

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Policy Committee

MINUTES

February 26, 2013

2:30 P.M.

Niles City Council Chambers

Policy Members Present:	Jason Auvil, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians/BC Planning Commission Township Georgia Boggs, City of Niles Pamela Boyd, MDOT Planning Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township Irving Frost, Howard Township Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region Joseph Kring, Bertrand Township Serita Ann Mason, City of Niles Jess Minks, Berrien County Road Commission Jane Mitchell, Buchanan Township Cliff Poehlman, Cass County Road Commission Don Ryman, City of Buchanan Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex-officio) Evan Smith, Niles Dial A Ride Robert Ziliak, Cass County Commissioner
Policy Members Absent:	Pat Bellaire, Village of Edwardsburg Dawn Bolock, Ontwa Township Barb Cook, Cass County Planning Commission Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration (ex-officio) John Egelhaaf, SWMPC (ex-officio) John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development Erin Jolivette, MDOT – Coloma TSC John Klimek, Berrien County Commissioner Don Kronewitter, Milton Township Jason Latham, MDOT-SW Region Larry Larson, City of Niles Dale Lowe, Cass County Commissioner Stewart McKenzie, FTA (ex-officio) Kim O’Haver, Buchanan Dial A Ride Jan Personette, Four Flags Area Chamber of Commerce Joe Sobieralski, Southwest Michigan Economic Growth Alliance Representative, MACOG (ex-officio)
SWMPC Staff Present:	Suzann Flowers Gautam Mani
Others Present:	Matt Kodis, Michigan Works

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Cooper called the meeting to order at 2:37 p.m. Mitchell led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Minutes

A motion by Poehlman with support by Frost to approve the Joint Meeting Minutes from January 29, 2013, with a correction noted by Woolcock to move Pamela Boyd’s name to the next line in the minutes. **Motion passed.**

3. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

4. Staff Report

- **Performance Measures Workgroup**

A meeting has been set up to work on the chapter for performance measures. Flowers will email the meeting information on Wednesday. This meeting will focus on developing the performance measures chapter in the long range plan.

- **TIP STP Allocations**

Flowers noted that once the federally approved TIP is received from MDOT that the MPO will be over programmed in the Local STP allocation. Flowers will be contacting the agencies with projects in the 2013 TIP to see if any project bid savings had been saved or discuss with them on to be back in fiscal constraint.

- **Climate Change Workshop in TwinCATS**

Mani noted that the TwinCATS MPO was a recipient of a climate change grant through MSU Extension and GLISA. The first public conversation will take place at Michigan Works on Wednesday February 27, 2013. If people are interested in attending they are welcomed to attend.

5. Project Updates

- **FY 2013 and FY 2014 Funding and Projects**

Flowers reported the estimated STP funds for 2013 and 2014 for the NATS area. Flowers suggested the possibility of a subcommittee or smaller working group to decide how to prioritize projects for 2013 and 2014 based on these funding levels and the current ability of local agencies to provide local match. Flowers noted that this was just one way to deal with the issue, and was the approach that TwinCATS had attempted.

Fiscal Year	Job Number	Agency	Project Name	Update Information	Date of last update	Bid Savings	Potential Obligation Month
2011		Niles Dial A Ride	On bus camera system	The grant was just awarded in September 2011 and the projects will be completed in 2013	Feb-12		
		Niles Dial A Ride	Preventative maintenance	The grant was just awarded in September 2011 and the projects will be completed in 2013; ongoing	August 2013		
		Niles Dial A Ride	Ramp lift	The grant was just awarded in September 2011 and the projects will be completed in 2013	Apr-12		
	104152	MDOT	M-139 (Main St) over St. Joseph River bridge replacement SUB and PE phases	Design phase-public meeting will happen soon and public will be able to view design options; public comment process is underway, December 2013 letting; presentation in January to the public regarding the project.	February 2013		

	90361	MDOT	US-12 resurfacing from M-60 to Edwardsburg	Let construction 2012; projected to be completed the end of October	October 2012		
	86785	MDOT	M-139 Over Dowagiac River, near N limit of Niles bridge replacement-	2012 Construction; on schedule for completion at the end of October	October 2012		
2012	112863	Cass County Road Commission	Bertrand Rd from Ironwood Dr. to Batchelor JN 112863 CON Phase	In design, Grade inspection is done, final plans going in; bid/letting October; Bid date was October 5, PreCon was held October 12. We are trying to construct yet this year if the weather cooperates and contractor can get mix design approval, otherwise it will be in the spring; Contract awarded, will be built in calendar year 2013 in the spring.	February 2013		
		Niles Dial A Ride	Preventative maintenance	The projects have been assigned grant numbers and the projects should move forward summer 2012. There will be some project changes for the March meeting, need last approved TIP letter	June 2012		
		Niles Dial A Ride	Fuel capitalization	¾ spent	November 2012		
		Niles Dial A Ride	Free fare days-CMAQ project	Extended to summer 2013	November 2013		
		Niles Dial A Ride	Bus replacement	Working with MDOT on this project	October 2012		
		Niles Dial A Ride	Parking lot	Spring of 2013	October 2012		
	115698	MDOT	Design phase: M-62 Indiana State Line-US12; cold milling, overlay, sidewalk ramp upgrades	Design phase	May 2012		
	116115	MDOT	US 12 West of Mayflower Road to M-139	2013 construction-in design; Design complete let in September CON begin summer 2013	October 2012		

