

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Advisory Committee

MINUTES

November 27, 2012

1:30 P.M.

Niles City Council Chambers

TAC Members Present:	Jason Auvil, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Joe Bellina, Cass County Road Commission Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Barbara Cook, Cass County Planning Commission Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Irving Frost, Howard Township Juan Ganum, City of Niles Community Development Kelly Getman-Dissette, Niles Dial-A-Ride Transit John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development-Representing BC Planning Darrell Harden, MDOT Southwest Region Joseph Kring, Bertrand Township Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Kim O'Haver, Buchanan Dial A Ride Jan Personette, Four Flags Area Chamber of Commerce Don Ryman, City of Buchanan Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio)
TAC Members Absent:	Pat Bellaire, Village of Edwardsburg Fred Featherly, MDOT-Multi-Modal Erin Jolivette, MDOT Coloma TSC Shelley Klug, Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance Don Kronewitter, Milton Township Jason Latham, MDOT Southwest Region (Alternate) Bill Marx, City of Buchanan Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) John Monaghan, Village of Edwardsburg (Alternate) Joe Ray, City of Niles Robert Rusch, MDEQ Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex officio) Evan Smith, Niles Dial A Ride Transit Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC Representative, MACOG (ex officio)
SWMPC Staff Present:	Suzann Flowers Gautam Mani
Others Present:	Steve Carlisle, Wightman and Associates Matt Kodis, Michigan Works Sue Kronewitter-Milton Township Jim Stover Niles Charter Township

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Bellina called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. and led the group in introductions.

2. Minutes

A motion by Auvil with support by Personette to approve the NATS Technical Committee Meeting Minutes for October 23, 2012 as presented. **Motion passed.**

3. Staff Report

- **NATS TIP Application (approval in December/January)**
 - Need for subcommittee meeting (December 11, 12, 14)

Flowers discussed SWMPC’s attempts to redesign the 2014-2017 TIP application so that it can be done online. The TIP application is also geared towards ensuring that each project meets Long Range Plan goals, and the performance measures more specifically. Lenze pointed out that the TIP for 14-17 will be fiscally constrained upon submittal. Flowers suggested the need for a subcommittee meeting in December to discuss the application and how the Call for Projects should proceed. Bellina recommended waiting till January for a subcommittee meeting to accommodate more members’ schedules.

- **Urban review meeting December 4, 2012 at 10:00a.m**
Mani stated that the NATS urban boundary review meeting would be taking place at the Niles Public Library at 10:00 AM on December 4th. This will be an opportunity to make adjustments to the Urbanized Area (UA) boundary designated by the US Census, and these areas affect funding. This will also be an opportunity to revise the MPO boundary to incorporate new jurisdictions into NATS, as required or if data suggests. Tipica explained that re-classification of highways in the NHS system happens once a new urbanized boundary is approved. NHPP funding under MAP-21 focuses on principal arterials.
- **Berrien County CMAQ meeting December 13, 2012 at 1:00p.m.**
Mani stated that a call for 2014-2017 CMAQ projects has been sent out and the project selection meeting will take place December 13, 2012 at 1:00 PM for Berrien County at the Berrien County Road Commission. Mani stated that the application form has been replaced by an application Excel file, and emissions worksheets are still required. All information about applying for projects is available on the CMAQ section of the SWMPC website.
- **Cass County CMAQ meeting December 6, 2012 at 1:00p.m.**
Mani stated that a call for 2014-2017 CMAQ projects has been sent out and the project selection meeting will take place on December 6, 2012 at 1:00 PM for Cass County at the Cass County Road Commission. Mani stated that the application form has been replaced by an application Excel file, and emissions worksheets are still required. All information about applying for projects is available on the CMAQ section of the SWMPC website.

4. Project Updates

- **FY 2013 and FY 2014 Funding and Projects**
Flowers reported the estimated STP funds for 2013 and 2014 for the NATS area. Flowers suggested the possibility of a subcommittee or smaller working group to decide how to prioritize projects for 2013 and 2014 based on these funding levels and the current ability of local agencies to provide local match. Flowers noted that this was just one way to deal with the issue, and was the approach that TwinCATS had attempted.
- **Projected project letting dates**
Flowers stated that she will be working with local agencies on their projected obligation and letting dates according to the local agency program schedule from MDOT.

Fiscal Year	Job Number	Agency	Project Name	Update Information	Date of last update	Bid Savings
2011		Niles Dial A Ride	On bus camera system	The grant was just awarded in September 2011 and the projects will be completed in	Feb-12	

				2013		
		Niles Dial A Ride	Preventative maintenance	The grant was just awarded in September 2011 and the projects will be completed in 2013; ongoing	August 2013	
		Niles Dial A Ride	Ramp lift	The grant was just awarded in September 2011 and the projects will be completed in 2013	Apr-12	
	104152	MDOT	M-139 (Main St) over St. Joseph River bridge replacement SUB and PE phases	Design phase-public meeting will happen soon and public will be able to view design options; public comment process is underway, December 2013 letting	October 2012	
	90361	MDOT	US-12 resurfacing from M-60 to Edwardsburg	Let construction 2012; projected to be completed the end of October	October 2012	
	86785	MDOT	M-139 Over Dowagiac River, near N limit of Niles bridge replacement-	2012 Construction; on schedule for completion at the end of October	October 2012	
2012	112863	Cass County Road Commission	Bertrand Rd from Ironwood Dr. to Batchelor JN 112863 CON Phase	In design, Grade inspection is done, final plans going in; bid/letting October; Bid date was October 5, PreCon was held October 12. We are trying to construct yet this year if the weather cooperates and contractor can get mix design approval, otherwise it will be in the spring; Contract awarded, will be built in calendar year 2013.	November 2012	
		Niles Dial A Ride	Preventative maintenance	The projects have been assigned grant numbers and the projects should move forward summer 2012. There will be some project changes for the March meeting,	June 2012	

