

Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study Policy & Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Via Zoom

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

1:30 pm

Join online via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/91882823882?pwd=Uk9tM25FUXlaby9RY1BHbzZMMmowdz09>

Or join by phone (audio only)

Call in Number: 1 (312) 626-6799

Meeting ID: **918 8282 3882**

Passcode: **119583**

SWMPC staff will be conducting the meeting using the following power point starting on page 7. Those join by phone will be able to follow along with all items. The page numbers on the right side of the agenda are the pages in the power point each item is on. Supplemental material can be found in the meeting packet before the power point begins. This includes the following:

- Meeting Agenda
- August 2020 NATS Meeting Minutes
- Meeting power point

The meeting will be called to order at 1:30 am

- Roll call will be taken for all NATS members in alphabetical order. Please respond with "Present"
- Members of public will be asked to announce themselves by first and last name.

You might asked to take your phone off speaker if other members in the meeting are having a hard time hearing you or put the phone closer to your face.

TIPS for having a better experience on a conference call:

- Everyone on the call should **use the mute feature on phone or on Zoom** if they are not speaking.
- **SPEAK LOUD & SPEAK INTO THE PHONE** when talking so that everyone can hear.
- If your phone is not muted, it will disrupt the meeting with background noise.
- If you do not think people can hear you after you have said, something be sure to check if your mute button is turned off.
- **If you have a question please announce yourself by name and announce the person, you are directing your question to.** *"This is Karen Simpson, I would like to direct my question to Bart Jones and ask about..."* Bart Jones unmutes his phone and responds to question.
- **If you make a motion please state your name before you make the motion.** *"This is Ted King, I will make the motion to approve the"*
- **Members of the public are welcome to speak during Public Comment period** at the beginning and the end of the meeting. Please announce yourself by first and last name before you comment.
- **Note:** This meeting will be recorded for meeting minute purposes. Recording will be archived for no longer than 60 days from date of meeting.



**NILES BUCHANAN CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL ADVISORY and POLICY COMMITTEES COMBINED MEETING**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kim Gallagher, *Transportation Planner*
(269) 925-1137 x 1518

Brandon Kovnat, *Transportation Planner*
(269) 925-1137 x 1524

DATE: Tuesday, September 22, 2020

TIME: 1:30 PM

PLACE: Zoom Virtual Meeting

AGENDA

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1. Call to Order and Roll Call | pg. 8 |
| 2. Changes to the Agenda | pg. 8 |
| 3. Public Comment | pg. 8 |
| 4. Approve Minutes from August 25, 2020 Meeting (<i>attached pg. 3-5</i>) | pg. 9 |
| 5. SWMPC Staff Report | pg. 10 |
| 6. New Business - Transportation Improvement Program Amendments | pg. 11 |
| • US-12 pedestrian crossing project - Edwardsburg | Pg. 12 |
| • Remove 2023 work on US-12 – MDOT | Pg. 15 |
| • Cost and work change to 2021 work on US-12 – MDOT | pg. 16 |
| • Add a pavement marking project – MDOT | Pg. 17 |
| 7. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment | pg. 19 |
| 8. Adjournment | pg. 19 |

NILES BUCHANAN CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (NATS)

Joint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Policy Committee Minutes

August 25, 2020, via Zoom

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

P. Ch.: Policy Chair; Alt: Alternate; NV: Non-voting; P: Present; A: Absent.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Technical Advisory Committee Chair Joe Bellina called the meeting to Order at 1:30 pm. Kim Gallagher led roll call.

2. Changes to the Agenda

None.

3. Public comment

None.

4. Approval of the Minutes from the April 21, 2020 NATS Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the May 26, 2020 joint Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meeting. Made by Serita Mason and seconded Roseann Marchetti. **Motion approved.**

5. SWMPC Staff Report

Gallagher gave an update on the US Census response rate of communities in the NATS area. She said that Census workers were conducting fieldwork in Berrien County. Marchetti confirmed that census workers were out in Cass County as well.

Kovnat presented on the financial impacts to transportation funding due to COVID-19. Bellina said that there is a 2-3 month delay between when funds are collected and when they funds are send to local road agencies.

Kovnat explained that he only discussed state funding and not federal funds. Currently congress adds general funds to pay for transportation. How congress will fund road repairs in the future is unknown but there is no indication yet that federal transportation programs will change due to COVID-19.

Kovnat announced that the State was launching a bicycle safety campaign with video and radio ads about the 3-foot passing law.

6. Agency and Project Updates

6.1. Public Transit

Niles Dial A Ride: Kelly Getman-Dissette said that in the spring ridership dropped by 35%. Ridership is now down by 20% compared to the previous couple of years. The office is closed to the public except by appointment. Initially they installed clear shower curtains on buses for protection but they have replaced these with a clear plastic door around drivers. She said Niles Dial A Ride was supposed to have a triennial review but it was pushed back.

Berrien Bus: Evan Smith reminded the committee that Berrien Bus had been contracting with Transportation Management Inc. (TMI) to operate bus service, but TMI has ceased business. Berrien Bus operations are now directly part of Berrien County and the bus drivers are now Berrien County Employees. Berrien Bus has also taken over the service area of Buchanan Dial A Ride.

6.2. Local Road Agencies

City of Niles: Joe Ray said that The Lake Street Bridge project was being delayed by Amtrak. He elaborated that Amtrak had the plans for this project 20 months ago and have finally come back with numerous items, which Ray has responded to. Ray said he was working with Congressman Upton to coordinate with Amtrak. Ray added that the city had paid the \$90,000 fee Amtrak requires to have workers signal trains in the work zone. Yet despite this Amtrak has not yet issue a permit to proceed.

