

**NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

Policy Committee

**MINUTES**

March 26, 2013

2:30 P.M.

Niles City Council Chambers

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

**1. Call to Order & Introductions**

- Lowe called the meeting to order at 2:54p.m. Frost led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Minutes**

A motion by Harden with support by Frost to approve the NATS Policy Committee Meeting minutes from

February 26 2013. **Motion passed.**

### 3. Public Comment

No public comments were shared.

### 4. Staff Report

- **Performance Measures Workgroup**

Flowers noted that as time is beginning to run low on the time to work on new sections of the long range plan, that she thinks that she has a strategy to deal with this section and will bring it to the Committee members next month.

- **FY 2013 Obligation Authority Letter**

Flowers noted that at the last Committee meeting a letter was referenced from MDOT regarding the additional obligation authority that the MPO would receive. NATS will receive an additional 328,000 worth and the obligation will be handled during the TIP amendments in the meeting. A copy of the letter was given to members to review.

- **TIP call for project meeting-reschedule**

Flowers noted that in order to keep on schedule with the TIP development process the following strategy was proposed:

- **April 5, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.** 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Project Selection Subcommittee meeting will be held at the Niles City Hall, 333 N. 2nd Street, Niles, MI 49120. This meeting will help decide which how federal funds should be spent in the area.
- **April 19, 2013 at 9:30a.m.** A **joint** TAC and Policy Committee will be held at the Niles City Council Chambers (Fire Station) located at 1345 E. Main St., Niles, MI, 49120 to review transportation projects selected for the 2014-2017 TIP. This will be the only topic on the agenda.
- **April 30, 2013 at 1:30p.m.** A **joint** TAC and Policy Committee will be held at the Niles City Council Chambers (Fire Station) located at 1345 E. Main St., Niles, MI, 49120 to conduct normal business for the NATS metropolitan planning organization. The April 23, 2013 meeting is hereby cancelled.

A motion by Mason with support by Frost to accept the proposed NATS meeting strategy. **Motion passed.**

- **TAMC Spring Conference-May 8, 2013**

Flowers noted that the Transportation Asset Management Conference will be held on May 8, 2013 and that there is registration information on the postcard that was passed out at the meeting.

- **Soil erosion and Sediment Control Training**

Flowers also noted that the soil erosion training will be held in Niles on Wednesday March 27, 2013. More information can be gained from the flyer that was passed out at the meeting.

- **SWMPC LRP and TIP Public Hearings**

Flowers reminded members that the first of 3 public comment sessions will be held on Wednesday March 27, April 24, and May 22. All open house comment sessions will be held from 5-7 at the Niles District Library. She reminded everyone to take a postcard and share with people.

### 5. Project Updates

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;public input meeting held in Feb..	March 2013		
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, May CON	March 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		
	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		
<b>2013</b>	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; plans submitted	March 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; plans submitted	March 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; letting in August or Sept	March 2013		May/June
		Buchanan Dial A Ride	Transit operations	Still operating	March 2013		
		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 CON phase	Overband crack fill-CON phase;	March 2013		
	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; force account in June/July	March 2013	17,601.40	May
	115698	MDOT	M-62 Indiana state line to US-12 (CON phase)	Cold milling, HMA one course and sidewalk ramp upgrades; on schedule	March 2013		
	108186	MDOT	Near Pucker St. M-51 widening for 4 ft alignment away from Dowagiac River (CON phase)	CON this year July let CON in August	March 2013		

## 6. Old Business

There were no items of old business to discuss.

## 7. New Business

- TIP Amendments (Amending TIP and Obligation Authority)

