

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

September 26, 2023

1:30 pm

In Person: Niles District Library
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 June 27, 2023 Meeting *Action* Pg. 2
5. Staff Report Pg. 5
6. Local Agency Updates
7. Transit Updates
8. MDOT Project Updates Pg. 8
9. MDOT Project Amendments *Action* Pg. 10
10. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment
11. 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 June 27, 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					
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	(Vacant)		x	A											
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Dan Fette	x		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					
Bertrand Township	Butch Payton	x	x	A		P		P		P					
Buchanan Township	Lynn Ferris	x	x	A		P		P		P					
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (1)	Roseann Marchetti		x	A		A		A		P					
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	James Lawrence		x	P		A		A		P					
Cass Co. Planning Commission	Roseann Marchetti	x						P		P					
Cass Co. Road Comm. (Policy)	Sandra Seanor		x	P		P		P		P					
Cass Co. Road Comm. (TAC)	Joe Bellina (TAC Chair)	x		P		P		P		P					
City of Buchanan	Don Ryman		x	V		P		P		P					
City of Buchanan	Rich Murphy	x		A		P		P		P					
City of Niles (1)	Georgia Boggs		x	P		A		A		A					
City of Niles (2)	Serita Mason		x	V		V		A		P					
City of Niles (3)	(Vacant)		x												
City of Niles Community Dev. Director	(Vacant)	x								P					
City of Niles Dial-A-Ride Transit	Pepper Miller	x	x	P		P		P		P					
City of Niles Public Works Dir./Airport	Joe Ray	x		P		P		P		A					
Howard Township	Bill Kasprzak	x	x	P		P		A		P					
Kinexus	(Vacant)	x													
Mason Township	Doug Feters	x	x	A		A		A		A					
MDOT - Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	P		P		P		P					
MDOT - Southwest Region	Josh Grab	x	x	V		V		P		V					
MDOT - Southwest Region (Alternate)	Madee Thorburn	Alt	Alt	A		A		A		p					
MDOT - Transportation Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	V		V		V		V					
Milton Township	Susan Flowers	x	x	A		P		P		A					
Niles Charter Township	Richard Cooper (P. Ch.)	x	x	P		P		A		P					
Ontwa Township	Dawn Bolock	x	x	A		A		P		P					
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians	Robert Torzynski	x	x					A							
Village of Edwardsburg	Dennis Peak	x	x	A		A		A		A					
Federal Highway Administration	Andy Pickard	NV	NV	A		A		A		A					
Federal Transit Administration	Susan Weber	NV	NV	A		A		A		A					
EGLE - Air Quality	Breanna Bukowski	NV		A		A		A		A					
MDOT - Modeling	Jon Roberts	NV		A		A		A		A					
MDOT - Office of Passenger Trans.	Fred Featherly	NV		A		A		V		A					
Michiana Area Council of Governments	Caitlin Stevens	NV	NV	A		A		A		A					
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	x	x	P		P		P		P					
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Brandon Kovnat	NV	NV	P		P		A		A					

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

Minutes

Niles Buchanan Cass Area Transportation Study

JOINT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, June 27, 2023 – 1:30 PM

Niles District Library, Niles MI

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Policy Committee chair, Richard Cooper, called the meeting to Order at 1:35 pm. Kim Gallagher took roll call.
(See packet page 4 for attendance)

2. Changes to the Agenda

None.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approve Minutes from the June 27, 2023, Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the May 23, 2023, Joint NATS Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee Meeting. Made by Butch Payton and seconded by Peper Miller. **Motion approved.**

5. Staff Report

Repeat Drunk-Driving Sentencing Minimums Federal-Aid Transfer Penalty Federal Law: Gallagher provided details on the impact of Michigan not meeting the federal sentencing minimums for repeat drunk driving. Going forward in 2024 the state will transfer 2.5% of STBG and NHPP to HSIP programs, usable for safety projects, police overtime, and other safety programs. 2.5% federal aid penalty of the two largest classes of federal road aid—Surface Transportation Block Grants (STBG) and National Highway Preservation Program (NHPP)—are transferred to the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). Gallagher noted that SWMPC staff will be reviewing the adjustments and communicating the revised funding estimates for 2024 which will include the 2.5 percent reduction and any 2020 census impacts on funding.

2020 Urban Boundaries: Gallagher updated the members on the 2020 Urban Area adjustment process and the various agencies involved in the future ACUB meetings. Gallagher provided a map illustrating the 2010 ACUB and the 2020 Census Urban Area. Gallagher noted one change with the City of Buchanan and portions of Buchanan township moving to a Small Urban Area.

