

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Advisory Committee

MINUTES

December 21, 2010

Niles City Council Chambers

1:30 P.M.

TAC Members Present:	Jason Auvil, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Joe Bellina, Cass County Road Commission Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Paul Boggs, Milton Township Barbara Cook, Cass County Planning Commission Irving Frost, Howard Township Kelly Getman-Dissette, Niles Dial-A-Ride Transit John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development Joseph Kring, Bertrand Township Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Kimberly O'Haver, Buchanan Dial a Ride Jan Personette, Four Flags Area Chamber of Commerce Paul South, MDOT Coloma TSC
TAC Members Absent:	Pat Bellaire, Village of Edwardsburg Neil Coulston, City of Niles DPW/Airport Fred Featherly, MDOT-Multi-Modal Juan Ganum, City of Niles Planning Darrell Harden, MDOT Southwest Region Shelley Klug, Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance Bill Marx, City of Buchanan Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Jessica Mitchell, MACOG (ex officio) Jennifer Osborne, MDOT Joe Ray, City of Niles Robert Rusch, MDEQ Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Representative, Niles Charter Township
SWMPC Staff Present:	Anna Rahtz
Others Present:	Denelle Clark, Michigan Works Joanne Johnson, Disability Network SWMI Don Kronewitter, Milton Township resident Sue Kronewitter, Milton Township resident Don Ryman, Berrien County Board of Commissioners

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Chairman Bellina called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.

2. Minutes

- *Motion by Berndt, seconded by South, to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2010 TAC meeting. Motion approved unanimously with no corrections.*

3. Staff Report

- **CMAQ Meeting**
 - Rahtz passed out minutes from the November 10, 2010 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program fund meeting for Berrien County.
- **TIP approval**
 - Rahtz stated that the fiscal years 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program had been approved by MDOT, FHWA, and FTA, and the most current version is available on the Transportation Documents page of www.swmpc.org. She added that the current TIP table will be uploaded regularly on that same page as well after amendments are approved, so that committee members will be able to easily locate it.
- **Transportation Funding 101 workshop update**
 - Rahtz passed out a summary of the workshop that had been held on November 22, 2010. She added that the workshop had been extremely popular, and that a sequel workshop is tentatively being scheduled for Monday March 28, 2011. The sequel workshop will follow up on advanced topics that were briefly mentioned at the first workshop, as well as allow the legislators to provide an update on their progress with transportation.
- **New board member training?**
 - Rahtz explained that she had received feedback from several new committee members that they did not have a clear picture of what a NATS member's responsibilities are or the exact mission or work tasks of the committees. She passed out the committee bylaws and asked if anyone had any other suggestions of what staff should be doing to orient the new committee members.
- **Transit projects update**
 - Rahtz announced that the SWMPC office had begun work on three new transit projects:
 - Pokagon Transit Study – a tribal transit feasibility study for the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, which will include an assessment of: the transportation needs of tribal citizens and non-tribal citizens in Berrien, Cass, Van Buren, and St. Joseph (IN) counties; the possibility for coordination between the Tribe and existing transportation providers; the unmet needs; the possibility of tribal transit benefiting non-tribal citizens; and a vision of what tribal transportation could look like. This is expected to be approximately a nine-month planning process.
 - Berrien Transit Consolidation Feasibility Study – a detailed study that will be conducted by a consultant, which will involve: an alternatives analysis of various levels of coordination that are possible between the four transit agencies in Berrien County, with detailed assessment of each transit agency's finances, operations, current level of service, and projected future levels of service. This will be a three-year planning process.
 - Assisting Cass County Human Services Coordinating Council with planning a Transit Forum that is being tentatively scheduled for February 9, 2011. The forum could potentially be a precursor to a Cass County Transit Study.

4. Project Updates

- **2009**
 - **Niles Dial-a-Ride Transit**
 - Bus shelters – will be installed in spring
- **2010**
 - **Berrien County Road Commission**
 - Niles-Buchanan Rd and Bell Rd – obligated; waiting for sealing in June 2011
 - **Cass County Road Commission**
 - Bell Rd – construction in spring
 - Lakeshore Dr – construction in spring

- **Michigan Department of Transportation**
 - M-139 over St. Joseph River Bridge Replacement – next open house meeting will be held on January 26, 2010 in Niles City Council Chambers to discuss potential bridge types.
 - US-31 over St. Joseph River bridge work – beginning construction in April
- **Niles Dial-a-Ride Transit**
 - Opening bids for transit development plan today
- **2011**
 - **Berrien County Road Commission**
 - Bertrand Rd – being removed from TIP
 - **Michigan Department of Transportation**
 - US-31 freeway signing upgrade – spring letting
 - US-31 BR over Dowagiac River bridge replacement – spring letting
 - **Cass County Road Commission**
 - Redfield St & Bertrand Rd – in design

