

NILES-BUCHANAN-CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE and POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

November 28, 2023

1:30 pm

In Person: Niles District Library – 1st Floor Boardroom
620 E Main St, Niles, MI 49120

Web: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9489277047?pwd=RzkydlFacGFHNkVWeURpak1kSEcxUT09>

Audio: Call in Number: 1 (312) 626-6799
Meeting ID: 948 927 7047
Passcode: 000619

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Changes to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Approve Minutes from the October 24, 2023 Meeting *Action* Pg. 2
5. Staff Report
6. Local Agency Updates
7. Local Agency Amendment *Action* Pg. 5
8. Transit Updates
9. MDOT Updates
10. MDOT Amendment Requests *Action* Pg. 6
11. Approval of the 2020 ACUB *Action* Pg. 7
12. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment
13. Adjournment

Comments can be sent prior to the meeting to Brandon Kovnat at kovnatb@swmpc.org or by calling (269) 925-1137 x 1524. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please contact Kim Gallagher at (269) 925-1137 x 1518 or by email at gallagherk@swmpc.org

Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study 2023 Meeting Attendance

From the October 24, 2023, Meeting

NATS MEMBER ORG./POSITION	MEMBERS (2022)	TAC	POL	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners (1)	Michael Majerek		x	A		A		V		A		A	A		
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	(Vacant)		x												
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Dan Fette	x		A		A		A		A		A	A		
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	(Vacant)		x	A		A				A					
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (Policy)	(Vacant)		x	A											
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (TAC)	Kevin Stack	X		P		P		A		P		A	P		
Bertrand Township	Butch Payton	x	x	A		P		P		P		P	P		
Buchanan Township	Lynn Ferris	x	x	A		P		P		P		P	P		
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (1)	Roseann Marchetti		x	P		P		P		P		P	A		
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	James Lawrence		x	P		A		A		P		P	P		
Cass Co. Planning Commission	Roseann Marchetti	x		P		P		P		P		P	A		
Cass Co. Road Comm. (Policy)	Sandra Seanor		x	P		P		P		P		P	A		
Cass Co. Road Comm. (TAC)	Joe Bellina (TAC Chair)	x		P		P		P		P		P	P		
City of Buchanan	Don Ryman		x	V		P		P		P		A	A		
City of Buchanan	Rich Murphy	x		A		P		P		P		A	P		
City of Niles (1)	Georgia Boggs		x	P		A		A		A		A	A		
City of Niles (2)	Serita Mason		x	V		V		A		P		P			
City of Niles (3)	(Vacant)		x												
City of Niles Community Dev. Director	Ryan Millan	x								P		A	P		
City of Niles Dial-A-Ride Transit	Pepper Miller	x	x	P		P		P		P		P	P		
City of Niles Public Works Dir./Airport	Joe Ray	x		P		P		P		A		P	P		
Howard Township	Bill Kasprzak	x	x	P		P		A		P		P	P		
Kinexus	(Vacant)	x													
Mason Township	Doug Fetters	x	x	A		A		A		A		A	P		
MDOT - Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	P		P		P		P		A	P		
MDOT - Southwest Region	Josh Grab	x	x	V		V		P		V		V	A		
MDOT - Southwest Region (Alternate)	Madee Thorburn	Alt	Alt	A		A		A		p		V	V		
MDOT - Transportation Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	V		V		V		V		V	V		
Milton Township	Susan Flowers	x	x	A		P		P		A		A	P		
Niles Charter Township	Richard Cooper (P. Ch.)	x	x	P		P		A		P		P	P		
Ontwa Township	Meryl Christensen	x	x	A		A		P		P		P	A		
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians	Robert Torzynski	x	x					A				A	A		
Village of Edwardsburg	Dawn Bollock	x	x	A		A		A		A		A	A		
Federal Highway Administration	Andrew Sibold	NV	NV	A		A		A		A		A	A		
Federal Transit Administration	Susan Weber	NV	NV	A		A		A		A		A	A		
EGLE - Air Quality	Breanna Bukowski	NV		A		A		A		A		A	A		
MDOT - Modeling	Jon Roberts	NV		A		A		A		A		A	A		
MDOT - Office of Passenger Trans.	Fred Featherly	NV		A		A		V		A		A	V		
Michiana Area Council of Governments	Caitlin Stevens	NV	NV	A		A		A		A		A	A		
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	x	x	P		P		P		P		A	P		
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Brandon Kovnat	NV	NV	P		P		A		A		P	A		

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

Note: **Bold** indicates member was updated at the September 2023 meeting.

