

NILES BUCHANAN CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (NATS)

Joint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Policy Committee Minutes

November 24, 2020, 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	P			P	P		P	
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	(vacant)		x								A				
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Evan Smith	x		P	A		A	A			P	A		A	
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	Eric Lester, M.D.		x	P	P		A	P			P	P		P	
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (Policy)	(vacant)		x					A							
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (TAC)	Kevin Stack	X		P	P		A	A			A	P		A	
Bertrand Township	Butch Payton	x	x	A	A		P	P			P	A		P	
Buchanan Dial-A-Ride	Kim O'Haver	x	x	A	P		P	A							
Buchanan Township	Lynn Ferris	x	x	P	P		A	A			A	A		A	
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (1)	Michael Grice		x	P	P		P	P			A	P		A	
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	Roseann Marchetti		x	P	P		P	P			P	P		P	
Cass Co. Planning Commission	(vacant)	x													
Cass Co. Road Comm. (Policy)	Sandra Seanor		x	P	P		A	A			P	P		P	
Cass Co. Road Comm. (TAC)	Joe Bellina (TAC Chair)	x		A	P		P	P			P			P	
City of Buchanan	Don Ryman	x	x	P	P		P	P			A	A		P	
City of Niles (1)	Georgia Boggs		x	A	P		A	A			A	P		P	
City of Niles (2)	Serita Mason		x	P	A		A	P			P	P		A	
City of Niles (3)	Jessica Nelson		x	A	A		P	P			P	P		P	
City of Niles Community Dev. Director	(vacant)	x													
City of Niles Dial-A-Ride Transit	Kelly Getman-Dissette	x	x	P	A		P	P			P	P		P	
City of Niles Public Works Dir./Airport	Joe Ray	x		P	A		A	A			P	P		P	
Howard Township	Bill Kasprzak	x	x	P	P		P	P			P	A		P	
Kinexus	(vacant)	x													
Mason Township	Doug Fетters	x	x	A	A		A	A			A	A		A	
MDOT - Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	A	P		P	A			P	A		A	
MDOT - Southwest Region	Brian Sanada	x	x	P	P		P	A			P	A		P	
MDOT - Southwest Region (Alternate)	Amy Lipset	Alt	Alt	A	A		A	A			A	A		A	
MDOT - Transportation Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	P	P		P	A			P	P		P	
Milton Township	Susan Flowers	x	x	P	P		P	P			A	P			
Niles Charter Township	Richard Cooper (P. Ch.)	x	x	P	P		P	P			P	P		P	
Ontwa Township	Dawn Bolock	x	x	A	P		A	P			P	P		A	
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians	(vacant)	x	x												
Village of Edwardsburg	Dennis Peak	x	x	A	A		A	A			A	A		A	
Federal Highway Administration	Andy Pickard	NV	NV	A	A		A	A			A	A		A	
Federal Transit Administration	Susan Weber	NV	NV	A	A		A	A			A	A		A	
EGLE - Air Quality	Breanna Bukowski	NV		A	A		A	A			A	A		A	
MDOT - Modeling	Jon Roberts	NV		A	A		A	A			A	A		A	
MDOT - Office of Passenger Trans.	(vacant)	NV									A				
Michiana Area Council of Governments	Caitlin Stevens	NV	NV	A	A		A	A			A	A		A	
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	NV	NV	A	A		P	P			P	A		P	
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Brandon Kovnat	NV	NV	P	P		P	P			P	P		P	

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

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

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

2. **Changes to the Agenda**

None.

3. **Public comment**

None.

4. **Approval of the Minutes from the April 21, 2020 NATS Meeting**

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 22, 2020 joint Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meeting. Made by Michael Majerek and seconded Roseann Marchetti. **Motion approved.**

5. **SWMPC Staff Report**

Gallagher updated the committee about proposed changes to the SWMPC Public Participation Plan. The change is to include language about virtual/electronic meetings based on recent changes to the Michigan Open Meetings Act (OMA). The OMA was amended by the state senate to allow virtual/electronic meetings to occur due to a state of emergency. Previously virtual public meetings were allowed due to executive orders by the governor. The act allows virtual meetings until December 31st for any reason. Unless there is a change meetings might have to be held with an in person option and some members participating virtually. Gallagher said that the Public Participation Plan could be approved solely by a vote from the SWMPC board.

6. **Agency and Project Updates**

6.1. **Niles Dial A Rid:** None.

Cass County Public Transit: Gallagher said that Cass County Public Transit send a RFP for a consultant to develop a service plan which will be funded by MDOT.

6.2. **Local Road Agencies**

Cass County Road Commission: Bellina said he had submitted NEPA documentation and was about to submit the GI package for the Barron Lake Road project.

Berrien county Road Department: The Portage Road project is in the beginning stages of design. The bridge work on Walton Road over the St. Joseph River has is much further along in the approval process but there was no one present from the Berrien County Road Department to give specific details.

6.3. **MDOT**

Smith said that the design consultant was beginning work for US/12 & M-51 Intersection project. The design was nearly complete for the Work on US-12 in Bertrand Township.

Sanada mentioned that SWMPC had produced a Non-motorized plan and a trail/biking map for Southwest Michigan. Sanada said he has the maps at his office and anyone who wants to distribute these in their community should contact him (sanadab1@michigan.gov, (269) 337-3922).

7. **New Business**

7.1. **Traffic Safety Performance Targets:** Kovnat gave a brief overview on traffic safety in the NATS planning area.

Kovnat then presented Michigan's 2021 safety performance targets. He explained that the targets are the forecast for the 2021 based on a model developed by the University of Michigan's Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI). The targets represent the status quo scenario; the goal is to do better than the targets. Kovnat further explained that NATS has the option of selecting specific MPO level targets or to agree to support the state targets.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee adopt and support the state's 2021 safety targets. Made by Joe Ray and seconded by Georgia Boggs. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Motion made by Sandra Seanor, seconded by Eric Lester. **Motion approved.**

- 7.2. **MDOT - US-12 Resurfacing Amendment:** Smith reminded the committees that MDOT will be doing pavement repairs and one course of resurfacing in 2021. This was approved by NATS in September. Smith said that MDOT would need to do another course of asphalt in 2023. The reasoning for splitting the project in to parts was for a plant survey for threatened or endangered species because the second course of asphalt may include disturbing area outside of the existing roadway for shoulder work.

Motion for the technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the amendment to the NATS 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program as contained in the meeting packet. Made by Joe Ray and seconded by Bill Kasprzak. **Motion approved.**

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

8. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment

Georgia Boggs brought up concerns about M-60 around Reum Road in Howard Township. She also asked about safety issues at US-12 and Gumwood. Her concern was with school children crossing to get on the bus. Smith said he is looking into this location as there are a high number of crashes in the last five years, though only one resulted in a serious injury.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm. the next meeting is scheduled for December 22, 2020 at 1:30 to be conducted via zoom

Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Transportation planner