6. Local Agency Updates

- **City of Buchanan:** Rich Murphy informed the committee that the 2023 Front Street project was obligated on June 16, 2023, and letting is scheduled for August.
- **City of Niles:** No update
- **Cass County Road Commission:** No update

7. MPO Consideration of Capped to Pro-rata for remainder of FY 2023

Gallagher provided an explanation with examples of Capped and Uncapped programs. She also reminded the committees about the maximum overage allowed is 24.9% at time of obligation and that any cost change of 25% or more (up or down) requires an amendment.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve changing the NATS funding system from Capped to Pro-Rata for the remainder of FY 2023

Made by Kevin Stack and seconded by Pepper Miller **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Sandra Seanor and seconded by Pepper Miller. **Motion approved.**

8. Transit Updates

Pepper Miller updated the committee that the new bus was on the road, and the driveway project has been completed. Ridership has been consistently increasing. Gallagher added that meetings will also be held with transit agencies to discuss the 2020 census impacts on public transit agencies going forward.

9. MDOT Project Updates

No other updates other than what was included in meeting packet.

Reliability Performance Targets

Gallagher introduced the Reliability Performance targets. She stressed that travel time reliability (TTR) measures how consistent travel time is from one point to another and from one day to the next and was not a measure of congestion but more about the variability of congestion over time. Gallagher also provided some examples to illustrate this.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approved the 2022-2025 Reliability Performance Targets as included in the meeting packet. Made by Roseann Marchetti 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 Pepper Miller. **Motion approved.**

10. 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan

Gallagher explained the purpose of the Long-Range Transportation Plan along with some of the elements that were updated. Gallagher also noted the public comments that were received and documented in the appendix of the 2050 NATS Long Range Plan.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the NATS FY 2050 NATS Long Range Transportation with any minor changes requested by MDOT. Made by Jim Sturdevant and seconded by Roseann Marchetti. **Motion Approved**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Bill Kasprzak and seconded by Butch Payton. **Motion approved.**

11. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment

Gallagher announced that there would be no July NATS meeting due to staff attending the annual Michigan Transportation Planning Conference.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 PM.

Minutes Compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Transportation Planner

SWMPC FY 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments Schedule

Submit Program App. & Nepa Form	Submit Grade Inspection Package	Approx. Grade Inspection Meeting Date	After GI meeting please send the latest Engineers Estimate to SWMPC to check if an amendment is required	AMENDMENT REQUEST DEADLINE	TwinCATS Meeting 3rd Monday	NATS Meeting 4th Tuesday	Anticipated FHWA Amendment Approval	Submit Final ROW Certification	Submit Complete Biddable Package To LAP	LAP Forwards Biddable package to Specs & Estimates	LETTING DATE	
	06/12/23	07/12/23							08/11/23	08/25/23	09/15/23	11/03/23
03/13/23	07/10/23	08/09/23			9/1/2023	9/18/2023	9/26/2023	Oct. 2023	09/01/23	09/15/23	10/13/23	12/01/23
04/10/23	08/07/23	09/06/23							09/29/23	10/13/23	11/10/23	01/05/24
05/01/23	08/28/23	09/27/23			11/6/2023	11/20/2023	11/28/2023	Dec. 2023	10/27/23	11/10/23	12/08/23	02/02/24
06/05/23	10/02/23	11/01/23							12/01/23	12/15/23	01/12/24	03/01/24
07/10/23	11/06/23	12/06/23			1/2/2024	1/16/2024*	1/23/2024	Feb. 2024	01/05/24	01/19/24	02/16/24	04/05/24
08/07/23	12/04/23	01/03/24							02/02/24	02/16/24	03/15/24	05/03/24
09/11/23	01/08/24	02/07/24			3/4/2024	3/18/2024	3/26/2024	Apr. 2024	03/08/24	03/22/24	04/19/24	06/07/24
10/16/23	02/12/24	03/13/24							04/12/24	04/26/24	05/24/24	07/12/24
11/06/23	03/04/24	04/03/24			5/6/2024	5/20/2024	5/28/2024	Jun. 2024	05/03/24	05/17/24	06/14/24	08/02/24
12/11/23	04/08/24	05/08/24							06/07/24	06/21/24	07/19/24	09/06/24
01/08/24	05/06/24	06/05/24			8/5/2024	8/19/2024	8/27/2028	Sep. 2024	07/05/24	07/19/24	08/16/24	10/04/24

*The January TwinCATS meeting is moved to the 3rd Tuesday of the month due to MLK Day falling on the 3rd Monday.

