

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Policy Committee

MINUTES

August 28, 2012

2:30 P.M.

Niles City Council Chambers

Policy Members Present:	Georgia Boggs, City of Niles Dawn Bolock, Ontwa Township Chuck Collins, Berrien County Road Commission Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township Irving Frost, Howard Township Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region Don Kronewitter, Milton Township Joseph Kring, Bertrand Township Larry Larson, City of Niles John LaMore, Berrien County Commissioner Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Dale Lowe, Cass County Commissioner Serita Ann Mason, City of Niles Jane Mitchell, Buchanan Township 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:	Jason Auvil, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Pat Bellaire, Village of Edwardsburg John Egelhaaf, SWMPC (ex-officio) Erin Jolivette, MDOT – Coloma TSC Stewart McKenzie, FTA (ex-officio) 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)
SWMPC Staff Present:	Suzann Flowers Gautam Mani Trevor Thomas
Others Present:	Sue Kronewitter, Milton Township Denelle Clark, Michigan Works Matt Kodis, Michigan Works

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- LaMore called the meeting to order at 2:33p.m. and led the group in introductions. Rodebush led the

group in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Minutes

A motion by Rodebush with support by Frost to approve the NATS Policy Committee Meeting Minutes for July 24, 2012.

Motion passed.

3. Staff Report

- **Michigan Transportation Planners Association Annual Conference**

Mani discussed the annual transportation conference that took place in Holland, MI and was focused on sustainability. Mani discussed the mobile workshop tours of the lithium ion battery facility in Holland and the roundtable discussion that took place with energy suppliers. He also mentioned sessions regarding MAP-21, climate change, and roadway materials that would promote a more sustainable transportation future.

- **NATS Walk and Roll Committee**

Mani explained that the first subcommittee met earlier today and outlined the work plan for the next 12 months.

- **Southwest Michigan Traffic Safety Committee**

Mani explained that he and Flowers attended the safety committee meeting in Kalamazoo last week. He stated that many legislators attended the event and discussed what committees that they sat on. The main topics discussed were the intelligent vehicle project with the University of Michigan, which entails a pilot run where vehicle to vehicle communication is being tested for safety. There will be a total of 3,000 cars in the test. The other topics discussed were the repeal of the helmet law, the need for better insurance reporting for police officers, and the decrease in seatbelts. Some discussion centered on the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Fund and whether more motorcycle drivers will be tapping into the fund and raising insurance premiums on citizens in Michigan.

-LaMore and Ryman commented on the certificate of insurance and how it should have some notation or symbol that they have extra insurance on the policy.

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	Completed	August 2012	
		Niles Dial A Ride	Generator	Project has not been approved by Niles City Council-not going to happen look for update to the TIP very soon from the agency	August 2012	
		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	
		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; almost completed	August 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; Sept 7 let	August 2012	
	112084	Berrien County Road Commission	Bertrand Road; Mayflower to Red Bud Trail	Completed	August 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	Deleted TIP request 7/26/2012	August 2012	
		Niles Dial A Ride	Garage maintenance	Deleted TIP request 7/26/2012	August 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	Deleted TIP request 7/26/2012	August 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-12 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	M-62 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			

5. Old Business

▪ NATS UWP

A motion by Personette with support by Mason to approve the NATS Annual Unified Planning Work Program. **Motion passed.**

6. New Business

7. Socio-Economic Data for Long Range Plan

Thomas discussed that there were some numbers displayed in the data received from MDOT, where, in some neighborhood transportation analysis zones, there were huge spikes or dips from 2010 to 2015 and then little change. Thomas brought this up to Brad Sharlow at MDOT, who does the modeling for the long range transportation plan and they developed a strategy to deal with those anomalies. Thomas will be finalizing those numbers and placing the information on the website for the Committee members to review. The final approval of those numbers will be placed on the September agenda for the Committees to vote upon and get to MDOT to start the modeling.

8. TIP Amendments

There were no TIP amendments to process this month.

9. Legislative Updates-Federal and State

• Federal

Flowers mentioned that at the MTPA Conference there was not much guidance given on the new MAP-21 legislation. She mentioned that when information is received it will be relayed to the Committee members.

-Flowers also mentioned that from the TAC meeting, Getman-Dissette stated that FTA has a great website with resources such as fact sheets, webinars and links on information. O’Haver also mentioned the Community Transportation Association website at www.ctaa.org is also a great resource. Flowers mentioned that FHWA has a site similar to FTA and that she will update the SWMPC’s legislation page to reflect this information.

-Lenze stated that some changes that would be coming from the federal side would be the changes to the UWP, and the CMAQ program changes. It used to be 100% of the project was funded, and that will be changing. We will need to make changes to the TIP for 2013 and 2014 projects when information is available from FHWA, FTA, and MDOT.

• State

Flowers mentioned that Senator John Proos attended the TwinCATS TAC meeting and

provided an update regarding the state legislature. He had mentioned the lame duck session and outlined what he thought would be the total working days for the Legislature beginning September 4. He also mentioned that he was not sure the focus that transportation would have in the fall schedule. He will be working with other members to get the 1-year federal match bill that he sponsored to be extended beyond one year at a time.

10. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

11. Privilege of the Floor

-Bolock asked why Cass County waited so long to take down the speed zone signs. Poehlman said that it was a change in legislation and that many of the signs were put up illegally since the state police are the ones that set the speed limit.

-Flowers mentioned that there will be a climate change workshop hosted by the Two Rivers Coalition, SWMPC, Freshwater Future, and Michigan State University Extension. The workshop also offers to continuing education credits for master citizen planners. The discussion will feature Peter Sinclair and the focus will be on climate change, its impact on Michigan, and adaption techniques for the future. This is a free event.

-Ryman commented that he felt that the 85% rule made good sense.

-Personette wished Thomas well in his future.

-Lowe asked who he would need to get in touch with at the TSC to discuss a channel issue on Yankee Street (M-60) and at the junction of Barron Lake Road and M-60, where the pavement is very rough and deteriorating.

-LaMore had asked why we cannot move more of the truck traffic off of I-94 onto existing rail lines to preserve the road for a longer period of time.

12. Adjournment: 3:34 p.m.

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

- The next meeting is **September 25, 2012 at 2:30 P.M.**

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