

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Policy Committee

MINUTES

September 25, 2012

2:30 P.M.

Niles City Council Chambers

Policy Members Present:	Jason Auvil, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Georgia Boggs, City of Niles Dawn Bolock, Ontwa Township Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township Irving Frost, Howard Township Larry Larson, City of Niles Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning 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 Don Ryman, City of Buchanan Evan Smith, Niles Dial A Ride
Policy Members Absent:	Pat Bellaire, Village of Edwardsburg John Egelhaaf, SWMPC (ex-officio) Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region Erin Jolivette, MDOT -Coloma TSC Joseph Kring, Bertrand Township Don Kronewitter, Milton Township John LaMore, Berrien County Commissioner Dale Lowe, Cass County Commissioner Serita Ann Mason, City of Niles Stewart McKenzie, FTA (ex-officio) Jane Mitchell, Buchanan Township Dennis Patterson, Howard Township Johnie Rodebush, Cass County Commissioner Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex-officio) 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
Others Present:	

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Perkins called the meeting to order at 2:42 p.m. Ryman led the group in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Minutes

A motion by Poehlman with support by Frost to approve the NATS Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

for August 28, 2012. **Motion passed.**

3. Staff Report

- **Climate Change Workshop**

Mani discussed the climate change workshop that SWMPC coordinated in conjunction with the Two Rivers Coalition. Peter Sinclair, a graphic artist and climate advocate from Midland, Michigan discussed potential climate scenarios for Michigan over the next half century and century. He also expressed optimism for renewable energy in the state, and the capacity for community colleges to train workers in the renewable energy sector.

- **MAP-21 Presentation**

Flowers ran through a summary of the webinars attended on MAP-21. According to Flowers, among the key highlights were:

- Development of a national freight policy
- Performance measures and stricter reporting requirements across the board
- Reduction in dollars for non-motorized programs
- Focus on asset management plans
- Still awaiting some guidance on distribution of funds

Auvil discussed the impact of MAP-21 on the Pokagon Tribe. He stated that the funds for tribal transportation distribution had changed based on the population of the tribe; cost to construct the project and the need in miles, the emphasis for the funding distribution is now largely based on the population based on the 2010 US Census. He stated that with this formula change that most of the tribes in the Midwest took a hit in funding. However there appears to be more leeway for funding in regards to transit. There was an also a rule change for tribal roads. If people want to develop a project near tribal lands, they need to contact Auvil as soon as possible.

- **NATS Walk and Roll**

Mani stated that since our GIS specialist was extremely busy with end of fiscal year projects, there had been a slight delay in scheduling meetings with individual jurisdictions. Maps will be ready three weeks after September 25th, and Flowers or Mani will be contacting jurisdictions before that time.

4. Project Updates

Fiscal Year	Job Number	Agency	Project Name	Update Information	Date of last update	Bid Savings
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	

	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; bridge is open	September 2012	
	108921	MDOT	US-31 freeway signing upgrade	Construction underway; 10 weeks behind schedule	September 2012	
	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; this will be a 2013 project	September 2012	
	90361	MDOT	US-12 resurfacing from M-60 to Edwardsburg	Let construction 2012; projected to be completed the end of October	September 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	September 2012	
	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; October 8 start	September 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	September 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	
	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	September 2012	
	115699	MDOT	US 31 From End of Freeway at Napier Avenue to I-94. - On M60 Bridge from M51-M60- Resurface	In design	September 2012	

2013	112094	Berrien County	Walton Road (City of Buchanan limit to Old 31)	Hot patching and single coat CON phase		
	112101	Berrien County	Warren Woods Rd and Red Bud Trail	Hot patching and single seal coat-CON phase		
	112102	Buchanan	Front St. Red Bud Trail to east city of Buchanan limit	Resurface, sidewalks, streetscaping, non-motorized path		
		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	1. On US 31 from end of freeway at Napier Ave to I-94	Overband crack fill-CON phase		
	112103	Cass County	Redfield St.	Oak St. to Elkhart Rd-CON phase		
	115698	MDOT	M-62 Indiana state line to US-12	Cold milling, HMA one course and sidewalk ramp upgrades		
	116814	Rideshare	County wide			

5. Old Business

▪ SE Data For Long Range Plan

Mani described efforts undertaken by former planner Trevor Thomas to correct unusual spikes in the SE data for MDOT's projections. Mani had sent out an email asking for any corrections or questions to data, and received no responses.

A motion by Auvil with support by Cooper to approve the Socioeconomic Data for the Long Range Plan. **Motion passed.**

6. New Business

▪ Meetings for Fiscal Year 2013

Flowers mentioned that the dates for the start of FY 2013 had already been approved last year and that these are the dates that need to be published to the newspaper. She proposed January 22, February 26, March 26, April 23, May 28, June 25, July 23, August 27, and September 4th.

A motion by Auvil with support by Personette to recommend to approve the Meeting Dates for Fiscal Year 2013. **Motion passed.**

- **Long Range Plan Goals**

Flowers discussed how these goals attempted to shorten the “laundry list” in the previous long range plan. They attempted to address maintenance of the current system, with greater mobility options and environmental considerations. Lenze added that if the goals fall short that have been set, that we will have an opportunity to explain why we fell short and then adjust them further. Lenze continued that this is not the only chance to review the goals, when the full plan is developed then everyone would have an opportunity to review the goals as it pertains to the entire document. There were some concerns raised by members of the Committee on the measures and goals as currently stated. They will send in their comments to Flowers and Mani and make the adjustments accordingly. Lenze reminded everyone that we will be held accountable for the goals and those we should give them some additional thought if people had more questions. The motion was tabled until the October meeting when the members could have more time to review the goals. Flowers mentioned the comments from Getman-Dissette and how she had suggested that in the email reminder that we call out items such as this so it shows the importance of the items that are being reviewed. Flowers stated that she thought this was a great idea and they will incorporate the change.

- **TIP Amendments**

No TIP amendments were requested for the month of September.

- **Officer nominations**

Flowers mentioned that at the October meeting that the existing or new officers would need to be elected. If someone had an interest in being an officer that they should contact Flowers or Mani prior to the next meeting.

- **Legislative Updates-Federal and State**

- **Federal**

Flowers stated that since we had discussed MAP-21 that there was no need to discuss anything further here.

- **State**

No updates were provided at this time.

7. Public Comment

Karen a resident of the city of Niles, brought to issue a traffic light concern at the intersection of Fort and M-51 (11th Street). She discussed how her son had been involved in a traffic crash due to the intersection as he was trying to get to a local restaurant. She noted how congested that the intersection is at key times during the day when people are going to work or accessing local businesses. She expressed that through her research that a traffic study had been done in 2004 by MDOT and that the study had not warranted a stop light at the intersection. She wanted to see a study done on the intersection again. Jolivette stated that the study had just been submitted to MDOT from the City of Niles. Lenze added that there were certain warrants that had to be met in order for a traffic light to be installed. Lenze continued that Karen should work with the state, county, city and township to get an access management discussion or plan created and how that could impact that corridor.

8. Privilege of the Floor

Lenze added that Flowers had been newly elected as the Chair of the Michigan Transportation Planning Association.

9. Adjournment: 3:45 p.m.

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

- The next meeting is **October 23, 2012 at 2:30 P.M.**

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