

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

**MINUTES**

May 22, 2012

2:30 P.M.

Niles City Council Chambers

Policy Members Present:	Jason Auvil, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Chuck Collins, Berrien County Road Commission Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region Erin Jolivette, MDOT – Coloma TSC Don Kronewitter, Milton Township Joseph Kring, Bertrand Township John LaMore, Berrien County Commissioner Larry Larson, City of Niles Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Kim O’Haver, Buchanan Dial A Ride Dennis Patterson, Howard Township Zach Perkins, Berrien County Commissioner Jan Personette, Four Flags Area Chamber of Commerce Cliff Poehlman, Cass County Road Commission Johnie Rodebush, Cass County Commissioner Don Ryman, City of Buchanan Evan Smith, Niles Dial A Ride
Policy Members Absent:	Pat Bellaire, Village of Edwardsburg Georgia Boggs, City of Niles John Egelhaaf, SWMPC (ex-officio) Irving Frost, Howard Township Dale Lowe, Cass County Commissioner Serita Ann Mason, City of Niles Stewart McKenzie, FTA (ex-officio) Jane Mitchell, Buchanan Township Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex-officio) Morgan Sweeney, Berrien County Planning Commission Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex-officio) Representative, Berrien County Planning Commission Representative, MACOG (ex-officio) Representative, Ontwa Township
SWMPC Staff Present:	Suzann Flowers Trevor Thomas
Others Present:	Sue Kronewitter, Milton Township Jerry Marchetti, Ontwa Township

**1. Call to Order & Introductions**

- Both Chair and Vice-Chair were absent at the start of the meeting and asked Johnie Rodebush to chair the meeting. Rodebush called the meeting to order at 2:37 p.m. Rodebush led the group in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman LaMore attended the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

## 2. Minutes

Motion by Poehlman with support by Auvil to approve the April 24, 2012 NATS Policy Committee meeting minutes with the following correction noted by Collins:

- Page 7-M-61 should be M-51.

**Motion passed.**

## 3. Staff Report

### ▪ **Rural Task Force Training**

Flowers also attended a training session to wrap up the Rural Task Force season. This was an opportunity to give comments and feedback to MDOT on the overall process and to ensure that the process continues to move smoothly as the regions take over the administrative process on behalf of MDOT. Regions and Road Commission agencies were also able to provide comment on the proposed framework for the region.

### ▪ **NADO Conference**

Flowers attended the National Association of Development Organizations annual conference in Burlington, VT. Flowers indicated the importance that the conference placed on safety, freight, and coordination of transportation within a region. The conference was designed for rural transportation agencies and small MPO regions.

### ▪ **Freight Workshop**

Flowers also attended a freight workshop hosted by MDOT. US DOT has been compiling data on various ground freight carriers and presented aggregate data that has been collected and can be used by MPOs to better understand freight transportation in Michigan.

### ▪ **Southwest Michigan Safety Forum**

Thomas reported on the Traffic Safety forum that has been reformed and will be meeting quarterly to provide information on key issues to traffic safety officials from around the region. He also presented several of the slides that he presented at the forum. The first of these meetings was held in April and focused on non-motorized and pedestrian safety. Thomas presented on information pertinent to the TwinCATS Walk and Roll group along with what types of activities are happening in the region. In addition, there were presentations made by regional law enforcement and one that focused on the MDOT Traffic Safety Database. This database shows a tremendous amount of information in regards to crashes and various other types of information that could be very useful to the MPO. If people have more questions they can contact Thomas. The next Traffic Safety meeting will be their legislative meeting in August.

### ▪ **Annual UWP**

Flowers discussed the annual work program and asked the Committee members if they had specific projects or tasks that they wanted the MPO staff to be working on for the next fiscal year. At the June meeting, the full UWP will be placed on the agenda for formal action to take place by the members.

### ▪ **Long Range Plan Goals**

Flowers discussed the development of the Long Range Plan goals and she asked if Committee members have comments to please send them to her or Thomas. The next version that members will see will include objectives and performance measures, which will be an indication of how the MPO measures their success.

