



Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

376 West Main Street, Suite 130 • Benton Harbor, MI 49022-3651

NILES-BUCHANAN-CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

COMBINED TECHNICAL ADVISORY and POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Brandon Kovnat, *Transportation Planner*

Kim Gallagher, *Transportation Planner*

(269) 925-1137 Ext: 1524 & 1518

DATE: September 24, 2019

TIME: 1:30 PM

PLACE: Niles District Library
620 E Main St, Niles, MI 49120

AGENDA Comments will be solicited on each item following discussion and prior to any final action.

1. **Call to Order / Introductions and Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Changes to the Agenda**
3. **Public Comment**
4. **Approve Minutes from the August 27, 2019 Meeting (*Enclosed*) Action**
5. **Staff Report**
 - NATS 2019 Pavement Condition Report
https://www.swmpc.org/downloads/nats_pavement_condition_report_2019.pdf
 - Education topics survey responses
6. **Community Land Use and Zoning Member Updates**
7. **Public Transit Updates**
 - Niles Dial a Ride (*Kelly Getman Dissette*)
 - Buchanan Dial a Ride (*Kim O'Haver*)
 - Overview of 2020 transit projects (*Enclosed*)
8. **Road Project Updates**
 - 2019 Road Project Updates
 - Overview of 2020 Local Agency Road Projects (*Enclosed*)
9. **New Business**
 - MDOT Project Amendments (*Enclosed*) Action
10. **State and Federal Updates**
11. **Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment**
12. **Adjournment**
 - The next NATS meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 29, 2019 @ 1:30 pm.**

NILES BUCHANAN CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (NATS)

Joint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Policy Committee Minutes –
August 27, 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	X
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (Policy)	(Vacant)		x	
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (TAC)	Kevin Stack	x		X
Bertrand Township	Butch Payton	x	x	X
Buchanan Dial-A-Ride	Kim O'Haver	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	
City of Niles (1)	Georgia Boggs		x	
City of Niles (2)	Charlie McAfee		x	
City of Niles (3)	Serita Mason		x	X
City of Niles Community Dev. Director	Sanya Vitale	x		
City of Niles Dial-A-Ride Transit	Kelly Getman-Dissette	x	x	X
City of Niles Public Works Dir./Airport	Joe Ray	x		X
Howard Township (TAC & Policy)	Bill Kasprzak	x	x	X
Kinexus	(Vacant)	x		
Mason Township	Doug Feters	x	x	
MDOT - Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	X
MDOT - Bureau of Trans. Planning	Anita Boughner	Alt	Alt	X
MDOT - Southwest Region	Brain Sanada	x	x	
MDOT - Transportation Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	X
Milton Township	Susan Flowers	x	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				

Alt. = Alternative Representative NV = nonvoting member

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

Technical Advisory chair Joe Bellina called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and led the group in introductions. Joe Ray led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Changes to the Agenda**

None

3. **Public Comment**

None.

4. **Approve Minutes**

Kelly Gettman-Dissette said there were a few minor typos.

Motion to approve the minutes from the June 25, 2019 joint Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meeting with typos corrected. Made by Dawn Bolock, seconded by Roseann Marchetti. **Motion approved.**

5. **Staff Report**

Kim Gallagher said that committee members had expressed interest in receiving education. This will provide value to meetings and help members better understand the MPO process. A survey will be sent to committee members in order to gauge which topics are of greatest interest.

Gallagher added that the best place to begin learning about NATS is in the Committee member handbook. If a member does not have a handbook, they can email Brandon Kovnat (kovnatb@swmpc.org) to receive one. A digital copy is being made as well.

Kovnat presented the meeting and amendment schedule for Fiscal Year 2020. He explained that all amendments need to be sent to him by the Friday four weeks prior to the meeting.

Kovnat also mentioned that SWMPC, MDOT, and the county road departments have recently completed their annual joint rating of pavement condition on federal aid roads using the PASER system. A report including more information on this process and a summary of the pavement conditions in the NATS area will be published in September.

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

Kevin Stack said an AEP service center is being built on Walton road in Buchanan Township.

Joe Ray said that construction was about to begin on a natural gas power plant in the city of Niles. The plant will create 500-750 construction jobs and about 20 permanent employees.

Lynn Ferris said that Buchanan Township is building a new township hall behind the existing hall, which will be bulldozed.

Bill Kasprzak said that several farmers are looking into building commercial solar facilities on their property.

