

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
 Technical Advisory Committee

MINUTES

October 25, 2011

1:30 P.M.

Niles City Council Chambers

TAC Members Present:	Jason Auvil, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Irving Frost, Howard Township Juan Ganum, City of Niles Planning Kelly Getman-Dissette, Niles Dial-A-Ride Transit John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development Erin Kercheval, MDOT Coloma TSC Joseph Kring, Bertrand Township Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Kimberly O’Haver, Buchanan Dial a Ride Joe Ray, City of Niles Don Ryman, City of Buchanan
TAC Members Absent:	Pat Bellaire, Village of Edwardsburg Joe Bellina, Cass County Road Commission Barbara Cook, Cass County Planning Commission Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township Neil Coulston, City of Niles DPW/Airport Fred Featherly, MDOT-Multi-Modal Darrell Harden, MDOT Southwest Region Shelley Klug, Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance Don Kronewitter, Milton Township Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Jan Personette, Four Flags Area Chamber of Commerce Robert Rusch, MDEQ Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex officio) Evan Smith, Niles Dial A Ride Transit Representative, MACOG (ex officio)
SWMPC Staff Present:	Suzann Flowers Trevor Thomas
Others Present:	Denelle Clark, Michigan Works Sue Kronewitter

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Ray called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

2. Minutes

- Motion by Frost with support by Auvil to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2011 TAC 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.

- Ryman discussed the importance to include the airports and high speed rail in the goal development process. He also discussed the potential connection of climate change and high speed rail. He also cautioned the group with wanting high speed rail because parts of Michigan could become a Chicago suburb.

- *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. Project Updates

- **2010**

- **Michigan Department of Transportation**

- M-139 over St. Joseph River Bridge Replacement – in progress with draft hydraulics study, base plan alignment, and traffic plan; will be holding a design charrette in the fall; environmental assessment will be done fall 2011-2014 Construction
- M-139 over Dowagiac River bridge work – new bridge will be built, 2012 May-October

- **2011**

- **Berrien County Road Commission**

- Dayton Rd, Pucker St, Red Bud Trail and Orange Rd-JN 112083 hot patching and single seal coat -Done

- **Michigan Department of Transportation**

- US-31 freeway signing upgrade (jn108921) – Let, construction 2012 April-August
- M-139 (Main St) over St. Joseph River bridge replacement SUB and PE phases (104152) – design phase
- M-51 slope stabilization near Pucker St (108186) –continuing to monitor the slope, consultant hired for base design
- M-60 weigh station at US-12 interchange (110758) –spring 2012 Construction
- US-12 resurfacing from M-60 to Edwardsburg (90361) –let construction 2012 May-October
- M-139 Over Dowagiac River, near N limit of Niles-JN 86785 bridge replacement-2012 Construction
- ~~M-60 at US-12 interchange JN 110758 roadside facility (REPEAT)~~
- US-12, .68 miles east of Cassopolis Rd-JN 112819 ROW Phase-MDOT is obtaining culvert right of way

- **Niles Dial-A-Ride**

The grant was just awarded in September 2011 and now these projects will begin

- Bike racks-purchase up to 5 bicycle racks and install kits for buses
- Generator
- On bus camera system
- Preventative maintenance
- Ramp lift
- Replacement tires-ordered October 2011
- Landscaping

- **Cass County Road Commission (No representative present)**
 - Pine Lake St. M-60 to Anderson Rd JN 112861 CON Phase resurface
 - Redfield St from Kline Rd to Conrad Rd JN 110361 CON Phase resurface
 - Redfield St. over Christina Creek-JN 109283 bridge replacement CON phase
 - Redfield St and Bertrand Rd Berrien County Line to Ironwood Rd-JN 107691 CON Phase resurface
 - Redfield St. M-62 to Brande Creek Rd-, JN 114517 CON Phase-construction 2012, obligated
- **2012**
 - **Berrien County**
 - Red Bud Trail at Old Bitty Creek JN 114518 CON Phase- design phase
 - West River Rd, Ullery Rd, Pucker St, and Main St. JN 112101 CON Phase-plan submitted, October 2011 construction
 - Bertrand Rd, Ontario Rd, Fulkerson, and Bell Rd. JN 112086 CON Phase-plan submitted, approached Bertrand Township for matching dollars
 - Bertrand Rd. from Mayflower Rd to Red Bud Trail CON Phase JN 112084-plans submitted
 - **MDOT**
 - M-51 near Pucker St. JN 108186 CON Phase-restore and rehabilitate-design phase 2013 construction
 - US-31 Walton Rd over US-31, US-31 NB JN 111239 CON Phase-bridge-let in March 2012 construction
 - **Niles Dial A Ride**

Will not have permission to move forward on these projects until August 2012

 - Garage equipment
 - Garage maintenance
 - Preventative maintenance
 - Scheduling software
 - Parking lot
 - **Cass County (No representative present)**
 - Bertrand Rd from Ironwood Dr. to Batchelor JN 112863 CON Phase-resurface

5. Old Business

- **Title 6 Plan**

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

Discussion

- Flowers answered questions regarding the need for such a plan and she explained that the SWMPC is a sub-recipient of federal transportation dollars and therefore are required to have a plan in place.
- Gruchot added that this plan needs to be in place to ensure the distribution of dollars to SWMPC.

- **Travel Demand Model**

Motion by Berndt with support by Auvil 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

- Ryman discussed his concern with the apparent changes from the 2000 numbers to 2010. Thomas discussed that there were changes in the boundaries and that would account for some of the shifts that were detected. Ryman also discussed a better way to view this data at the TAZ level such as having street names or other identifiers to help members better review the data.
- Getman-Dissette asked if there were any changes if the Committee would have an opportunity to review the data. Thomas stated that as part of the motion we would bring any changes from the model to the Committees for approval.
- Sue Kronewitter from Milton Township stated that she found inaccuracies for her community and that small businesses may use their home address for their business and that makes it hard to know where the business is actually located. She was also very concerned that the numbers seemed to be so inaccurate for the Township.
- Lenze assured the Committee that we need to use the best information that we have available, and that there are a lot of checks and balances during the modeling process, sometimes there are site checks, visual checks and adjustments made. The modeling process is not an exact science but it is the best system we currently have for modeling.
- Clark stated that she was from Michigan Works stated that since they work with so many businesses in the community connecting people to employment locations that it may be possible to review their database of employers.
- Ganum mentioned that if the IRS does not share any information with the Census Bureau that we need legislation to fix this lack of communication.

6. New Business

- TIP Amendments

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

- **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 Berndt with support by Auvil 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 Getman-Dissette with support by Ganum to approve the 2012 NATS Policy Committee meetings dates and to change the December 25, 2012 date to December 18, 2012. **Motion passed.**

7. Public Comment

None

8. Privilege of the Floor

None

9. Adjournment: 2:13 p.m.

- Motion by Getman-Dissette, with support by Frost to adjourn the meeting. **Motion approved unanimously.**
- The next meeting is **November 22, 2011 at 1:30 P.M.**

Minutes compiled by: Suzann Flowers and Trevor Thomas, Transportation Planners, 10/2011