

NILES BUCHANAN CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (NATS)

Joint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Policy Committee Minutes – November 26, 2019

Niles District Library, Community Room, 620 E Main St, Niles, MI 49120

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

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

1) **Call to Order / Introductions and Pledge of Allegiance**

Technical Advisory chair, Joe Bellina called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

2) **Changes to the Agenda**

None.

3) **Public Comment**

None.

4) **Approve Minutes from the September 27, 2019 Meeting**

Motion to approve the minutes from the October 22, 2019 joint Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meeting Made by Serita Mason and seconded by Jessica Nelson. **Motion approved.**

5) **Staff Report**

Kovnat said that the Indiana Michigan River Valley trail is complete. The grand opening ceremony took place on November 9.

6) **Public Transit Updates**

- a) **Niles Dial-a-Ride:** None.
- b) **Buchanan Dial-a-Ride:** None.

7) **Road Project Updates**

- a) **Redfield Guardrail:** Bellina reminded the committees that this was originally a 2019 project but had been moved to 2020. The state was able to change this because the project is funded through a statewide competitive safety grant. The reason for the delay was that there were issues getting permits from the state Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).
- b) **Lake Street from Airport Rd. to Huntly Rd.:** Bellina said that the Project is obligated and a bid has been approved.
- c) **Third Street:** Stack said it was in design.
- d) **Lake Street bridge over railroad:** Ray said that the project is in design. It is going slow due to issues dealing with the rail company.

8) **TIP amendments**

- a) **Cass County Road Commission projects:** Two projects from the Cass County Road Commission need to be added to the 2020-2023 TIP. The projects are both resurfacing projects funded with rural surface transportation funds but are within the MPO boundary. The projects are as follows: Barron Lake Road from Cook St. to Pokagon Hwy, and Calvin Center Road from US-12 to Grange St. – *see meeting packet for full details*
- b) **MDOT projects:** MDOT presented three amendments (See packet for full details):
 - A cost decrease to a Regionwide sign replacement project.
 - The addition of the construction phase in 2023 to resurface the carpool lot off of U-31 at Niles-Buchanan Road.
 - The addition of Engineering for 2020 & Construction for 2023 for a project on US-12 from Edwardsburg east to Brady road. MDOT will be adding 8 ft. shoulders on each side, as well as a left turn lane at US-12 and Brady Rd.

Kovnat noted that amendments in the packet for an off turn Right turn lane at M-62 and May Street (job # 202018) was actually just an administrative modification. The project has already been approved by NATS. Only changes to the letting date were made; the committee would not be voting on this project.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the TIP changes as contained in the meeting packet. Made by Kevin Stack and seconded by Joe Ray. **Motion approved.**

9) **New Business**

- a) **Safety Performance Targets:** Gallagher and Kovnat presented background information about safety performance measures. A resolution was presented for NATS to adopt the state's safety performance targets for 2019 (see resolution in meeting packet).

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the resolution adoption the state safety performance targets. Made by Kim O'Haver, second by Joe Ray. **Motion approved.**

- b) **2020 Meeting dates:** Kovnat presented the meeting dates for calendar year 2020. He noted that the January meeting will be the second Monday of the month because the third Monday is Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the policy committee approve the 2020 meeting dates. Made by Joe Ray, second by Bill Kasprizak. **Motion approved.**

Gallagher announced that the December 2019 meeting was cancelled due to lack of new business

10) **State and Federal Updates**

Brian Sanada said that on January 16, 2020 there would be a presentation on the *Driving Change* safety campaign. This was a bicycle safety educational campaign in Grand Rapids. In 2015 there were 73 non-motorized crashes resulting in 11 fatalities & serious injuries. In 2016, there were 42 crashes with 2 fatalities & serious injuries.

11) **Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment**

Bellina said that the Edwardsburg Sports Complex has its opening on November 5. This facility was a major reason that the Village & township decided to build a non-motorized path along US-12 and why they are requesting TAP funding for a pedestrian crossing signal.

Stack discussed the strike at Reith Riley. He said that two Berrien County Road Department projects were affected. The construction contracts can't be canceled because they are on federal aid routes with state contracts.

Stack mentioned that the higher state gas tax was showing results: Berrien County Road Department was getting an additional \$4 million. While the department can fund new projects, there is no new capacity. He said he has to compete for contractors with MDOT; a case of supply and demand. He added that many construction companies would be working on US-31, leaving less open for other work.

12) **Adjournment**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve all recommendations from the Technical Advisory Committee made at this meeting. Made by Serita Mason and seconded by Bill Kasprizak. **Motion approved.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 28, 2019 @ 1:30 pm.

Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate planner