NATS Fiscal Year 2024 Through FY 2026 Funding Allocation Update

Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Estimates

	Original Estimate	Current Estimate- <i>July 2023</i>	Change
2024	\$691,000	\$531,000	-\$160,000
2025	\$704,000	\$542,000	-\$162,000
2026	\$718,000	\$570,000	-\$148,000

Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Estimates

	Original Estimate	Current Estimate <i>July 6 2023</i>	Change
2024	\$81,000	\$63,000	-\$18,000
2025	\$83,000	\$65,000	-\$18,000
2026	\$84,000	\$66,000	-\$18,000

Transportation Alternative (TAP) Estimates

	Original Estimate	Current Estimate <i>July 6 2023</i>	Change
2024	\$93,931	\$74,000	-\$19,931
2025	\$95,810	\$76,000	-\$19,810
2026	\$97,726	\$77,000	-\$20,726

Factors Impacting Funding Allocations

Non-Compliance with Federal Sentencing Requirements for Repeat Drunk Driving Offenders

Due to Michigan not meeting minimum sentencing requirements up to 2.5% of the state's total STBG funds in 2024 & 2025 will be transferred to Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

2020 Census Urban Area Population and Boundary Changes

Funding to NATS is allocated based on the census-designated urban area population for the Michigan portion of the South Bend Urban Area as a percentage of the statewide total urban population for urban areas of 200,000+.

	2010 Pop.	2020 Pop.	Change in Pop.	Percent Change
Michigan Portion of South Bend	35,295	28,755	-7,540	-20.77%

Note: Buchanan was removed from the South Bend Urban Area and designated as a sperate Small Urban Area, with an urban area population of 5,640.

NATS STBG Programed Projects & Funding Balance

Agency	Project	Federal	Match	Total
FY 2024 Target Allocation (Jul. 2023 Update)		\$531,000		
Berrien CRD	Bertrand Rd. from US-31 to Portage Rd. - HMA trench & widen with overlay	\$222,433	\$77,567	\$300,000
Cass CRC	Cassopolis Rd. from US-12 to Old 205 - 2.5" mill and HMA overlay	\$134,053	\$46,747	\$180,800
Cass CRC	Gumwood north of Redfield - Realignment of Gumwood Rd.	\$334,514	165,181	\$499,695*
FY 2024 Total Programed		\$691,000		
FY 2024 Deficit		-\$160,000		

*NATS funded portion only, not full construction estimate.

Agency	Project	Federal	Match	Total
FY 2025 Target Allocation (Jun 2023 Update)		\$542,000		
Berrien CRD	Bertrand Rd. from US-31 to Red Bud Trail - HMA trench & widen with overlay	\$374,521	\$83,049	\$457,570
Cass CRC	Elkhart Rd. from May Street to Village of Edwardsburg limits - 1.5" HMA Mill and Overlay	\$100,841	\$22,361	\$123,202
Niles	Sycamore St. from 9th Street to 13th St. - Mill and Resurface	\$133,256	\$29,549	\$162,805
FY 2025 Total Programed		\$608,618		
FY 2025 Deficit		-\$66,618		

Agency	Project	Federal	Match	Total
FY 2026 Target Allocation (Jun 2023 Update)		\$570,000		
Berrien CRD	Red Bud Trail from US-12 to Bertrand Rd. - HMA Overlay	\$378,212	\$121,788	\$500,000
Cass CRC	Redfield St. from County line to Batchelor Rd. - 1.5" HMA Overlay	\$122,976	\$27,270	\$150,246
Niles	Pokagon St. from 2nd St. to 5th St. - Mill and Resurface	\$130,811	\$29,007	\$159,818
FY 2026 Total Programed		\$631,999		
FY 2026 Deficit		-\$61,999		

NATS TAP Programed Projects & Funding Balance

	Carryover	Allocated	NATS TAP Federal Programed	Available for Use
2024	\$139,320	\$74,000	Buchanan McCoy Creek Trail Extension \$169,885	\$43,435
2025	\$43,435	\$76,000		\$119,435
2026	\$119,435	\$77,000		\$196,435

Note: Unprogrammed TAP funds carryover. Typically, NATS has combined three years' worth of TAP funds for use on a single projects.

In FY 2026 a project could use up to \$196,435 in NATS TAP funding.