7. **Public Transit Updates**

- a) **Niles Dial A Ride:** Gettman-Dissette mentioned that Niles Dial A Ride received a plaque at the Michigan Public Transportation Association conference for their 45 years of service.
- b) **Buchanan Dial A Ride:** None.

8. **Road Project Updates**

Berrien County Road Department project updates presented by Kevin Stack.

- a) **North Main Street – Buchanan Township:** Construction of the two inch overlay is complete.
- b) **Bertrand Road – Bertrand Township:** Construction of a two inch overlay is approximately halfway complete. The project includes widening to add a 3 ft. shoulder.

Cass County Road Commission project updates presented by Joe Bellina.

- a) **Redfield Road – Conrad to M-62:** The project was bid in early august and will be complete by the end of September.
- b) **Redfield – Tree Removal on Fir to Brush:** The final plans were recently submitted. Letting is expected in January. Indiana bats may be present in the area. The Indiana Bat nesting season occurs April thru October, therefore, tree removal must avoid these times as to not impair the bat population. Cutting will occur in March and, if not completed in March, finished in November 2020.

MDOT updates presented by Jonathon Smith

- a) **M-51:** project is currently on hold due to the strike at Reith-Riley – the construction firm hired to work on the project.

9. **Old Business**

None.

10. **New Business**

Gallagher presented an amendment to the Fiscal year 2020 Unified Work program (UWP) (see attached). She explained that MDOT had awarded NATS an additional \$25,000 in federal funds to work on the SWMPC website and for staff to assist communities with implementing multi-modal transportation plans.

The amendment to the UWP includes the following items:

- 1) A change to the planning budget by adding an additional \$25,000 in federal funds and \$5,554 in local match (page 9).
- 2) A recalculation of the share of local match based on the revised planning budget (Page 10).
- 3) Descriptions for the two additional work items (Page 39 & 40).

Clarification was requested on whether the vote to amend the UWP was a vote on behalf of the member jurisdictions to pay their share of the local match. There was also a question about whether the local match (page 10) was an additional match above the amount already voted on when the UWP was approved in May.

Gallagher explained that the “revised local match” on page 10 refers to the total amount each community will be invoiced for by SWMPC in January 2020.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the amendment to the NATS Fiscal Year 2020 Unified Work Program as presented. Made by Kevin Stack, seconded by Susan Flowers. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the Technical Advisory Committee's recommendation. Made by Sandra Seanor, seconded by Eric Lester. **Motion approved.**

11. **State And Federal Updates**

Jim Sturdevant said that the NATS 2045 Long Range plan received its approval from EPA and FHWA. He is now working on getting the 2020-2023 TIP approved.

Anita Boughtner mentioned that MDOT Statewide Planning Section has five vacant positions.

12. **Privilege of the floor**

Bellina said that there was a sinkhole forming on US-12 east of Gumwood Rd. in Milton Township. In the upcoming weeks, MDOT will close the road for repairs.

Gallagher said that at the MPTA conference there was a presentation on the Volkswagen Settlement, in which the company has to pay restitution for cheating on the emission tests for their diesel vehicles. Gallagher said that the funds could be used to replace diesel buses from 2009 or earlier. School districts are eligible recipients.



13. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM. the next NATS meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2019 at 1:30 PM


Minutes Compiled by Brandon Kovant, SWMPC Associate Planner

Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study 2020 transit Projects


NILES DIAL A RIDE 5307 FUNDING

	Operating	Federal	State	Local	Total	Operating expenses for demand response service and the deviated fixed route
		\$133,080	\$164,500	\$134,060	\$431,640	
	Capital	Federal	State	Local	Total	Various maintenance equipment
		\$119,340	\$29,835	\$0	\$149,175	


NILES DIAL A RIDE 5339 FUNDING

	Capital	Federal	State	Local	Total	One 14-passenger cutaway bus
		\$60,800	\$15,200	\$0	\$76,000	

BUCHANAN DIAL A RIDE 5311 FUNDING

	Operating	Federal	State	Local	Total	Operating expenses for demand repose service
		\$24,219	\$80,380	\$99,700	\$204,299	

