

NILES BUCHANAN CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (NATS)

Joint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Policy Committee Minutes –
September 24, 2019 Niles District Library, Community Room, 620 E Main St, Niles, MI 49120

NATS MEMBER ORG./POSITION	MEMBERS (2019)	TAC	POL	Present
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners (1)	Michael Majerek		x	X
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	(Vacant)		x	
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Evan Smith	x		
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	Eric Lester, M.D.		x	
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (Policy)	(Vacant)		x	
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (TAC)	Kevin Stack	x		
Bertrand Township	Butch Payton	x	x	X
Buchanan Dial-A-Ride	Kim O'Haver	x	x	X
Buchanan Township	Lynn Ferris	x	x	X
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (1)	Michael Grice		x	
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	Roseann Marchetti		x	X
Cass Co. Planning Commission	(Vacant)	x		
Cass Co. Road Comm. (Policy)	Sandra Seanor		x	X
Cass Co. Road Comm. (TAC)	Joe Bellina (TAC Chair)	x		X
City of Buchanan	Don Ryman	x	x	X
City of Niles (1)	Georgia Boggs		x	X
City of Niles (2)	Jessica Nelson		x	X
City of Niles (3)	Serita Mason		x	X
City of Niles Community Dev. Director	(Vacant)	x		
City of Niles Dial-A-Ride Transit	Kelly Getman-Dissette	x	x	X
City of Niles Public Works Dir./Airport	Joe Ray	x		
Howard Township (TAC & Policy)	Bill Kasprzak	x	x	X
Kinexus	(Vacant)	x		
Mason Township	Doug Fetters	x	x	
MDOT - Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	
MDOT - Bureau of Trans. Planning	Anita Boughner	Alt	Alt	
MDOT - Southwest Region	Brian Sanada	x	x	X
MDOT - Transportation Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	
Milton Township	Susan Flowers	x	x	
Niles Charter Township	Richard Cooper (P. Ch.)	x	x	X
Ontwa Township	Dawn Bolock	x	x	X
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians	(Vacant)	x	x	
SW Mich. Economic Growth Alliance	(Vacant)	x		
Village of Edwardsburg	Dennis Peak	x	x	
Federal Highway Administration	Andrea Dewey	NV	NV	
Federal Transit Administration	Susan Weber	NV	NV	
MDEQ - Air Quality	Breanna Bukowski	NV		
MDOT - Modeling	Jon Roberts	NV		
MDOT - Office of Passenger Trans.	Fred Featherly	NV		
Michiana Area Council of Governments	(Vacant)	NV	NV	
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	NV	NV	X
Others Present: Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC; Jim Curran, Berrien County Board of Commissioners				

Alt. = Alternative Representative NV = nonvoting member

1) **Call to Order / Introductions and Pledge of Allegiance**

Technical Advisory Committee chair, Joe Bellina called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Jessica Nelson introduced herself as a new member of the Policy Committee representing the City of Niles replacing Mary McAfee.

2) **Changes to the Agenda**

None.

3) **Public Comment**

None.

4) **Approve Minutes from the August 27, 2019 Meeting**

Motion to approve the minutes from the June 25, 2019 joint Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meeting. Motion made by Kelly Getman-Dissette and seconded by Serita Mason. **Motion approved.**

5) **Staff Report**

Kovnat presented on the NATS 2019 Pavement Condition Report.

Gallagher discussed the results of the survey on education topics. She said that the first topic to be covered would be at the October meeting where the Berrien Community Foundation will speak about the U.S. Census.

6) **Community Land Use and Zoning Member Updates**

None.

7) **Public Transit Updates**

a) **Niles Dial a Ride:** Kelly Getman-Dissette said that Niles Dial A Ride had received their second new bus.

b) **Buchanan Dial a Ride:** Kim O’Haver said that she felt that the state transportation bill was not good for transit. It does not increase transit funding, while her expenses have increased by 6%. She also said that the amount of state match she will receive has been cut.

c) **Overview of 2020 transit projects:** Getman-Dissette said that her 2020 operating budget was the best estimate for next year. The funding is apportioned to the South Bend urban area and is split by agreement between South Bend transit agencies and Niles Dial A Ride. She also said that the state match Niles Dial A Ride receives might be reduced in 2020.