MDOT FY 2023 FUNDED PROJECT STATUS

Name	US-12
Description	Shoulder Rehabilitation on US-12 from the Galien Township line to west of Mayflower Rd.
Status	Design in progress. Recently held FPC review, plan completion May 2023 for November 2023 letting. Construction in currently scheduled for 2024.
Name	US-31
Description	Resurfacing of US-31 N US-12 to Berrien Township line
Status	Construction in progress Traffic is expected to be back on their normal bounds by mid-October with construction completed by mid-November
Name	M-51
Description	Replace the M-51 & US-12 Interchange with at grade intersection and resurfacing M-51 from Chestnut Lane to M-60BR:
Status	Project let in July and came in 1.82% under engineer's estimate. Work will begin no sooner than end of September. A construction public meeting is anticipated to be held early to mid September.
Name	Traffic Signal Replacements
Description	Modernizing signalized intersection to current standards for intersections M-51@Sycamore, M-139 @ M1-39, M-60BR @ Main, M-63 @ US-12 & M-62 @ Elkhart
Status	Design (PE) in progress. Plan completion June 2023 for December 2023 letting. Construction is currently scheduled for 2024.
Name	US-12
Description	Mill and Two Course Hot Mix Asphalt Overlay on US-12 from Mayflower Rd.. to M-139
Status	Design (PE) in progress. Plan completion is February 2025 for December 2025 letting. Construction is currently scheduled for 2026.
Name	US-12
Description	Concrete Pavement Repairs on US-12 from M-139 to Leet Rd..
Status	Construction in progress. Project completion is planned for October 2023.
Name	M-51 Pedestrian Crosswalk Improvements
Description	Pedestrian Crosswalk Improvements at M-51 & 10 th St. intersection
Status	Design (PE) will begin in FY 2023. Plan completion is March 2024 for August 2024 letting. Construction is currently scheduled for 2024/2025

MDOT FY 2024 FUNDED PROJECT STATUS

Name	US-31
Description	Bridge maintenance on the Buchan Rd. bridge over US-31
Status	Design recently kicked off and will be in progress when supplemental survey is complete. Plan completion is April 2024 for September 2024 letting. Construction is currently scheduled for 2025.
Name	US-31
Description	Concrete pavement repairs and shoulder one course milling and resurfacing
Status	Design (PE) in progress. Plan Completion is April 2024 for August 2024 letting. Construction is currently scheduled for 2025
Name	US-12
Description	Addition of Left turn lane and Passing Flare on US-12 at the Beebe Rd.. and Adamsville Rd.. intersection
Status	Early Design (EPE) phase will begin in FY 2024 to complete a Road Safety Audit (RSA). Plan completion is May 2026 for September 2026 letting. Construction is currently scheduled for 2027.
Name	Traffic Signal Replacements
Description	Modernizing signalized intersection to current standards for intersections US-12 @ Redbud & M-139 @ M-139
Status	Design (PE) in progress. Plan Completion is September 2025 for February 2026 Letting. Construction is currently scheduled for 2026.

MDOT 2024 PROJECT AMENDMENTS

1. **Cost Increase for the CON phase of retroreflective pavement markings project – JN 207403**

	Current	Requested
Federal – HSIP	\$1,406	\$2,556
State	\$156	\$284
Total	\$1,562	\$2,840

Revise budget based on bid prices from recent years.

2. **Change the Work and Budget for the PE and CON phase of a pavement markings project – JN 207391**

	Current	Requested
Work Description	Permanent Pavement Markings	Permanent Pavement Markings And Special Pavement Markings
PE Cost Change		
Federal – HSIP	\$1,278	\$2,556
State	\$142	\$284
Total	\$1,420	\$2,840
CON Cost Change		
Federal – HSIP	\$288,189	\$446,022
State	\$32,021	\$49,558
Total	\$320,210	\$495,580

Revised budget based on 2023 bids and combining two jobs into a single contract.

3. **Remove the PE and CON phase for special pavement markings project – JN 207392**

	PE	CON
Federal – HSIP	\$1,278	\$49,203
State	\$142	\$5,467
Total	\$1,420	\$54,670

The work is being added into JN 207391

4. **Remove the PE and CON phase for durable pavement markings project – JN 217472**

	PE	CON
Federal – HSIP	\$639	\$52,398
State	\$71	\$5,822
Total	\$710	\$58,220

Removed to budget constraints.

5. **Add ROW phase for Pedestrian Crosswalk Improvements on M-51/11St. at 10th St. – JN 218784**

	ROW Phase
Federal – VRU	\$1,800
State	\$200
Total	\$2,000