BUCHANAN DIAL A RIDE 5339 FUNDING

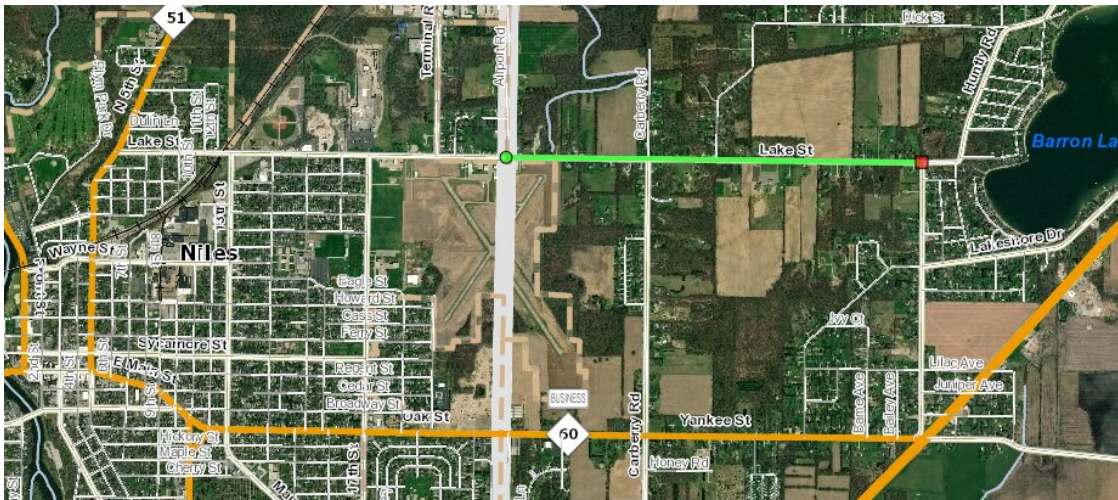
	Capital	Federal	State	Local	Total	Three cameras to install in buses
		\$7,600	\$1,900	\$0	\$9,500	



Lake Street

2020

Project Limits:	Airport Road to Huntly Road
City/Township:	Howard Township
Responsible Agency:	Cass county Road Commission
Length:	1.51 miles
Primary Work Type:	Resurface
Work Description:	Mill and replace surface of the travel lanes and paved shoulders.
Current PASER Rating	3
Project's Useful Life	10-15 yrs.



COST

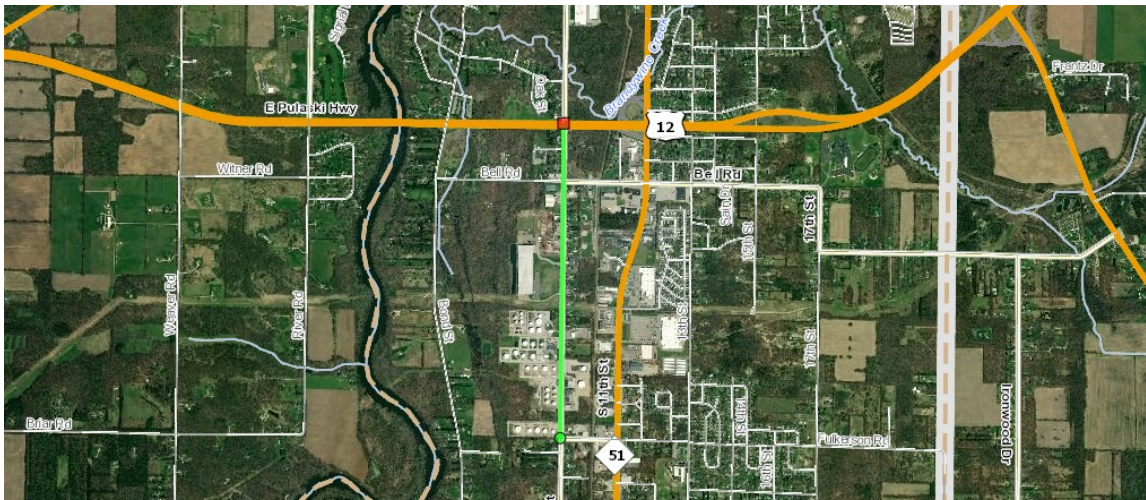
Federal Cost:	\$233,191
Local Match:	\$51,709
Total Cost:	\$284,900
Federal Fund Source:	Surface Transportation Block Grant — STU



Third Street

2020

Project Limits:	US 12 to Fulkerson Road
City/Township:	Niles Township
Responsible Agency:	Berrien County Road Department
Length:	1.23 Miles
Primary Work Type:	Resurface
Work Description:	Crush and Shape and Resurfacing of travel lanes, signage, and pavement markings.
Current PASER Rating	4
Project's Useful Life	10-15 yrs.



