

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Policy Committee

MINUTES

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

3:00 P.M.

Niles City Council Chambers

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| Policy Members Present: | Jason Auvil, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Georgia Boggs, City of Niles Chuck Collins, Berrien County Road Commission Irving Frost, Howard Township Erin Kercheval, MDOT – Coloma TSC Joseph Kring, Bertrand Township John LaMore, Berrien County Commissioner Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Dale Lowe, Cass County Commissioner Jane Mitchell, Buchanan Township Zach Perkins, Berrien County Commissioner Cliff Poehlman, Cass County Road Commission Johnie Rodebush, Cass County Commissioner Don Ryman, City of Buchanan Evan Smith, Niles Dial A Ride Tracy Vines, Berrien County Planning Commission |
| Policy Members Absent: | Betty Arndt, City of Niles Pat Bellaire, Village of Edwardsburg Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township John Egelhaaf, SWMPC (ex-officio) Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region Don Kronewitter, Milton Township Stewart McKenzie, FTA (ex-officio) Jan Personette, Four Flags Area Chamber of Commerce Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex-officio) Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex-officio) Representative, MACOG (ex-officio) Representative, Buchanan Dial-a-Ride Representative, Ontwa Township |
| SWMPC Staff Present: | Suzann Flowers Trevor Thomas |
| Others Present: | Sue Kronewitter |

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- LaMore called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Lenze led the group in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Minutes

- A motion was made by Vines with support from Rodebush to approve the September 27, 2011 Policy Committee Meeting minutes. **Motion passed.**

3. Staff Report

- *Long Range Plan-Goal Development Workshop*
Thomas passed out a handout that compiled the public input received regarding the goal development process for the 2013-2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. Themes from the public were developed

based on the comments received. The key themes were: Rail Service, Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation, Region Connectivity, Transit, Funding, Quality of Life/Place Making/Job Creation, and Other. The comments are on the SWMPC Long Range Plan 2013 website at www.swmpc.org/2013lrp.asp.

- Rodebush also commented on the attendance by students from Brandywine High School and how much he appreciated them coming and sharing their comments at the meeting.

- *Mid America Trails and Greenways Conference*

Flowers attended the MATAG Conference in Fort Wayne, IN where the discussion centered on trail development, building sustainable trails and trail organizations. Flowers attended sessions on Winter Trails for Motorized and Non-Motorized Use, Active Transportation: What is it and Why it is Critical to Long-term Sustainability, Crossing the Divide to Build Sustainable Active Transportation Systems, Trail Promotion and Social Networking, and Building and Maintaining Sustainable Organizations. She discussed how the conference lacked technical knowledge that many trail people seem to be looking for.

4. Old Business

- **Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan**

Motion by Rodebush with support by Vines to accept the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission's Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan. **Motion passed.**

Discussion

-Ryman discussed the reason for having this type of plan in place and how it should be reviewed at a legislative level for its effectiveness and increased cost for agencies to implement.

- **Travel Demand Model**

Motion by Vines with support by Rodebush to accept the Travel Demand Model data with the understanding that changes may be requested during the modeling process that would require committee approval. **Motion passed.**

Discussion

-Sue Kronewitter discussed the inaccuracies that she and Don Kronewitter from Milton Township discovered upon close examination of the data.

-Thomas discussed that Brad Sharlow from MDOT had made changes in the employment total in Milton Township, City of Niles, and Niles Charter Township. And that the employment information is the best data that can be gathered. The IRS collects employment information but does not share this information with any other agency.

-LaMore discussed that we can easily identify the large community employers such as school systems and then collect small business information as best as we can.

5. New Business

- TIP Amendments

- **Niles Dial A Ride**

Adding in FY 2012-Niles Dial A Ride bus replacement.

The project was previously not in the 2011-2014 TIP. The Federal Cost is \$62,000 with a State Cost of \$15,000 for a total project cost of \$77,000.

A Motion by Mitchell with support by Poehlman to add in FY 2012 the Niles Dial A Ride bus replacement project. **Motion passed.**

Discussion:

A question was posed to Evan Smith about the age of the bus that is to be replaced and he stated that it was a 2004 bus that was in desperate need of replacement.

▪ **December 27, 2011 Meeting**

Flowers discussed the potential need to move the regularly scheduled December 27, 2011 Committee meeting due to the Christmas Holiday.

A motion by Poehlman with support by Mitchell to move the December 27, 2011 meeting to December 20, 2011 with the location and times to stay the same. **Motion passed.**

▪ **Date selection for 2012 Committee Meetings**

- January 24, February 28, March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26, July 24, August 28, September 25, October 23, November 27, December 25

Flowers discussed that the meetings for the 2012 calendar year need to be selected and a legal notice must be sent out regarding the meeting dates and times. She expressed concern regarding the December 25, 2012 date listed and stated that the TAC Committee approved moving that date to December 18.

A motion by Mitchell with support by Auvil to approve the 2012 NATS Policy Committee meetings dates and to change the December 25, 2012 date to December 18, 2012. **Motion passed.**

Flowers also brought up the fact that there is usually a long wait time in between TAC and Policy Committees and that she would like to move the Policy Committee meeting to 2:45.

-Frost discussed that moving the time to 2:45 or even 2:30 would be better to limit the time that he and several other Policy Committee members have to wait since they sit on both the TAC and Policy Committees.

A motion by Rodebush with support by Poehlman to move the 2012 Policy Committee meeting from the start time of 3:00p.m. to 2:30p.m. **Motion passed.**

-Committee members asked that Flowers and Thomas highlight this meeting change for Committee members.

6. Public Comment

None

7. Privilege of the Floor

- Lowe expressed some concerns about the approaches on Barron Lake Road and M-60 and if the State of Michigan would be paving those soon.

- Ryman asked about the broken concrete in front of Longmeadow on Niles-Buchanan Road. Collins stated the Ryman should contact Brian Berndt at the Road Commission to inquire further about this issue.

- Kercheval asked if anyone at the meeting was from Niles Charter Township and there was not a Committee Representative but LaMore was from the township. She discussed that the Township had inquired about a light at the Park and Ride facility and that MDOT would be willing to put in the light but that the Township would be responsible to pay for the electric charge.

- Rodebush also asked about a pavement issue at the edge of M-60 near Gilbert. He asked Kercheval to follow up on pavement that is missing near this location.

8. Adjournment: 3:37 p.m.

- *Motion by Rodebush with support by Vines, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion approved.***

The next meeting is **November 22, 2011** at **1:30 P.M.**

Minutes compiled by: Suzann Flowers and Trevor Thomas, Transportation Planners, 11/2011