changes:

## Project Timeline

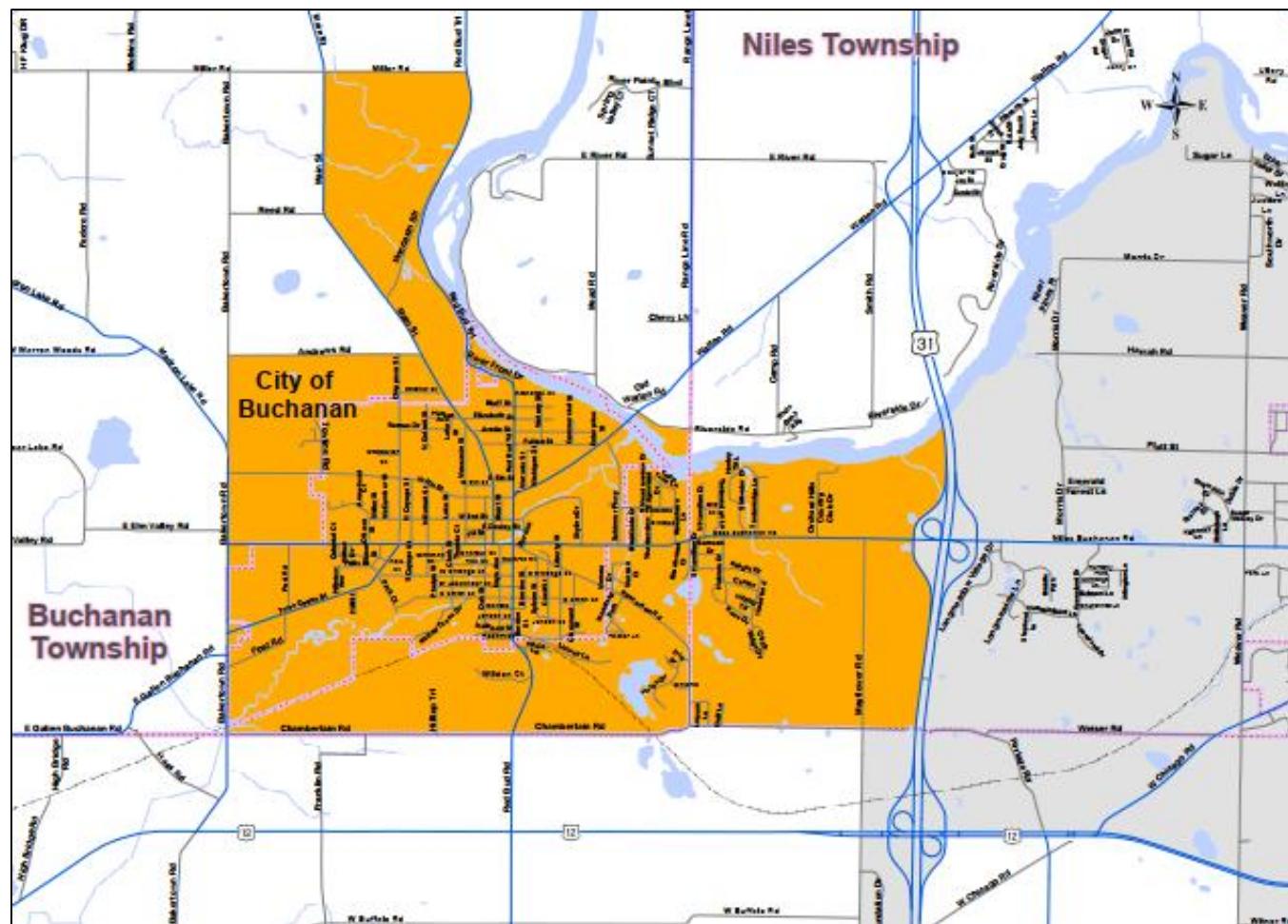
Project Milestone	Est. Date	Actual	Comments
ProjectWise folder requested		9/2025	Waiting on NEPA and SHPO approvals
NEPA form 5323 Submitted		9/2025	
SHPO forms submitted		9/2025	
NEPA approval received	2/2025		
SHPO approval received	2/2025		
Grade Inspection package submitted		10/2025	
Grade Inspection meeting date	10/2025		
Final ROW Certification submitted			
Complete Biddable Package submitted			
Letting Date	03/2025		
Construction Start	05/2025		
Construction End	10/2025		

## Buchanan Small Urban Funded Projects

Selected at the Buchanan Small urban Meeting on December 11, 2025

Year	Agency	Project	Federal	Local or CTF	Total Participating
2027	Buchanan	Oak St from Front St to 3 <sup>rd</sup> St – Reconstruction	\$210,000	\$329,000	\$539,000
2027	Niles DART	Dispatch software, tablets, and setup	\$210,000	\$52,500	\$262,500
2029	Buchanan	Front St from Oak St to Moccasin St – Reconstruction	\$420,000	\$309,000	\$729,000
Illustrative	Berrien Bus	Upgrade lighting in operations/maintenance facilities	\$16,000	\$4,000	\$20,0000

### Map of the Buchanan Adjusted Census Urban Area Boundaries



If you require assistance accessing this information or require it in an alternative format, contact the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinator at [www.Michigan.gov/MDOT-ADA](http://www.Michigan.gov/MDOT-ADA).