				need last approved TIP letter		
		Niles Dial A Ride	Fuel capitalization	¾ spent	November 2012	
		Niles Dial A Ride	Free fare days-CMAQ project	Extended to summer 2013	November 2013	
		Niles Dial A Ride	Bus replacement	Working with MDOT on this project	October 2012	
		Niles Dial A Ride	Parking lot	Spring of 2013	October 2012	
	115698	MDOT	Design phase: M-62 Indiana State Line-US12; cold milling, overlay, sidewalk ramp upgrades	Design phase	May 2012	
	116115	MDOT	US 12 West of Mayflower Road to M-139	2013 construction-in design; Design complete let in September CON begin summer 2013	October 2012	
	115699	MDOT	US 31 From End of Freeway at Napier Avenue to I-94. – On M60 Bridge from M51-M60-crack seal	In design	October 2012	
2013	112094	Berrien County	Walton Road (City of Buchanan limit to Old 31)	Hot patching and single coat CON phase; Force account project	November 2012	
	112101	Berrien County	Warren Woods Rd and Red Bud Trail	Hot patching and single seal coat-CON phase; Force account	November 2012	
	112102	Buchanan	Front St. Red Bud Trail to east city of Buchanan limit	Resurface, sidewalks, streetscaping, non-motorized path; working with consultant Wightman and Assoc to move this project along; TA grant, but need to coordinate funds—without coordination, letting could be delayed	November 2012	
		Buchanan Dial A Ride	Transit operations			

		Niles Dial a Ride	Transit maintenance equipment and parts	Copy machine		
		Niles Dial a Ride	Transit operations equipment	Replacement tired		
		Niles Dial a Ride	Transit maintenance equipment and parts	Software upgrades		
	115699	MDOT	On US 31 from end of freeway at Napier Ave to I-94	Overband crack fill-CON phase; no go		
	112103	Cass County	Redfield St.	Oak St. to Elkhart Rd-CON phase; do not have a letting or obligation schedule, we will be reviewing our Force Account limitations and funding capacity for bid projects.; Still under force account	November 2012	
	115698	MDOT	M-62 Indiana state line to US-12	Cold milling, HMA one course and sidewalk ramp upgrades		

Lenze noted that on the Front Street project, SWMPC will need to coordinate with Wightman and Associates and the City to ensure that streetscaping element of the project meets the FY 2013 LAP schedule.

5. Old Business

▪ Long Range Plan Goals

Mani stated that he had received several comments regarding the most recent version of the long range plan goals. Getman-Dissette expressed concern that the current long range plan goals did not translate well to the proposed version of the Transit TIP Application. Getman-Dissette also discussed her concern that the LRP goals focus too much on increasing capacity and reaching more people when the focus should be on maintenance of the existing system under limited funding. Bellina echoed this concern, and also stated that he still felt the performance measures were not things that the MPO was in a position to affect.

Tupica stated that if projects in TIP do not advance one of the performance measures, they will be questioned. Tupica also said that FHWA's focus under MAP-21 is the system that moves the most people: the National Highway System (NHS). While goals should certainly take into account transit, a greater focus on highways and the road system in the LRP and the TIP is warranted.

Lenze also stated that MDOT would be able to help local agencies use the goals and performance measures to search for additional funding sources.

Berndt stated that we are struggling to maintain the existing system, and there are not enough funds available for projects beyond that maintenance. Berndt continued that safety projects can meet other goals as well, and be eligible for Transportation Alternative and FTA funds, and that local funds can go into these projects as well.

A motion by O'Haver with support from Auvil to approve the Long Range Plan goals. **Motion Passed.**

- **Agenda Modification**

Flowers suggested some concern regarding public involvement in meetings and potential for moving public comment towards the beginning of the agenda. Bellina suggested that we defer agenda modification for another month.

6. New Business

- **TIP Amendments**

- CMAQ Projects

Mani outlined two additions to the 2011-2014 TIP. Bellina suggested waiting to approve and submit these amendments until we have final STP numbers so that the TIP does not become fiscally constrained to the current figures yet. Getman-Dissette stated that she was fine waiting till the January/February submission.

- **Transportation Alternatives Funding and Process**

Flowers reiterated that NATS has extra funds as the Michigan portion of the South Bend, IN TMA. Lenze suggested that for the future, locals apply for TA projects using the MDOT application process, which will greatly save SWMPC staff time. Lenze gave Matt Wiitala's name as our region's primary contact for the program.

- **Legislative Updates-Federal and State**

O'Haver and Getman-Dissette stated that the State Senate had passed the legislation enabling the creation of a Regional Transit Authority for Detroit.

7. Public Comment

Kodis suggested that it would be highly useful to us to keep public comment at the end of the meeting, so as to maximize the ability of the public to react to happenings at the meeting. Kodis stated that having public comment at the beginning limits public participation on issues actually discussed that day.

8. Privilege of the Floor

Tupica introduced Andrea Dewey, who will be our new FHWA Representative. Dewey comes with a great deal of experience at Grand Valley Metro Council, where she assisted in the development of the Long Range Plan.

9. Adjournment: 2:49 p.m.

A motion by Cooper with support by Auvil to adjourn the NATS Technical Committee meeting. **Motion passed.**

- The next meeting is **December 18, 2012 at 1:30 P.M.**

Minutes compiled by: Suzann Flowers and Gautam Mani, Transportation Planners, 2012