	115699	MDOT	US 31 From End of Freeway at Napier Avenue to I-94. – On M60 Bridge from M51-M60-crack seal	In design;55% in the NATS MPO area, and this is the PE phase.	February 2013		
2013	112094	Berrien County	Walton Road (City of Buchanan limit to Old 31)	Hot patching and single coat CON phase; Force account project; submitted GI package	February 2013		May
	112101	Berrien County	Warren Woods Rd and Red Bud Trail	Hot patching and single seal coat-CON phase; Force account; submitted GI package	February 2013		May
	112102	Buchanan	Front St. Red Bud Trail to east city of Buchanan limit	Resurface, sidewalks, streetscaping, non-motorized path; working with consultant Wightman and Assoc to move this project along; TA grant, but need to coordinate funds—without coordination, letting could be delayed; will be submitting GI package in the next month	February 2013		
		Buchanan Dial A Ride	Transit operations				
		Niles Dial a Ride	Transit maintenance equipment and parts	Copy machine			
		Niles Dial a Ride	Transit operations equipment	Replacement tired			
		Niles Dial a Ride	Transit maintenance equipment and parts	Software upgrades			
	115699	MDOT	On US 31 from end of freeway at Napier Ave to I-94	Overband crack fill-CON phase; no go			

	112103	Cass County	Redfield St.	Oak St. to Elkhart Rd-CON phase; do not have a letting or obligation schedule, we will be reviewing our Force Account limitations and funding capacity for bid projects.; Still under force account; submitted to GI and only need 32,798.60 of federal funds	February 2013	17,601.40	May
	115698	MDOT	M-62 Indiana state line to US-12	Cold milling, HMA one course and sidewalk ramp upgrades			

6. Old Business

There were no items to discuss.

7. New Business

▪ TIP Amendments

No TIP amendments were reviewed this month.

▪ Brad Sharlow-Base Year 2010 Model Deficiencies

Sharlow presented information to the Committee members noting the base year deficiencies to monitor in the long range plan. The segments included

- Front Street in Buchanan from Main to Red Bud Trail
- Main Street in Niles from M-139 to M-51
- Main Street in Niles from M-51 to 13th Street
- Grant Street in Niles from Parkway Street to 3rd Street

While none of these segments are at or over capacity they are approaching capacity and will need to be monitored. He stated that the volumes are a 24 hour daily capacity and that it is possible that these segments could be over capacity at am and pm hours of the day.

▪ Long Range Transportation Planning Sections

Flowers noted that in an effort to bring sections of the Long Range Plan to the Committee members in manageable chunks that there are several sections to review this month. She noted that these are working drafts and that final approval will not come until after the 10 day public comment period once the Committee members put the document out for public comment. Flowers also noted some comments from Kim O'Haver and that those will be incorporated.

- Goals and Objectives
- Non-motorized
- Rail
- Airports
- Freight
- Coordination with State Long Range Plan

General comments from the Committee members included a find and replace to make sure that there is only NATS information, be careful of the maps included to only use those that are truly necessary, add information from the MDOT Chicago to Detroit rail study, include more freight information into the airport section and work with Joe Ray and Lee Scherwitz, justify documents on both sides. Comments were also received from Andrea Dewey and those comments will also be included.

A motion by Poehlman with support by Frost to conditionally approve the draft sections of the long range plan and to continue to make progress on the sections of the Long Range Plan and to present them to the

Committees. **Motion passed.**

▪ **Item to Review**

- Future Planning Sections

Flowers noted that in an attempt to more carefully monitor areas that are changing in the MPO, a section will be added to the long range plan. Kodis stated that if Flowers needed more demographic information from the MACOG area that he would assist Flowers.

▪ **Legislative Updates-Federal and State**

Boyd stated that Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood is stepping down from his position and that his replacement has not yet been identified. There is also concern over the sequestration and how that would impact US DOT representatives such as Andrea Dewey and that furlough days may be in the future unless this is addressed.

Boyd also stated that each MPO was sent a letter regarding the \$54 million dollars worth of obligation authority and that a work group was formed in January to discuss what this would mean for the MPOs. She also stated that she will be working with policy officials at MDOT regarding the proposed funding bills. The four categories of bills include: Registration fees, Wholesale Gas Tax, Sales Tax, and Local Taxing Authority. Boyd will report back on this as more information is learned.

8. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

9. Privilege of the Floor

-Flowers had several items to share with Committee members:

- SWMPC will host 3 public meetings to engage the public in the TIP and LRP processes. All meetings will be held at the Niles Public Library from 5-7pm on March 27, April 24, and May 29. Legal notices and flyers will be sent to Committee members in the next couple of days. This is separate from the official public comment period but we want to give people more of an opportunity to share in the development of the process.
- TIP Project selection subcommittee meeting will be on Thursday February 28, 2013 at 1:30p.m. at the Niles City Hall.

-Boyd stated that Lenze is doing well and that he has gone through his first round of therapy for liver cancer. Flowers stated that she will bring a card for all members to sign next month.

-Frost noted that Dale Lowe had a broken leg that resulted in surgery and will be out for a while. Flowers stated that she had spoken with him and sent a card to him.

10. Adjournment at 3:13 p.m.

A motion by Auvil with support by Frost to adjourn the meeting.

- The next meeting is **March 26, 2013 at 2:30 P.M.**

Minutes compiled by: Suzann Flowers and Gautam Mani, Transportation Planners, 2013