The Project has already been let coming in at approximately \$1 million, which is about \$300,000 above the original programed amount. The city has the funds in its major street fund to cover the difference.

Cass County Road Commission: Bellina said he bid the Redfield Road safety project twice and did not like the bids so they are converting it to a force account project (road commission employees will do construction directly). The Lake Street project was complete. The environmental review for Barron Lake Road project was accepted.

Berrien county Road Department: No Updates were given.

6.3. MDOT

There was no additional update beyond what is included in the packet.

7. **New Business – TIP Amendments**

Kovnat presented the 2021 Amendment schedule.

Kovnat briefly explained the proposed amendments to the TIP. *See presentation for full details on the amendments*

Smith explained that there is no explicit cost change for the carpool lot resurfacing but that combing the car pool lot with the freeway reconstruction is much cheaper than bidding a carpool lot resurfacing alone.

Motion for the technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the amendment to the NATS 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program as contained in the meeting packet. Made by Kelly Getman-Dissette and seconded by Bill Kasprzak. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Serita Mason and seconded by Roseanne Marchetti. **Motion approved.**

8. **Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment**

Sturdevant said that the FY 2021 Unified Work Program was approved by FHWA

Kasprzak said he thought that the Barron Lake road project would continue to Pokagon Highway, not Cook Street as was shown. Bellina said that Barron Lake would indeed be resurface to Pokagon Highway, but the portion from Cook Street to Pokagon Highway would be constructed separately and not use any federal funds and thus is not part of the federally funded project discussed at the meeting.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm. the next meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2020 at 1:30 to be conducted via conference call.

Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Transportation planner

THE SESSION WILL BEGIN AT 1:30 PM

1. Please mute your microphone

*If you dialed in on a phone you can use *6 to mute and unmute yourself*

2. Recording will start when the meeting begins

3. Roll call will be taken after the meeting starts

Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area
Transportation Study
Combined TAC & Policy Meeting

September 22, 2020

WELCOME

- **Call to Order**

- **Roll Call**

Please wait until your name is called and respond with present

- **Changes to the Agenda**

- **Public Comment**

MEETING MINUTES

Approval of Minutes August 25, 2020 Combined Meeting

Policy Chair will call for a motion to approve minutes. Any member of either committee may support followed by any member adding second.

TAC & Policy
Combined



Staff Report

New Business

TIP Amendments

1. US-12 pedestrian crossing project – Edwardsburg / Ontwa Twp.
2. Remove US-12 project for 2023 - MDOT
3. Cost & work change to US-12 project for 2021 – MDOT
4. Add Pavement marking project - MDOT

US-12 Pedestrian Crossing - Edwardsburg

	NATS Approved	Revised
Crossing Type	HAWK Signal	Rapid Flashing Beacon
Who is doing design & construction	Cass County Road Department	MDOT
Total Cost	\$155,000	\$100,000
TAP Funding	\$123,660	\$80,000
Local Match	\$31,340	\$20,000
Years of TAP Funding Used	Three (2018-2020)	Two (2018 & 2019)



US 12 - New Multi Year/Phased Project MDOT

As Approved in at the August NATS Meeting:

2021: Repair the base concrete layer and pave shoulders.

2023: Mill and resurface the asphalt layer.



US 12 - New Multi Year/Phased Project MDOT

Revised Plan:

- 2021: Pavement repairs, one course asphalt overlay & pave the existing 3 ft. shoulders – *See following page for project details*
- 2023 Add another one course asphalt overlay and widen the shoulders to 8 ft. - *Still in design will not vote on this today*



US 12 - Multi Year/Phased Project - 2023

Project Details				
Construction (CON)	2023			
Preliminary Engineering (PE) & ROW	2022			
Limits	Galien Township Line to Bakertown Road			
Length	3.5 miles			
Description	Pavement repairs and shoulder paving			
Federal Fund Source	Surface Transportation Program			

	PE Phase 2022	ROW Phase 2022	CON Phase 2023	Total
Federal	\$572,950	\$32,740	\$7,775,750	\$8,381,440
State Match	\$127,050	\$7,260	\$1,724,250	\$1,858,560
Total	\$700,000	\$40,000	\$9,500,000	\$10,240,000

US-12 Resurfacing

MDOT - 2021

Limits:	Galien / Bertrand Township line to divided section of US-12
Bertrand Township	Bertrand Township
Length:	6.7 miles
Work Type:	Concrete pavement repairs, one course asphalt overlay (mill & fill), pave the existing 3-ft. shoulders.



Phase	Federal -	State	Total
PE	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
CON	\$3,941,078	\$873,923	\$4,815,000
Total	\$3,941,078	\$973,923	\$4,915,000



Pavement Marking

MDOT - 2021

Pavement markings on MDOT roads throughout Southwest Michigan region using Safety Funds (HSIP).

Phase	Federal Funds	MDOT Funds	Total
PE	\$6,390	\$710	\$7,100
CON	\$51,120	\$5,680	\$56,800
Total	\$57,510	\$6,390	\$63,900



TIP Amendment Motion

Technical Advisory Committee votes to (recommend/deny) that:

The NATS Policy Committee approve
the amendments to the NATS
2020-2023 Transportation Improvement
Program

Policy Committee votes to (approve/deny)
the recommendation from TAC.

Amendments:

1. US-12 Pedestrian Crossing Edwardsburg
2. Removal of 2023 work on US-12 – MDOT
3. Cost and work change to 2021 work on US-12 - MDOT
4. Add pavement marking project - MDOT

Privilege of the Floor / Public Comment

If anyone joined the meeting after rollcall of members please
announce yourself now.

Next meeting is:
October 27, 2020, 1:30 PM
Fourth Tuesday of the month
(Virtual Meeting)