Michigan Department  
of Transportation  
2606 (11/2025)

**MDOT SMALL URBAN PROGRAM  
ROAD PROJECT APPLICATION**

Page 1 of 2

ALL FIELDS MUST BE COMPLETED

**JOB REQUEST**

New Job or Job Change	Job Number	Change Type		
		FY	Cost	Scope
		Delete		Move Illustrative

**REQUESTING AGENCY INFORMATION**

Agency Name	Contact Person	Telephone Number
Street Address	City/Zip Code	E-Mail Address

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

Small Urban Area	Small Urban Area Priority	Year of Improvement	Length (Miles)			
Road Name	Work Type Code					
Project Limits/Location						
Description						

Is The Road Segment/Project Federal-Aid Eligible? Yes No

Is Sidewalk Work to Be Included in the Participating Costs? Yes No

Is Right-Of-Way/Land Acquisition Required? Yes No

If Yes, Please Explain:

Does The Road Have Truck Restrictions? Yes No

If Yes, Please Explain:

**COST INFORMATION**

Include participating construction capital costs and non-participating costs. (Do not include ROW, feasibility studies, design, testing, preliminary engineering, or construction engineering). Non-participating costs can include water, sewer, utilities, etc.

STP-Urban Requested (Federal Participating)

Local Match (Local Participating)

Non-Participating Costs

Other (Describe: )

PARTICIPATING CONSTRUCTION CAPITAL TOTAL  
NATS TAC & POL Meeting January 27, 2026

Advance Construct Conversion (ACC)      Year:      Amount:

Local Financial Assurance - this indicates the local government has sufficient funds the local match amounts listed here.

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**OTHER COMMENTS**

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SUBMITTED BY	TITLE	DATE
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Michigan Department  
of Transportation  
2638 (06/2025)

**MDOT SMALL URBAN PROGRAM  
TRANSIT PROJECT APPLICATION**

ALL FIELDS MUST BE COMPLETED

**JOB REQUEST**

New Job or Job Change	Job Number	Change Type		
		FY	Cost	Scope
		Delete		Move Illustrative

**REQUESTING AGENCY INFORMATION**

Agency Name	Contact Person	Telephone Number
Street Address	City/Zip Code	E-Mail Address

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

Small Urban Area	Small Urban Area Priority	Fiscal Year
Transit Project Name	Scope Codes	
Description		

**COST INFORMATION**

Include participating construction capital costs and non-participating costs, such as charges related to feasibility studies, design, testing, preliminary engineering, construction engineering, or right-of-way acquisition.

STP-Urban Requested (Federal Participating)

State CTF Participating (This is 20% of the total of Federal plus CTF amount)

Local Funding (Part of 20% match)

SUBTOTAL

Other Local Funding (Not part of 20% match)

TOTAL JOB COST

Local Financial Assurance - this indicates the local government has sufficient funds the local match amounts listed here.

**OTHER COMMENTS**

SUBMITTED BY	TITLE	DATE
NATS TAC & POL Meeting	January 27, 2026	Page 11 of 16

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Michigan Department  
of Transportation  
2606 (11/2025)

**MDOT SMALL URBAN PROGRAM  
ROAD PROJECT APPLICATION**

Page 1 of 2

ALL FIELDS MUST BE COMPLETED

**JOB REQUEST**

New Job or Job Change	Job Number	Change Type		
		FY	Cost	Scope
		Delete	Move	Illustrative

**REQUESTING AGENCY INFORMATION**

Agency Name	Contact Person	Telephone Number
Street Address	City/Zip Code	E-Mail Address

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

Small Urban Area	Small Urban Area Priority	Year of Improvement	Length (Miles)			
Road Name	Work Type Code					
Project Limits/Location						
Description						

Is The Road Segment/Project Federal-Aid Eligible? Yes No

Is Sidewalk Work to Be Included in the Participating Costs? Yes No

Is Right-Of-Way/Land Acquisition Required? Yes No

If Yes, Please Explain:

Does The Road Have Truck Restrictions? Yes No

If Yes, Please Explain:

**COST INFORMATION**

Include participating construction capital costs and non-participating costs. (Do not include ROW, feasibility studies, design, testing, preliminary engineering, or construction engineering). Non-participating costs can include water, sewer, utilities, etc.

STP-Urban Requested (Federal Participating)

Local Match (Local Participating)

Non-Participating Costs

Other (Describe: )

PARTICIPATING CONSTRUCTION CAPITAL TOTAL  
NATS TAC & POL Meeting January 27, 2026

Advance Construct Conversion (ACC)      Year:      Amount:

Local Financial Assurance - this indicates the local government has sufficient funds the local match amounts listed here.