O’Haver said that currently Buchanan Dial A Ride is a rural and small urban agency, which does not use the same funding source as Niles Dial A Ride. She is working to transition to receiving urban 5307 funding.

8) **Road Project Updates**

Berrien County Road Department – No presenter; updates sent prior to meeting

a) **North Main Street – Buchanan Township:** Construction of a two-inch overlay is complete.

b) **Bertrand Road – Bertrand Township:** Construction of a two inch overlay is complete

Cass County Road Commission project updates presented by Joe Bellina.

a) **Redfield Road – Conrad to M-62:** This project has a railroad crossing. The project is delayed due to an issue coordinating with the rail company.

b) **Redfield – Tree Removal on Fir to Brush:** The final plans were recently submitted. Letting is expected in January.

MDOT updates presented by Brian Sanada

- a) **M-51:** The projects is being constructed despite the ongoing strike at Reith Riley, the construction firm awarded the construction contract. They are using a non-union labor crew. Without the experienced union equipment operators, construction is proceeding at a slower pace.

Overview of 2020 Local Agency Road Projects

Bellina was the only member present with a project in 2020. No one was present to discuss the Berrien County Road Department or the city of Niles projects. Bellina said the Grade Inspection Plan for Cass County Road commission's Lake Street Resurfacing project is complete. The project is expected to be complete by July 30, 2020.

9) **New Business** - MDOT Project Amendments

Kovnat presented four projects MDOT was adding to the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program. Ballina noticed an error in the packet on the cost of the projects. The amounts presented at the meeting were the correct values (Corrected values are attached to the minutes).

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve adding the MDOT projects as presented. Motion made by Kelly Getman-Dissette and seconded by Kim O'Haver. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the Technical Advisory Committee's recommendation. Motion made by Serrita Mason and second by Bill Kasprzak. **Motion approved.**

10) **State and Federal Updates**

Gallagher relayed a message from Jim Sturdevant. The state has not approved a budget for FY 2020. Unless they do, they will shut down on October 1, 2019. Non-essential employee will be temporarily laid off. This means MDOT's staff will not be able to assist anyone. This could affect project review and reimbursement.

11) **Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment**

O'Haver said that at the Michigan Public Transit Association annual conference she heard that the state had not allocated \$35-40 million in CTF funds. These funds are used as the match for federal funds. If the CTF funds do not get allocated to a program, federal funds will also not be able to be used.

Bellina asked SWMPC to write the legislature on behalf of NATS about the importance of allocating all funding.

Motion for the Policy Committee to request that NATS staff write a letter to legislators regarding unallocated transit funding. Made by Michael Majerek, seconded by Georgia Boggs. **Motion approved.**

12) **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 29, 2019 @ 1:30 pm.

Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate planner

September 24, 2019 NATS TAC/Policy Committee Meeting
MDOT TIP Amendment Request 8.30.19

Fiscal Year	County	Project Name	Limits	Primary Work Type	Phase	Fed Estimated Amount	State Estimated Amount	Total Estimated Amount	Fund Source	Federal Amendment Type
2020	Cass	M-60 E	M60BR (MAIN) @ US12BR,US31BR,12TH M51 (ELEVENTH) @ ONTARIO RD M60 @ M60BR,YANKEE,BEEBE & HUNTLEY M51 (5TH) @ US33,US12BR (MAIN)	Traffic Safety	ROW	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	STG	Phase Added
2021	Berrien	US-12	Dayton Lake Road to Mayflower Road	Road Rehabilitation	CON	\$7,673,673	\$1,701,615	\$9,375,288	ST	Phase Suspended
2021	Berrien	I-94	M-139(Front) at M-139 (Main), M-139(Front) at M-139(Main)	Traffic Safety	CON	\$213,322	\$47,303	\$260,625	CM	Phase Added
2021	Berrien	US-31	Indiana/Michigan Stateline to US-12	Road Capital Preventive Maintenance	CON	\$856,600	\$189,949	\$1,046,549	NH	Phase Added
2022	Cass	M-40	Signing Update	Traffic Safety	PE	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	STG	Phase Added