

**NILES BUCHANAN CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (NATS)**  
 Joint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Policy Committee Minutes  
 October 23, 2018

<b>Present</b>		<b>Committee</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>TAC</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Michael Majerek	Berrien County Board of Commissioners		X
Eric Lester, M.D.	Berrien County Planning Commission		X
Brian Berndt	Berrien County Road Commission	X	
Butch Payton	Bertrand Township	X	X
Lynn Ferris	Buchanan Township	X	X
Robert Ziliak	Cass County Board of Commissioners		X
Roseann Marchetti	Cass County Board of Commissioners		X
Joe Bellina	Cass County Road Commission	X	
Sandra Seanor	Cass County Road Commission		X
Don Ryman	City of Buchanan	X	X
Joe Ray	City of Niles	X	
Serita Mason	City of Niles		X
Doug Fetters	Mason Township	X	X
Jim Sturdevant	MDOT Bureau of Transportation Planning	X	X
Brian Sanada	MDOT Southwest Region	X	X
Jon Roberts	MDOT Urban Travel Analysis*	X	
Susan Flowers	Milton Township	X	X
Richard Cooper	Niles Charter Township	X	X
Kelly Getman-Dissette	Niles Dial A Ride	X	X
Dawn Bolock	Ontwa Township	X	X
Brandon Kovnat	SWMPC	Staff	
Ryan Fellows	SWMPC	Staff	

Others present: Bill Kasprzak (Howard Township), Mack Green (Whitman & Associates on behalf of the city of Buchanan)

<b>Absent</b>		<b>Committee</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>TAC</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Evan Smith	Berrien County Community Development	X	
Kim O'Haver	Buchanan Dial A Ride	X	X
Barbara Cook	Cass County Planning Commission	X	
Georgia Boggs	City of Niles		X
Andrea Dewey	Federal Highway Administration*	X	X
Craig Bradfield	Howard Township	X	X
Jonathon Smith	MDOT Coloma Business Office	X	X
Mary McAfee	City of Niles		X
Rich Low	Village of Edwardsburg	X	X
Kim Gallagher	SWMPC	Staff	

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

Joe Bellina, Technical Advisory chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. Serita Mason led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Changes to the Agenda**

None.

3. **Public Comment**

None.

4. **Approve Minutes from the June 26, 2018 Meeting**

**Motion** to approve the minutes from the September 25, 2018 joint Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meeting. Made by Roseann Marchetti, second by Serita Mason. **Motion approved.**

5. **Staff Report**

Brandon Kovnat presented on the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development timeline. He discussed a recommendation for appointing voting members for the Project Review Subcommittee, which included 7 members chosen so that the committee would be representative of the NATS Policy & TAC committees.

Joe Bellina said that in the past the committee was made up of whoever chose to attend and has had between 4 and 7 people attending.

There was support to change to officially appoint subcommittee membership at the November meeting. There was also support for up to seven members on the committee. General consensus was that prescribing agencies who could serve was not necessary.

An agreement was reached to set the size of the committee at seven members open to any NATS policy or technical advisory committee member. Official voting on who will serve on the Project Review Subcommittee will occur at the November NATS meeting.

6. **Community Land Use and Zoning Member Updates**

Sandra Seanor said that Ontwa Township had an amendment to their zoning ordinance. She also said that the planning commission had attended a training session.

Susan Flowers said that there was rezoning in Milton Township, which would add approximately 160 houses along Gumwood Rd.

7. **Public Transit**

**Berrien Countywide Service Plan:** Ryan Fellows said that the County was in discussion on the next steps to take.

**Niles Dial A Ride:** None

**Buchanan Dial A Ride:** A millage renewal is on the November ballot.

## 8. Old Business

**Performance targets for bridge condition, pavement condition, and reliability:** Brandon said that the targets were statewide goals. MDOT would not be looking at any local area, and MPOs which adopt the state targets will not be held to any local standard.

Joe Bellina added that he had made sure that the state couldn't force NATS to use its STBG allocation for MDOT controlled roads in order to meet the targets.

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to vote to recommend that the NATS Policy Committee support MDOT's performance targets for pavement condition, bridge condition, and reliability. Made by Jim Sturdevant, second by Joe Bellina. **Motion Approved.**

**Motion** for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation by the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Roseann Marchetti, second by Eric Lester. **Motion Approved.**

**Project Prioritization System for the 2020-2023 TIP:** Brandon explained that the scoring system is only a guideline to help the Project Review Subcommittee. The Subcommittee has the final say on which projects are recommended to the TAC. After the TAC recommendation, the Policy Committee will have final authority on which projects are selected.

**Motion** to adopt the Technical Advisory Committee vote to recommend that the NATS Policy Committee adopt the Project Prioritization System for the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program. Made by Jim Sturdevant, second by Joe Ray. **Motion Approved.**

**Motion** for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation by the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Sandra Seanor, second by Roseann Marchetti. **Motion Approved.**

## 9. New Business

**Air Quality Conformity:** Brandon presented on the Berrien County Air Quality Conformity Document. He said that the document analyzed the effects on air quality from all federally funded transportation projects programed in Berrien County. Because Berrien County is designated as nonattainment for Ozone, the county is given an emissions budget it must remain below. Projects are run through a model to determine if they will increase emissions beyond the allowed amount. Based on the model, it was found that Berrien County's emissions will be decreasing over the next 25 years, and the County will be in conformity.

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the Berrien County, MI Nonattainment Area. Made by Jim Sturdevant, second by Kelly Getman-Dissette. **Motion Approved.**

**Motion** for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation by the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Sandra Seanor, second by Roseann Marchetti. **Motion Approved.**

**10. State and Federal Updates**

Jon Roberts said that MDOT and MACOG (South Bend area MPO) were still working on the travel demand model for the entire South Bend urbanized area. He said he would present on the future year results of the model in February or March.

**11. Privilege of the Floor**

None

**12. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM. The next NATS meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 27, 2018 at 1:30 pm.**

*Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Planner*