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**OTHER COMMENTS**

SUBMITTED BY	TITLE	DATE
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# Michigan Department of Transportation Projects Within the NATS Planning Area

Updated January 14, 2026 by Jon Smith, MDOT Coloma TSC Engineer – [smithj29@michigan.gov](mailto:smithj29@michigan.gov)

## Projects Completed

### **City of Niles and Niles Township**

**Project:** M-51 from Chestnut Ln. to M-60BR – Interchange reconstruction and asphalt resurfacing (JN202003)

**Status:** Project complete.

**Est Con:** Sep. 25, 2023 – Dec. 30, 2025

### **Bertrand Township**

**Project:** US-12 from Galien Township line to west of Mayflower Rd – Shoulder rehabilitation (JN127449)

**Status:** Project complete.

**Est Con:** Aug. 19, 2024 – Sep. 15, 2027

### **Bertrand Township and Niles Township**

**Project:** S. US-31 from US-12 to Niles/Berrien Township Line - Concrete repairs and shoulder resurfacing (JN216911)

**Status:** Project complete.

**Est Con:** Apr. 28, 2025 – Aug. 27, 2025

### **Niles Township**

**Project:** US-31 under Niles-Buchanan Rd. – Bridge Capital Preventive maintenance (JN208503)

**Status:** Project Complete.

**Est Con:** Jul. 08, 2025 – Nov. 07, 2025

## Projects Scheduled for Construction in 2026

### **Ontwa Township**

**Project:** US-12 at Beebe Rd and Adamsville Rd intersection – Addition of Left turn lane and Passing Flare (JN214141)

**Status:** Project came in 3.41% under the Engineer's Estimate. Construction anticipated to begin 04/20/2026.

### **Village of Edwardsburg, Ontwa Township, and Mason Township**

**Project:** US-12 from E. of M-62 to Union – Milling & One Course Asphalt Overlay (JN216909)

**Status:** Project came in 13.35% under the Engineer's Estimate. Construction anticipated to begin 07/27/2026.

### **City of Niles and Bertrand Township**

**Project:** US-12 @ Redbud and M-139 @ M-139 – Modernize signals (JN211989)

**Status:** Design in progress. Targeting 04/03/2026 letting.

### **Ontwa Township**

**Project:** US-12 from Edwardsburg to Lane Rr & Brady to Five Points Rd – Shoulder widening (JN221615)

**Status:** Design in progress. Targeting 04/03/2026 letting.

### **City of Niles and Niles Township**

**Project:** M-51 from White St. to Pokagon Hwy. – Shoulder widening (JN221627)

**Status:** Project came in 10.29% under the Engineer's Estimate. Construction anticipated to begin 03/16/2026.

# Michigan Department of Transportation Projects Within the NATS Planning Area

Updated January 14, 2026 by Jon Smith, MDOT Coloma TSC Engineer – [smithj29@michigan.gov](mailto:smithj29@michigan.gov)

## **Bertrand Township**

**Project:** M-139 from US-12 to M-140 – Mill and Asphalt Overlay (JN224956 & 224657)

**Status:** Design in progress. Targeting 04/03/2026 letting.

## **Bertrand Township**

**Project:** US-12 from Mayflower Road to M-139 – Single Course Chip Seal (JN221444)

**Status:** Project came in 4.54% over the Engineer's Estimate. Construction anticipated to begin 05/04/2026, one location among many other locations.

## **Projects Scheduled for Construction in 2027**

### **City of Niles and Niles Township**

**Project:** M-51 from Fort Street to North Niles City Limit – Vulnerable Road Users Road Safety Audit (JN218747)

**Status:** Scheduled to be completed in 2027.

## **Projects Scheduled for Construction in 2029**

### **City of Niles and Niles Township**

**Project:** M51 – Install pedestrian crosswalk (JN220343)

**Status:** Design to begin in late-2026.

### **Milton Township**

**Project:** US-12 at Gumwood Rd. – Construct a Roundabout (JN220408)

**Status:** Design to begin in late-2026.

*Stay up to date with MDOT: news, projects, report a pothole, traffic alerts, five-year plan*

<http://www.michigan.gov/drive>

# MDOT Amendment Request

For Projects within the NATS Area – January 27, 2026

## Cost Change Amendment – JN 221615

<b>Location</b>	US-12 from S. Shore Drive to Five Points Rd in Ontwa Township		
<b>Project</b>	Widen the shoulders along US-12 will be from 3ft. to 8ft. to provide a safer option for walking, jogging, and cycling. A recent MDOT project widened the shoulder along US-12 from Lane Rd to Brady Rd. However, there are still gaps in the non-motorized network which this project will fill to create a continuous non-motorized accommodation.		
<b>Amendment</b>	Reduce the cost based on the final engineer's estimate		
<b>2026 CON Budget</b>		<b>Federal CRP</b>	<b>State</b>
	Current	\$5,299,788	\$1,175,212
	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>\$3,459,800</b>	<b>\$767,200</b>
			<b>\$4,227,000</b>