

**NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (NATS)**  
 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Policy Committee (POL) Combined

**MINUTES**  
 June 28, 2016

<b>PERSON</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>	<b>TAC</b>	<b>POL</b>
Pat Bellaire	Village of Edwardsburg	P	P
Joe Bellina	Cass County Road Commission	P	O
Brian Berndt	Berrien County Road Commission	P	O
Georgia Boggs	City of Niles	N	A
Dawn Bolock	Ontwa Township	O	P
Craig Bradfield	Howard Township	A	A
Malinda Cole-Crocker	Buchanan Township	A	N
Barbara Cook	Cass County Planning Commission	A	N
Richard Cooper	Niles Charter Township	P	P
Andrea Dewey	Federal Highway Administration (ex officio)	P	P
Fred Featherly	MDOT-Multi-Modal	A	N
Pete Fournier	Cass County Road Commission	O	P
Kelly Getman-Dissette	Niles Dial A Ride	P	O
Steve Hicks	Bertrand Township	A	A
John Klimek	Berrien County Board of Commissioners	A	A
John Lanum	Michigan Department of Transportation	P	O
Jason Latham	MDOT Southwest Region	A	A
Bill Marx	City of Buchanan	A	N
Serita Mason	City of Niles	O	P
Stewart McKenzie	Federal Transit Administration (ex officio)	A	A
Melinda Michael	Four Flags Area Council on Tourism	A	N
Jess Minks	Berrien County Road Commission	O	P
David Newell	Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians	N	A
Kim O'Haver	Buchanan Dial A Ride	P	P
Jan Personette	Four Flags Area Chamber of Commerce	P	P
Joe Ray	City of Niles	P	O
Don Ryman	City of Buchanan	P	P
Brad Sharlow	MDOT Planning (ex-officio)	N	A
Evan Smith	Berrien Co. Community Development/Berrien Co. Transit	P	O
Jonathon Smith	MDOT Coloma Office	P	P
Jim Sturdevant	Michigan Department of Transportation	O	O
Debbie Sullivan	Mason Township	P	P
Robert Ziliak	Cass County Board of Commissioners	O	P
Representative	Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance	A	A
Representative	Milton Township	A	N
Kim Gallagher	Southwest Michigan Planning Commission	S	S
Brandon Kovnat	Southwest Michigan Planning Commission	S	S
Ryan Fellows	Southwest Michigan Planning Commission	S	S

*P = Present, A = Absent, S = Staff Present, O = Others Present, N = Not a Member*

**NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (NATS)  
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

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

The Technical Advisory Committee portion of the meeting was called to order by Chair Bellina at 1:30 PM on June 28, 2016 at the Niles City Council Chambers, 1345 E Main St, Niles, MI. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present, followed by introductions.

**2. Changes to the Agenda**

Gallagher suggested the addition of cancelling the July Niles/ Buchanan/ Cass Area Transportation Study (NATS) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Policy Committee combined meeting during Staff Report.

**3. Public Comment**

None.

**4. Minutes**

Motion to approve the May 24, 2016 TAC Meeting Minutes, by Personette and seconded by Bellaire.

**Motion Approved.**

**5. Staff Report**

Gallagher reviewed the Call for Projects: FY 2018 Federal Local (HSIP) Safety Program, due September 23, 2016, projects submitted electronically, and the MDOT Contact: Pamela Blazo, (517) 335-2224 or at blazop@michigan.gov. All locally controlled roadways, regardless of National Functional Classification, are eligible. The FY 2018 budget for this program is estimated at \$6,000,000. Federal safety funds shall not exceed \$600,000 per project or a maximum amount of \$2,000,000 per Local Agency.

Gallagher offered to the committee that the amount business for the July meeting was limited and that it could be skipped.

Motion to cancel the TAC meeting in July, by Bellaire and seconded by Personette. **Motion Approved.**

The next meeting will be August 23 at 1:30 PM.

**6. Public Transit Updates**

▪ **Niles Dial A Ride**

Getman-Dissette informed the committee that Niles Dial A Ride has (A) three (3) new buses, (B) changed their bag policy, and (C) received a \$225,000 grant.

▪ **Buchanan Dial A Ride**

O'Haver informed the committee that Buchanan Dial A Ride has an information table at the senior center.

▪ **Berrien County Service Plan**

Evan Smith informed the committee that Berrien Bus provided shuttle service during the Lake Michigan Shore Wine Festival in Bridgman, serving 8,000 passengers.

Gallagher informed the committee that Nelson-Nygaard was the finalist selected to be the project manager to assist with Berrien county-wide transit service integration.

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

Per last meeting, Gallagher brought an updated land use map from SWMPC for Mason Township.

## 8. Agency Project Status Reports

Gallagher: As of June 20<sup>th</sup> the State obligation authority has \$40 Million remaining.

### (a) Niles Charter Township

Cooper: The archaeological study for the Indiana Michigan River Valley Trail is still ongoing.

### (b) Berrien County Road Commission

Berndt: The 2016 Bertrand Township project is finished as of Friday.

### (c) Cass County Road Commission

Bellina: 2016 project in Ontwa Township of Adamsville Road is out for bid.