GUESTS: Jerry Flynn-Friends of Mc Coy Creek Trail; Suzannah Deneau, Wightman,; Blake-BCRD Intern

Minutes
NILES BUCHANAN CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE and POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, October 24, 2023 – 1:30 pm
Niles District Library, Niles MI

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
Joe Bellina, Technical Advisory Committee chair, called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m. Kim Gallagher took roll call.
2. Changes to the Agenda
None.
3. Public Comment
None.
4. Approve Minutes from the September 23, 2023, Meeting
Motion to approve the minutes for the September 23, 2023 Joint NATS Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee Meeting. Made by Bill Kasprzak and seconded by Kevin Stack.
Motion approved.
5. Staff Report
2020 Urban Boundaries: Gallagher informed the committees that the production of the proposed ACUB maps for the Michigan portion of the South Bend Urban Area and the Buchanan Urban Area was delayed. She added that MDOT has ensured SWMPC they would be available for review in early November for approval at the NATS November meeting.
6. Local Agency Updates
NATS Funding Reduction: Gallagher presented the NATS Project Review Subcommittee recommendations for addressing NATS's decrease in federal funding. This reduction is due to calculating the allocation based on the 2020 Census population, and a statewide penalty in 2024 and 2025 which transfers 2.5% of the State's STBG funding to safety programs. The subcommittee recommendation can be found on page 5 and 6 of the meeting packet.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the Subcommittee's proposed amendments to the NATS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. Made by Joe Ray and seconded by Kevin Stack. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendations from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Bill Kasprzak and seconded by Butch Payton. The motion passed unanimously.

City of Buchanan Use of 2024 Carbon Reduction Funding Allocation: The City of Buchanan provided an updated cost estimate for the McCoy Creek Trail Extension and requested to add the full 2024 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) allocation of \$63,000 to the project.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve Buchanan's proposed amendments NATS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. Made by Joe Ray and seconded by Kevin Stack. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendations from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Jim Sturdevant and seconded by Bill Kasprzak. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Transit Updates

Pepper Miller requested to add \$17,000 in 5339 funding to a 2024 bus purchase project because of increased costs. She also requested the use of an additional \$40,000 in 5307 funding to cover increased maintenance costs in 2024. Pepper added that delivery time for transit vehicles has increased dramatically and therefore they are having to make repairs to vehicles that would normally have been replaced.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve Niles Dial A Rides's amendments NATS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. Made by Kevin Stack and seconded by Butch Payton. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendations from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Jim Sturdevant and seconded by Lynn Ferris. The motion carried unanimously.

8. MDOT Project Updates and Amendment Requests

Gallagher presented the 2024 MDOT projects and asked Jon Smith to provide any updates or changes to what was presented. Gallagher noted that there was some discussion at the NATS Subcommittee meeting that the members would like more detailed updates from MDOT. Gallagher presented MDOT amendment request to increase the length of durable all-weather centerline and shoulder pavement markings. No cost changes.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the MDOT project amendments NATS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. Made by Joe Ray and seconded by Susan Flowers. **Motion passed.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendations from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Bill Kasprzak and seconded by Susan Flowers. **Motion passed.**

9. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment

Joe Ray and Kevin Stack raised a concern about the US-12/M-60 interchange road diet restriping and the possibility of some prior pavement markings that were still visible. They stated that it was causing confusion with drivers trying to navigate the new configuration. Jon Smith stated he would follow up with the appropriate project manager and get back to Kevin and Joe.

Susan Flowers asked about the timing for installation of a traffic signal at US-12 at Gumwood Road intersection. Jon Smith assured her that he would do some research and get back to her with that information along with the contacts for the construction engineer and project manager.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm

Minutes Compiled by Kim Gallagher, SWMPC Senior Planner

Local Amendment Request

Fiscal year: 2024

Phase: CON

Job Number: 216783

Agency: Cass County Road Commission

Project : Resurfacing of Pine Lake Rd from Conrad Rd. to Daily Rd

Amendment: This is a RTF funded project that is within the NATS Planning Area, but has not been approved by the NATS TAC & Policy Committees yet. Funded as follows:

Federal STBG-Rural	State D Funds	Local Funds	Total Estimate
\$161,421	\$29,924	\$107,893	\$299,238

MDOT Amendment Requests

Fiscal year: 2024 **Phase:** PE & CON **Job Number:** 218749

Project: Intersection sign upgrades on multiple roads in Berrien and Van Buren Counties.

