

NILES BUCHANAN CASSS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE and POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

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

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 proeject Amendments (*Action*) pg. 8
 - 6.3. Community Updates (Developments, Land Use Changes, new Plans, Polices 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@swmpc.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@swmpc.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 Feters
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 Proejct: the projects 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 26th.

Employment & House Data Approval for 2055 Long Rang 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 Kasprkak 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 Kasprkak 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

Programmed Project Cost

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

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

Programmed Project Cost

NATS STBG	\$167,922	80.06%
Participating Local Match	\$41,828	19.94%
Total Participating Estimate	\$209,750	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

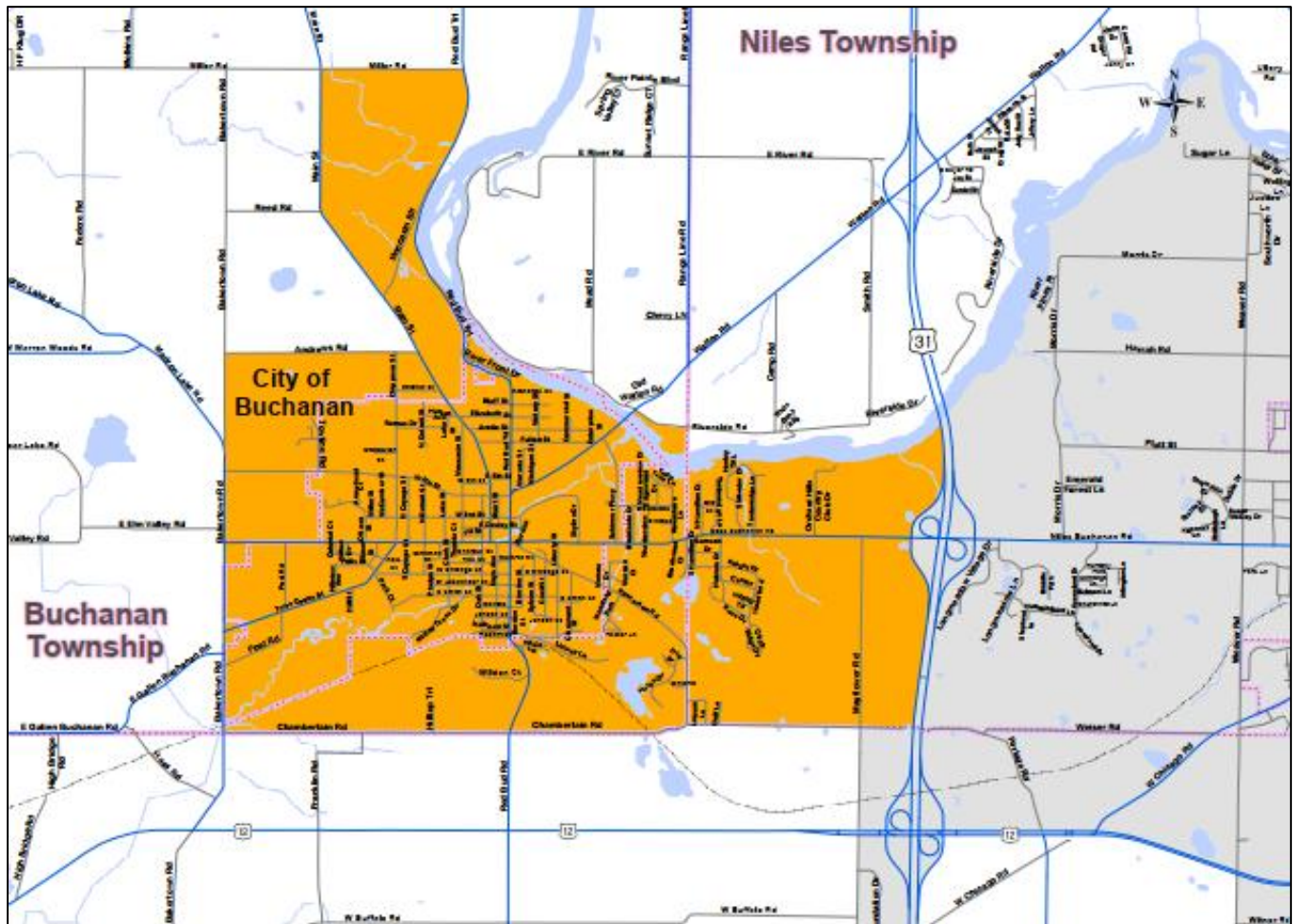
Project Milestone	Est. Date	Actual	Comments
ProjectWise folder requested		9/2025	Waiting on NEPA and SHPO approvals
NEPA form 5323 Submitted		9/2025	
SHPO forms submitted		9/2025	
NEPA approval received	2/2025		
SHPO approval received	2/2025		
Grade Inspection package submitted		10/2025	
Grade Inspection 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 rd 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	\$20,000

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.

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? If Yes, Please Explain:	Yes	No
Does The Road Have Truck Restrictions? If Yes, Please Explain:	Yes	No

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

Advance Construct (AC)

Year:

Amount:

Advance Construct Conversion (ACC)

Year:

Amount:

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

OTHER COMMENTS

SUBMITTED BY	TITLE	DATE

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.

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

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.

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? If Yes, Please Explain:	Yes	No
Does The Road Have Truck Restrictions? If Yes, Please Explain:	Yes	No

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

Advance Construct (AC)

Year:

Amount:

Advance Construct Conversion (ACC)

Year:

Amount:

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

OTHER COMMENTS

SUBMITTED BY	TITLE	DATE

Michigan Department of Transportation Projects

Within the NATS Planning Area

Updated January 14, 2026 by Jon Smith, MDOT Coloma TSC Engineer – 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

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

Location	US-12 from S. Shore Drive to Five Points Rd in Ontwa Township			
Project	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 proejct will fill to create a continuous non-motorized accommodation.			
Amendment	Reduce the cost based on the final engineer's estimate			
2026 CON Budget		Federal CRP	State	Total
	Current	\$5,299,788	\$1,175,212	\$6,475,000
	Proposed	\$3,459,800	\$767,200	\$4,227,000