#### 4. Project Updates

Fiscal Year	Job Number	Agency	Project Name	Update Information	Date of last update
2010			<del>M-139 over Dowagiac-River bridge work</del>	<del>2012 May-October letting-completed</del>	May-12
		MDOT	<del>M-139 over St. Joseph-River Bridge Replacement</del>	Completed	May-12
2011		Niles Dial A Ride	Bike racks-purchase up to 5 bicycle racks and install kits for buses	Project has been approved by Niles City Council	May-12
		Niles Dial A Ride	Generator	Project has not been approved by Niles City Council	May-12
		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	Feb-12
		Niles Dial A Ride	Ramp lift	The grant was just awarded in September 2011 and the projects will be completed in 2013	Apr-12
		Niles Dial A Ride	<del>Replacement tires</del>	<del>The grant was just awarded in September 2011; project is completed</del>	Apr-12
		Niles Dial A Ride	Landscaping	Project has been approved by Niles City Council-will be completed in September	Apr-12
	112861	Cass County Road Commission	<del>Pine Lake St. M-60 to Anderson Rd</del>	Completed	Feb-12
	110364	Cass County Road Commission	<del>Redfield St from Kline Rd to Conrad Rd</del>	Completed	Feb-12
	109283	Cass County Road Commission	<del>Redfield St. over Christina Creek</del>	let in Feb.	Feb-12
	107691	Cass County Road Commission	<del>Redfield St and Bertrand Rd Berrien County Line to Ironwood Rd</del>	Completed	Feb-12

	114517	Cass County Road Commission	<del>Redfield St. M-62 to Brande Creek Rd</del>	construction 2012, let in Jan.	Feb-12
	108921	MDOT	US-31 freeway signing upgrade	Construction underway	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	Feb-12
	108186	MDOT	M-51 slope stabilization near Pucker St	Project moved out of 2011-2014 TIP	Apr-12
	110758	MDOT	<del>M-60 weigh station at US-12 interchange</del>	<del>spring 2012 construction; completed</del>	Feb-12
	90361	MDOT	US-12 resurfacing from M-60 to Edwardsburg	-let construction 2012 May-October	Feb-12
	86785	MDOT	M-139 Over Dowagiac River, near N limit of Niles bridge replacement-	2012 Construction	Feb-12
	112819	MDOT	US-12, .68 miles east of Cassopolis Rd	MDOT is obtaining culvert right of way	Feb-12
<b>2012</b>	114518	Berrien County Road Commission	Red Bud Trail at Old Bitty Creek	design phase	Feb-12
	112084	Berrien County Road Commission	Bertrand Road; Mayflower to Red Bud Trail	Construction July 16	May-12
	112101	Berrien County Road Commission	West River Rd, Ullery Rd, Pucker St, and Main St. CON Phase	contract signed	Feb-12
	112086	Berrien County Road Commission	Bertrand Rd, Ontario Rd, Fulkerson, and Bell Rd.CON Phase	contract signed	Feb-12
	112863	Cass County Road Commission	Bertrand Rd from Ironwood Dr. to Batchelor JN 112863 CON Phase	In design	Feb-12
		Niles Dial A Ride	Garage equipment	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.	Feb-12
		Niles Dial A Ride	Garage 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.	Feb-12

		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.	Feb-12
		Niles Dial A Ride	Scheduling software	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.	Feb-12
	108186	MDOT	M-51 near Pucker St. CON Phase-restore and rehabilitate-design phase 2013	construction-consultant working on design; project removed from 2011-2014 TIP	Apr-12
	111239	MDOT	US-31 Walton Rd over US-31, US-31 NB CON Phase-bridge	let in June 2012; Construction July-September	May-12

-LaMore asked Jolivette several questions regarding the work that would be done on JN 111239.

## 5. Old Business

- **Buchanan Dial A Ride membership on TAC and Policy Committees**

Flowers explained that all members have had adequate opportunity to review the proposal to add Buchanan Dial A Ride to the voting members of the Policy Committee.