Location: In the NATS Area -M-140.

Amendment: Add project with the following cost:

	PE	CON	Total Estimate
Federal Safety funds	\$700	\$15,961	\$16,661
State	\$78	\$1,773	\$1,851
Total	\$778	\$17,734	\$18,512

The cost shown is only for the portion within NATS

Fiscal year: 2024 **Phase:** CON **Job Number:** 208503

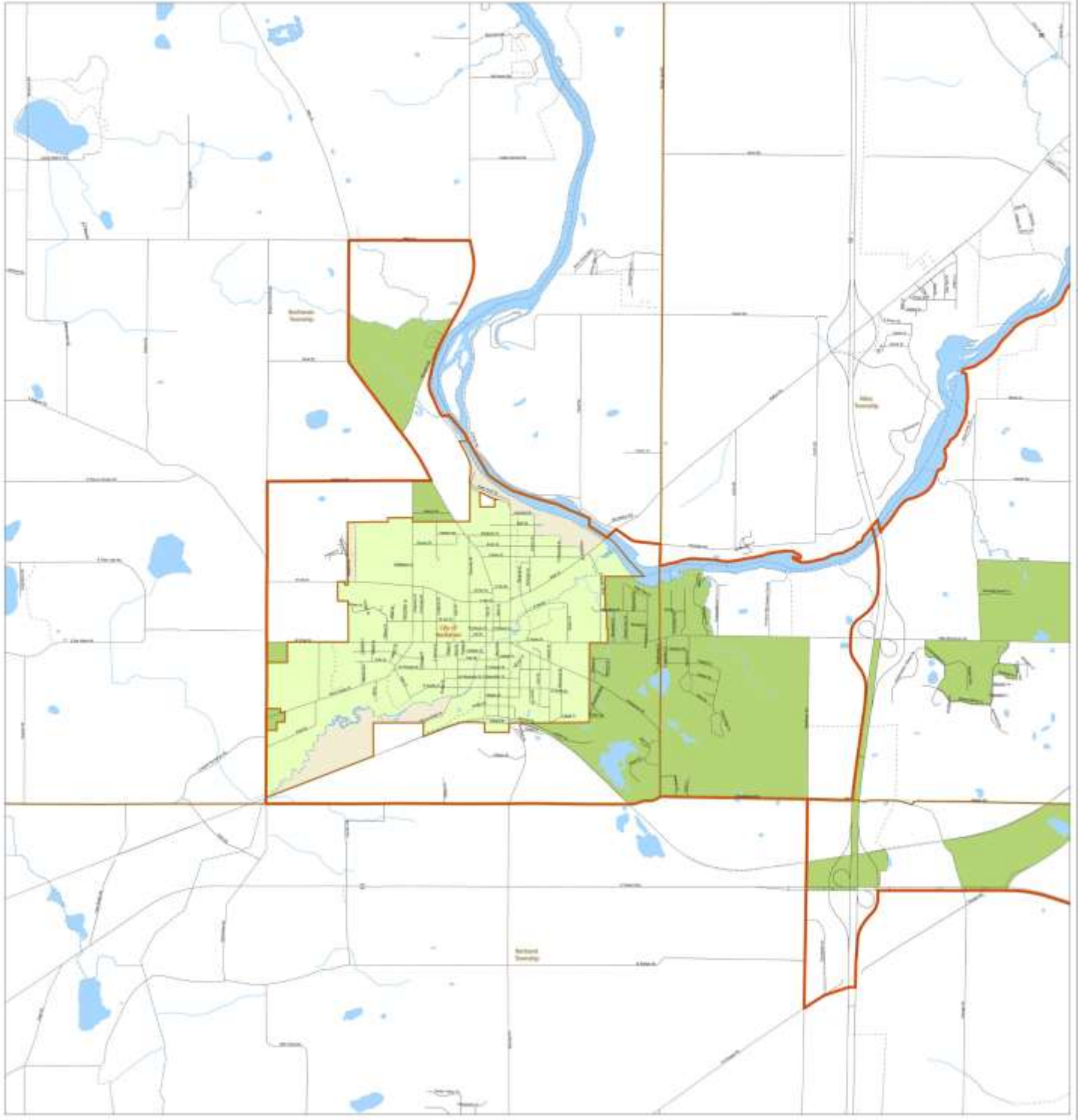
Project: Bridge preventive Maintenance over US-31