### (d) City of Buchanan

Wightman and Associates is the engineer working on the Redbud Trail Project. September 1 start of construction and end of October completion dates are planned.

### (e) Gumwood Project - Transportation Alternatives

Bellina: MDOT Grade Inspection tomorrow. Right-of-way acquisition in process and no problems are anticipated – same property owner as for previous phases of the project.

### (f) MDOT

Jonathan Smith: MDOT car pool lot are too small of a job so they are being bundled with other projects. All options are being considered for the US-12 bridge over M-51, and they have a 2018 completion planned. The US-12 to Bakertown Road resurface project was moved back to 2018.

## 9. TAC Old Business

None.

## 10. TAC New Business

### ▪ Cass County Road Commission Amendments to the 2014-2017 TIP

Belina informed the committee that due to rejection of bids which were over the Cass County Road Commission project's estimated cost, there was a need to amend the 2014-2017 TIP by deleting Fir Road from Redfield St to US-12 (federal cost: \$18,000 and local cost: \$ 3,991, for a total project cost of \$ 21,991), amend Adamsville Road from May to US-12 (change federal share from \$60,569 to \$70,569, thus total project cost from \$74,000 to \$86,505), and amend Fir Road from Stateline to Redfield (change federal share from \$39,865 to \$47,865, change local share from \$8,840 to \$11,941, and the total project cost changes from \$48,705 to \$59,806).

Motion to approve the presented amendments to the 2014-2017 TIP and to send to Policy, by Ray and seconded by O'Haver. **Motion Passed.**

### ▪ MDOT Amendment to the 2014-2017 TIP

Per a letter from Kyle Rudlaff, MDOT requests to amend the 2014-2014 TIP to add project scoping for interchange road and bridge work in FY 2016 for US-12 over M-51 with a federal cost of \$122,775 and state cost of \$27,225 for a total cost of \$150,000.

Motion to approve the presented amendment to the 2014-2017 TIP and to send to Policy, by Berndt and seconded by Ryman. **Motion Passed.**

▪ **2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program**

Kovnat discussed the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), including the process, financial plan, project tables, performance measures, air quality analysis, environmental justice, and public participation and consultation.

Gallagher informed the committee of corrections to Table 6 on page 27 of the proposed TIP, with thanks to Berndt for catching the error.

Kovnat stated that performance measures were still being created at the federal level, and that NATS will need to adopt performance measures after their work.

Kovnat also stated that a public open house was being held on June 30 to receive comments and answer questions on the TIP.

Motion to approve the presented 2017-2020 NATS Transportation Improvement Program and to send to Policy, by Berndt and seconded by Bellaire. **Motion Passed.**

▪ **State and Federal Updates**

MDOT will be reviewing the 2017-2020 NATS Transportation Improvement Program.

Dewey, FHWA, stated that creating performance measures is part of the FAST Act (Fixing America's Surface Transportation), and after a year at the federal level states also have a year, then the MPO will have 180 days to approve their performance measures.

Gallagher stated that the SWMPC was already working on collecting base data for future such performance measures, including having SWMPC's transportation planning intern Jerrid Burdue study pedestrian crash sites.

**11. Public Comment**

None.

**12. Privilege of the Floor for TAC Members**

Personette asked when the opening of the Grant St. Niles viaduct would be. Possibly July 22.

Bellaire asked for more information about making Section Street in Edwardsburg a federal aid road. Gallagher will prepare information about the process and criteria involved.

**13. Adjournment of the TAC Portion of the Meeting**

Adjourning of the TAC portion of the meeting.

**14. Call to Order for Policy Committee Portion of the Meeting**

Chair Cooper called the Policy Committee portion of the meeting to order.

**15. Approve Minutes of the May 24, 2016 Policy Committee Meeting**

Fellows noted a spelling correction of Copper to Cooper in the proposed minutes.

Motion to approve the May 24, 2016 Policy Committee meeting minutes, by Ziliak and seconded by Fournier. **Motion Passed.**

## **16. Policy Committee Business**

Motion to cancel the Policy Committee meeting in July, by Cooper and seconded by Personette. **Motion Approved.** The next meeting will be August 23 at 1:30 PM.

Motion to approve the Cass County Road Commission Amendments presented amendments to the 2014-2017 TIP, by Mason and seconded by Minks. **Motion Passed.**

Motion to approve the presented MDOT request to amend the 2014-2014 TIP to add project scoping for interchange road and bridge work in FY 2016 for US-12 over M-51 with a federal cost of \$122,775 and state cost of \$27,225 for a total cost of \$150,000, by Bellaire and seconded by Bolock. **Motion Passed.**

Motion to approve the resolution to approve the Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study Fiscal Year 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program, by Fournier and seconded by Personette.

A roll call vote was conducted:

Yes: Bellaire, Bolock, Cooper, Fournier, Mason, Minks, O'Haver, Personette, Ryman, Jonathon Smith, Sullivan, and Ziliak. (12)

No: (none)

**Resolution Approved.**

## **17. Privilege of the Floor for Policy Committee Members**

Cooper asked the member present if the new combined meeting format worked well. The consensus was very positive.

## **18. Adjournment**

- The next meeting will be August 23 at 1:30 PM.

*Minutes compiled by: Ryan Fellows, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission*