

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Policy Committee

MINUTES

July 24, 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 Irving Frost, Howard Township Erin Jolivette, MDOT – Coloma TSC Don Kronewitter, Milton Township Joseph Kring, Bertrand Township Larry Larson, City of Niles Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Dale Lowe, Cass County Commissioner Kim O’Haver, Buchanan Dial A Ride 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 |
| Policy Members Absent: | Pat Bellaire, Village of Edwardsburg Georgia Boggs, City of Niles John Egelhaaf, SWMPC (ex-officio) Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region Serita Ann Mason, City of Niles John LaMore, Berrien County Commissioner Stewart McKenzie, FTA (ex-officio) Jane Mitchell, Buchanan Township Dennis Patterson, Howard Township Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex-officio) Evan Smith, Niles Dial A Ride Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex-officio) Representative, Berrien County Planning Commission Representative, Berrien County Planning Commission Representative, MACOG (ex-officio) Representative, Ontwa Township |
| SWMPC Staff Present: | Suzann Flowers Gautam Mani Trevor Thomas |
| Others Present: | Sue Kronewitter, Milton Township |

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Lowe called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Rodebush led the group in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Minutes

A motion by Poehlman with support by Personette to approve the NATS Joint Technical and Policy Committee Meeting Minutes for June 26, 2012 with the following changes as requested by Collins:

- Page 5, under SE Data Review change He to She.

Motion passed.

3. Staff Report

Flowers requested that Committee members search through SWMPC maps that were brought to the meeting, and take any that may be useful to their communities. Flowers said SWMPC would encourage community leaders outside the Committee to take any maps remaining after the Committee meeting.

Flowers introduced Gautam Mani, the recently hired transportation planner at SWMPC. Mani introduced himself to the group.

4. Project Updates

| Fiscal Year | Job Number | Agency | Project Name | Update Information | Date of last update | Bid Savings |
|-------------|------------|-----------------------------|--|---|---------------------|-------------|
| 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 | Replacement tires | Completed | Apr-12 | |
| | | Niles Dial A Ride | Landscaping | Completed | Apr-12 | |
| | 112861 | Cass County Road Commission | Pine Lake St. M-60 to Anderson Rd | Completed | Feb-12 | |
| | 110364 | Cass County Road Commission | Redfield St from Kline Rd to Conrad Rd | Completed | Feb-12 | |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------|--------------------------------|--|---|-----------|--|
| | 109283 | Cass County Road Commission | Redfield St. over Christina Creek- | Let in Feb, under construction; East abutment will be completed before school starts. | July 2012 | |
| | 107691 | Cass County Road Commission | Redfield St and Bertrand Rd Berrien County Line to Ironwood Rd | Completed | Feb-12 | |
| | 114517 | Cass County Road Commission | Redfield St. M-62 to Brande Creek Rd | Completed | June 2012 | |
| | 112862 | Cass County Road Commission | Beebe Rd.- Runkle St. to Leet Rd. -Resurface | | | |
| | 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 | M-60 weigh station at US-12 interchange (portable truck weigh station) | Spring 2012 Construction; completed | 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 | |
| 2012 | 114518 | Berrien County Road Commission | Red Bud Trail at Old Bitty Creek | Design phase, DEQ permits, obtaining final plan; local agency obligation filled; | July 2012 | |
| | 112084 | Berrien County Road Commission | Bertrand Road; Mayflower to Red Bud Trail | Under Construction | July 2012 | |
| | 112101 | Berrien County Road Commission | West River Rd, Ullery Rd, Pucker St, and Main St. CON Phase | Completed | June 2012 | |
| | 112086 | Berrien County Road Commission | Bertrand Rd, Ontario Rd, Fulkerson, and Bell Rd.CON Phase | Completed | July 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 | June 2012 | |

| | | | | | | |
|--|--------|-------------------|---|--|------------|--|
| | | 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., need last approved TIP letter | June 2012 | |
| | | 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. | June 2012 | |
| | | 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 | 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, need last approved TIP letter | June 2012 | |
| | 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; | July 2012 | |
| | 111239 | MDOT | US-31 Walton Rd over US-31, US-31 NB CON Phase-bridge | Let in June 2012; Under construction in July 2012 | July 2012 | |
| | 115698 | MDOT | Indiana State Line-US12; cold milling, overlay, sidewalk ramp upgrades | | May 2012 | |
| | 116115 | MDOT | West of Mayflower Road to M-139 | | April 2012 | |
| | 115699 | MDOT | US 31 From End of Freeway at Napier Avenue to I-94. – On M60 Bridge from M51-M60- Resurface | | | |

Flowers read through updates discussed in the TAC meeting. Flowers noted that the table needs to be updated based on a couple of projects that are currently missing.

5. Old Business

There were no items to be discussed for Old Business.

6. New Business

▪ NATS UWP

Thomas explained that the new format for the UWP is structured according to specific projects, allowing individuals and communities to understand where money is actually going. Thomas thanked Kim Gallagher of SWMPC for her efforts in creating this new format. O'Haver praised the new format as much more accessible.

Personette reiterated the 11th Street Corridor Project in Niles and how SWMPC should be better incorporated. Cooper and Personette both stressed the cooperation between the City of Niles and Niles Charter Township had been strong so far, and that this cooperation will need to continue.

A motion by Rodebush with support by Personette to place the NATS Annual Unified Planning Work Program out for the required 10 day public comment period. **Motion passed.**

▪ Legislative Updates

○ Federal

Thomas stated that MAP-21 had officially passed both the US House and Senate, ensuring continued funding for two years. In addition, the MPO threshold of 50,000 people will remain in place. Previous proposal was to raise this threshold to 200,000, which would have stripped TwinCATS of its MPO status. States have more leeway to spend non-motorized funds, and transit funds have been reorganized into new categories.

Flowers has already sent briefing notes on what MAP-21 said she would re-send the briefing notes on how MAP-21 will impact local governments in SW Michigan.

O'Haver stated that MAP-21 eliminated section 5339, which could create problems in trying to purchase buses for Buchanan's Dial-a-Ride.

Flowers said that the Conference Committee Manager's Report contains information on dedicated funds for harbor maintenance on pages 3 and 4. Flowers will be sending out this excerpt of the document.

○ State

No updates were given at the State level.

7. Public Comment

Ryman stated that due to revisions in the law, the state of Michigan no longer requires motorcycle helmets.

8. Privilege of the Floor

Rodebush said that he and the remainder of the Committee would miss Thomas as he departs SWMPC.

Poehlman said that the decision to stop requiring motorcycle helmets was based on a finding that there was no difference in user safety in neighboring states that did not have a helmet law. Poehlman also pointed to potential economic benefits of not requiring helmets.

Personette discussed an open house at Fort St. Joseph that would feature an update on archaeological digs in the area, as well as re-enactments at Fort and Bond Streets in Niles. The open house is August 11-12, 2012.

Personette also discussed Project Connect, taking place August 22, 2012 at Niles High School. Project Connect is a "One-Stop Shop" for people in need of a variety of vital services, including health care and

legal counseling. Breakfast and lunch will be provided, as well as Dial-A-Ride services in Niles and Buchanan.

Thomas announced his departure from SWMPC in September to pursue a PhD. Thomas thanked the group.

9. Adjournment: 2:52p.m.

A motion by Rodebush with support by Personette to adjourn the NATS Policy Committee meeting. **Motion passed.**

- The next meeting is **August 28, 2012 at 2:30 P.M.**

Minutes compiled by: Suzann Flowers and Gautam Mani, Transportation Planners, 2012