A motion by Auvil with support by Harden to approve Buchanan Dial A Ride to have one vote on the NATS Policy Committee.

-Collins asked what money the agency will pay as a member. Flowers explained that Niles Dial A Ride does not pay as a member and since they are part of the City of Niles, that the City pays dues. Flowers asked if O'Haver could speak on this issue. O'Haver stated that to her understanding Buchanan Dial A Ride is a division of the City of Buchanan and therefore their dues are part of the City's.

**Motion passed.**

## 6. New Business

- **Brad Sharlow-MDOT**

Flowers stated that at the TwinCATS Committee meetings held the day before that Lenze asked that a subcommittee be formed to discuss the future socio-economic data and then bring that information to the full committee for review. Flowers will be in touch with members to set up that meeting in the next couple of weeks. This will be on future agendas.

- **TIP Amendments**

- MDOT

- 2012

- Adding JN 115698, M-62 PE phase federal cost of 29,000, state cost of 6,000 for total phase cost of 35,000; total project cost of 955,000.
- Adding JN 115698, M-62 ROW phase federal cost 4,000, state cost 1,000 for a

- total phase cost of 5,000 and total project cost of 955,000.
- Adding JN 115698, M-62 CON phase federal cost 749,000, state cost 166,000 for a total phase cost of 915,000 and total project cost of 955,000.
- Adding JN115699, On US-31 and M-60 BR; PE phase for a federal cost of 1,000 and state cost of fewer than 1,000 for a total phase cost of 2,000 and total project cost of 70,000.
- 2013
  - Adding JN115699, On US-31 and M-60 BR; CON phase for a federal cost of 30,000 and state cost of under 7,000 for a total phase cost of 37,000 and total project cost of 70,000.

*JN 115699 that is within the MPO boundary is being placed in the 2011-2014 TIP.*

-There were questions regarding the longevity of some of the proposed work to be done by MDOT, especially on US 12 and Jolivette discussed that the fixes over the concrete (asphalt overlay) should have a 10-15 year longevity for the road. Some of the projects that MDOT are completing are preventative maintenance of roadways and not a reconstruction.

A motion by Poehlman with support by Harden to approve the MDOT TIP requests as presented to be amended into the 2011-2014 NATS TIP. **Motion passed.**

#### ▪ **Legislative Updates**

##### ○ **Federal**

Flowers stated that the House and Senate are working through a Committee to hash out the details of the transportation bill.

##### ○ **State**

Flowers also stated that members of the Michigan legislature were getting ready to go on summer recess and that there were no updates to mention. Flowers mentioned SB 351 as to shifting 2% of the sales tax for roads; the information was received from Larry Merritt from the Berrien County Road Commission.

-Collins added that shifting these funds would still not solve any long lasting funding issues that Michigan is currently facing.

-Poehlman also added that there have not been any increases to funding in the state since 1997 and that new revenue is needed to keep our roads in adequate condition.

Flowers asked Harden to provide an update on the Complete Streets Advisory Council.

Harden stated that a presentation has been made to the State Transportation Commission which is tasked with how the policy will be implemented by MDOT and that has to be completed by August.

#### **7. Public Comment**

No public comments were received for the month of May.

#### **8. Privilege of the Floor**

-Flowers stated that the first technical memo regarding the Berrien County Transit Coordination Study will be reviewed and discussed at an information meeting on June 6, 2012 from 1:30-3:30p.m. at Michigan Works in Benton Harbor. If anyone would like a copy of the document, she asked that they see her after the meeting.

-Lenze stated that he had new Michigan road maps for anyone that would like to take some.

-Ryman commented on how the gas tax for Michigan needs to be reflective of price increases so that Road

Commissions can receive more money.

-Collins, LaMore, and Patterson exchanged comments regarding the numbering system for houses.

**9. Adjournment: 3:34p.m.**

Motion by LaMore with support by Perkins to adjourn the NATS Technical Committee meeting. **Motion passed.**

- The next meeting is **June 26, 2012 at 1:30 P.M.**

*Minutes compiled by: Suzann Flowers and Trevor Thomas, Transportation Planners, May 2012*