COST

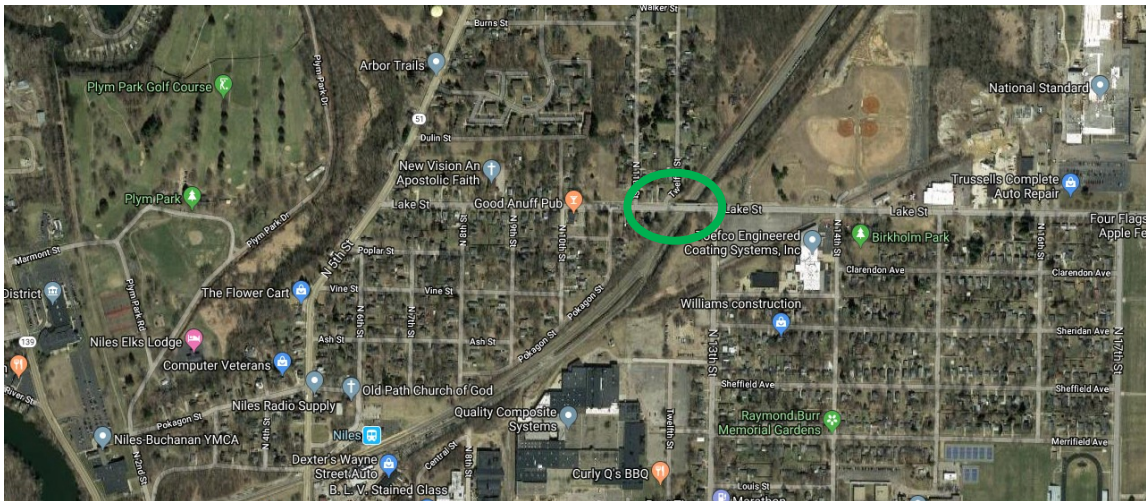
Federal Cost:	\$269,996
Local Match:	\$60,004
Total Cost:	\$330,000
Federal Fund Source:	Surface Transportation Block Grant — STU



Lake Street Bridge

2020

Project Limits:	Bridge over Railroad crossing
City/Township:	City of Niles
Year Built	1984
Bridge Length:	127 ft.
Primary Work Type:	Bridge Preventive Maintenance
Bridge Condition	Fair — Deck rated 5 out of 10



COST

Federal Cost:	\$555,200
State Match:	\$104,100
Local Match	\$34,700
Total Cost:	\$694,000

Federal Fund Source: Bridge Funds—BHT

Brandon Kovnat

From: Sanada, Brian (MDOT) <SanadaB1@michigan.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 2:09 PM
To: Brandon Kovnat
Cc: Lipset, Amy (MDOT); Sturdevant, James (MDOT)
Subject: TwinCATS/NATS TIP Amendment Request
Attachments: NATS_MDOT TIP Amendment Request_8.30.19.xls; TwinCATS_MDOT TIP Amendment Request_8.30.19.xls

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Brandon,

Please see the attached list of amendments and modifications to MDOT's projects in the (TwinCATS/NATS) 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program. I compiled and reviewed the list on 8/30/19. This list does not contain any changes to a project which alters capacity , therefore the entire list should be considered exempt from air quality analysis.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Brian Sanada
Transportation Planner
Southwest Region Office
Michigan Department of Transportation
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Mobile: 269-491-9681
sanadab1@michigan.gov



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

Fiscal Year	Job#	County	Project Name	Limits	Primary Work Type	Phase	Fed Estimated Amount	State Estimated Amount	Total Estimated Amount	Total Job Cost	Fund Source	Federal Amendment Type
2020	200366	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-SignalReplacement	ROW	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$2,638,400	STBG	New Phase
2021	127449	Berrien	US-12	Dayton Lake Road to Mayflower Road	Road Rehabilitation	CON	\$6,280,901	\$1,701,615	\$9,375,288	\$1,004,495	STBG	Phase Suspended
2021	207778	Berrien	I-94	M-139(Front) at M-139 (Main), M-139(Front) at M-139(Main)	Traffic Safety-SignalReplacement	CON	\$6,280,901	\$47,303	\$260,625	\$1,390,000	CMAQ	New Phase
2021	204893	Berrien	US-31	Indiana/Michigan Stateline to US-12	Road Capital Preventive Maintenance	CON	\$6,280,901	\$189,949	\$1,046,549	\$1,095,000	NHPP	New Phase
2022	202654	Cass	M-40	Signing Update	Traffic Safety - signage	PE	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	\$2,100,000	STBG	New Phase