- **FY 2013**

- Adding JN 119285 IN-MI River Valley Trail, 42,548 TAP funds, local cost 10,637 in township funds for a total phase cost of 53,185 and total project cost of 741,149.
    - Adding JN 118207 IN-MI River Valley Trail, federal funds 372,462 TE Funds, 286,139 MDNR Trust Funds for state, local funds 130,363 for a total phase cost of 688,964 for a total project cost of 741,149.
    - Amending JN 112101 BCRC Warren Woods-adding FY 2013 obligation authority in the amount of 20K to make up for less STP allocation.
    - Amending JN 112094 BCRC Walton Road-obligation authority- adding FY 2013 obligation authority in the amount of 20K to make up for less STP allocation.
    - Amending JN 112107 CCRC Elkhart Road, change from FY 2014 to FY 2013, change in limits to Redfield to May, change in length from 0.75 to 1.33, change to AC, change in federal cost from 75,200 to 132,204, change in local cost from 18,800 to 43,226 and change in total phase cost from 94K to 175,470, using 131K worth of FY 2013 obligation authority.
    - Amending JN 112103 CCRC Redfield Street to show bid savings of federal cost from 50K to 32,798.60, change in local cost from 12,600 to 7,273 for a phase cost change and project cost from 63K to 40,071.60.
    - Amending JN112102 City of Buchanan Front Street, change in primary work type to restore and rehabilitate, and project description, and using 156K worth of FY 2013 obligation authority.

- **FY 2014**

- Adding JN 104152 MDOT project M-139 bridge replacement adding ROW phase

- 32K federal, 8K state, for total phase cost of 40K and total project cost of 7,228,100.
- Adding ACC CCRC Elkhart Road JN 112107 for federal cost of 11,417.
- Amending JN 104152 MDOT M-139 CON phase change in federal cost to 4,531,200, change in state cost from 5,664,000 to 1,132,800 no change in phase cost but a change in total project cost due to addition of ROW phase in 204 from 7,118,000 to 7,228,100.

A motion by Harden with support from Personette to approve the proposed amendments to the 2011-2014 NATS TIP. **Motion passed.**

- **Brad Sharlow- 2020-2040 Model Deficiencies**

Sharlow presented model deficiencies for 2010, 2020, 2030, and 2040. He explained what the information provided was a tool and that it is simply demonstrating what the model is showing for future deficiencies in the regional transportation network. Flowers provided handouts that showed the tables that Sharlow provided to her and Mani.

A motion by Mitchell with support by Poehlman to approve the 2020, 2030, and 2040 model deficiency information for the NATS MPO. **Motion passed.**

- **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.

- Air Quality
- Transit-Kim Gallagher from the SWMPC spoke about this section, took notes, and answered questions regarding what will be in the plan.
- Environmental Mitigation
- Environmental Justice
- Future Planning Areas

A motion by Cooper with support by Poehlman 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.**

- **Transportation Improvement Program**

Flowers noted that in an effort to bring sections of the TIP to the Committee members in manageable chunks that there are several sections to review this month.

- Introduction
- Air Quality
- Environmental Justice
- MPO overview

A motion by Cooper with support by Poehlman to conditionally approve the draft sections of the transportation improvement program and to continue to make progress on the sections of the TIP and to present them to the Committees. **Motion passed.**

- **Legislative Updates-Federal and State**

- **Federal**-Dewey stated that HR 933 was passed by both houses of Congress that allows the federal government to continue to operate and specifically allows for STP allocation to continue until the end of the fiscal year. She also noted that so far, FHWA has not been impacted by sequestration however, the FAA and FTA get funds from the general fund and they are being impacted.
- **State**-Boyd stated that Ray Lenze is doing well and that the Michigan legislature will not take up any bills until late summer regarding changes to the funding of transportation.

## **8. Public Comment**

No public comments were received.

## **9. Privilege of the Floor**

Lowé stated that he was on the mend and that he was not sure who was responsible for the large pot holes in between the state highway and Gilbert Street along with the same issue near Barron Lake Road.

Jolivette stated that she was aware of the issues and that regarding Barron Lake Road photos had been taken and that she was told that the issue was being taken care of.

## **10. Adjournment at 3:35p.m.**

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

- The next meeting:
  - **April 19, 2013 at 9:30a.m.** A **joint** TAC and Policy Committee will be held at the Niles City Council Chambers (Fire Station) located at 1345 E. Main St., Niles, MI, 49120 to review transportation projects selected for the 2014-2017 TIP. This will be the only topic on the agenda.
  - **April 30, 2013 at 1:30p.m.** A **joint** TAC and Policy Committee will be held at the Niles City Council Chambers (Fire Station) located at 1345 E. Main St., Niles, MI, 49120 to conduct normal business for the NATS metropolitan planning organization. The April 23, 2013 meeting is hereby cancelled.

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