Location: Buchanan Rd over US-31

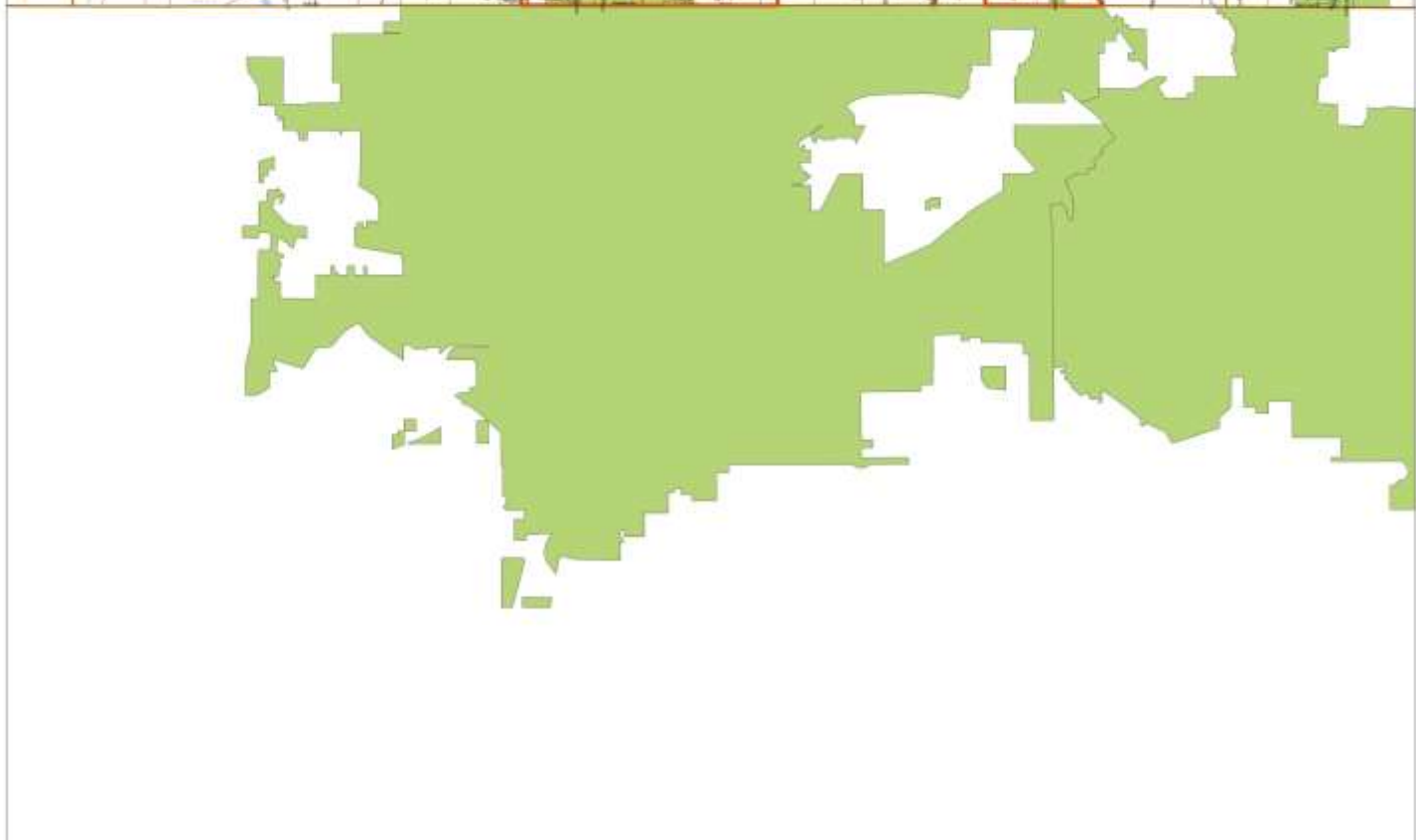
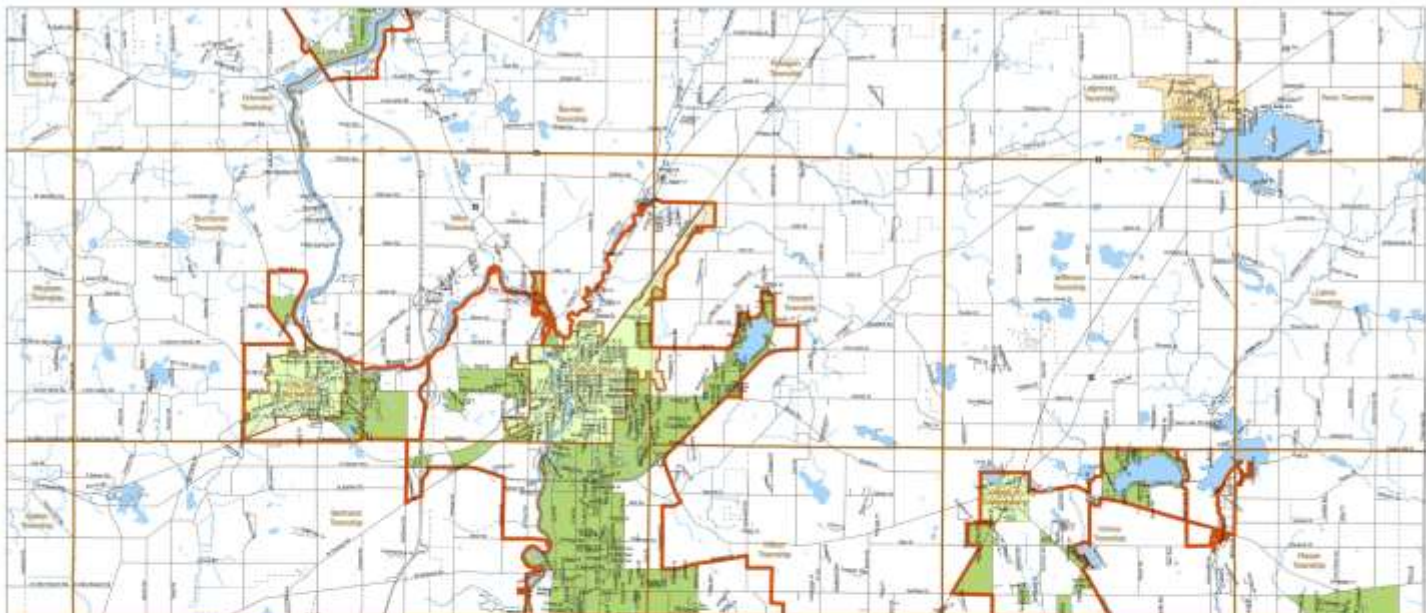
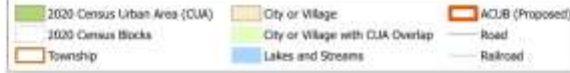
Amendment: Cost Increase based on latest estimated unit prices

	Current	Requested
Federal BFP	\$1,938,382	\$2,497,244
State	\$429,831	\$553,757
Total	\$2,368,213	\$3,051,000

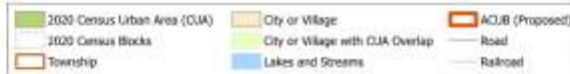
Buchanan 2020 Proposed ACUB



South Bend 2020 Proposed ACUB



Elkhart 2020 Proposed ACUB





Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study (NATS) 2024 Meeting Dates

Tuesday, January 23rd

Tuesday, February 27th

Tuesday, March 23rd

Tuesday, April 23rd

Tuesday, May 28th

Tuesday, June 25th

Tuesday, July 23rd

Tuesday, August 27th

Tuesday, September 24th

Tuesday, October 22nd

Tuesday November 26th

NO December Meeting

Location

Niles District Library
499 W. Main Street Benton Harbor, MI.

Meeting Time

1:30 PM

Please check <https://www.swmpc.org/natsmeetings.asp> for meeting information.
Meeting location and date changes will be noticed.

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

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