5. Old Business

- None

6. New Business

- **MDOT 5-year Program of Projects**
 - Rahtz noted that MDOT's 5-year program of projects is up for public comment and distributed copies.
 - Bellina asked whether the program is fiscally constrained. South responded yes, according to the information that MDOT has at this time. South noted that gray shaded projects on the program are projects for which funding is not currently available, which amounts to a 90 percent reduction in the program.
 - It was asked when the comment period will be closed, and Lenze stated that he believes the program will be approved at the State Transportation Commission in February 2011.
- **Proposed 2011 Meeting Dates**
 - Rahtz passed out copies of the proposed 2011 meeting dates, based on the same schedule that had been used in past years.
 - *Motion by Berndt, seconded by Getman-Dissette, to approve the list of calendar dates for the calendar year 2011 NATS Technical Advisory Committee meetings, with the correction that November 22, 2011 is already the fourth Tuesday of the month and so that meeting is not being moved because of Thanksgiving. Motion approved unanimously.*
- **Appointment of officer nominating subcommittee**
 - Rahtz asked if there were two volunteers to sit on a subcommittee to nominate the new chair and vice-chair at the January 2011 NATS meeting.
 - Bellina appointed Auvil and Ganum to sit on the nominating subcommittee.
- **TIP Amendments**
 - Berrien County Road Commission
 - Delete in FY 2011, the project named Bertrand Rd for resurfacing from Weaver Rd to Mayflower Rd. Federal cost was \$351,577 (STU) and county cost was \$87,644.
 - *Motion by South, seconded by Frost, to recommend the approval of the above deletion in the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved unanimously.*
 - *Berndt explained that BCRC would like to add a project to replace a culvert on Red Bud Trail at Moccasin Bluff Creek in 2011, using \$150,000 of the federal funds remaining from the above deletion, but that they do not yet know whether they will receive the matching \$150,000 from the fish passage grant. Those present agreed to leave the \$150,000 remaining available in case the grant is awarded.*
 - Cass County Road Commission
 - *Rahtz explained that the following projects are being proposed to use the remaining*

funds from the deleted Bertrand Rd project. South noted that the federal amounts of \$68,000 each were slightly over the available amount of funding, and so the Pine Lake St amount was reduced from \$68,000 to \$65,577 and the county cost adjusted to make up the difference.

- Add in FY 2011, the project named Redfield St for hot mix asphalt resurfacing on Redfield St from Kline Rd to Conrad Rd for 1 mile. Construction phase. Federal cost is \$68,000 (STU), county cost is \$17,000, total phase cost is \$85,000, and total project cost is \$87,000. MDOT job number 110361.
- Add in FY 2011, the project named Pine Lake St for hot mix asphalt resurfacing on Pine Lake St from M-60 to Anderson Rd for 1.55 miles. Construction phase. Federal cost is \$65,577, county cost is \$19,423, total phase cost is \$85,000, and total project cost is \$87,000.
- Add in FY 2011, the project named Beebe Rd for hot mix asphalt resurfacing on Beebe Rd from Runkle St to Leet Rd for 0.96 miles. Construction phase. Federal cost is \$68,000 (STU), county cost is \$17,000, total phase cost is \$85,000, and total project cost is \$87,000.
- *Motion by Boggs, seconded by Auvil, to recommend the approval of the above three additions to the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved unanimously.*
- *Rahz noted that the following two projects were proposed by CCRC to use the remaining unallocated funds in the TIP for fiscal years 2012 and 2014.*
- Add in FY 2012, the project named Bertrand Rd for hot mix asphalt resurfacing on Bertrand Rd from Ironwood Rd to Batchelor Rd for 0.75 miles. Construction phase. Federal cost is \$62,000 (STU), county cost is \$14,000, total phase cost is \$76,000, and total project cost is \$78,000.
- Add in FY 2014, the project named Redfield St for hot mix asphalt resurfacing on Redfield St from Fir Rd to Brush Rd for 0.75 miles. Construction phase. Federal cost is \$72,500 (STU), county cost is \$18,125, total phase cost is \$90,625, and total project cost is \$92,625.
- Amend in FY 2014, the project named Bertrand Rd for resurfacing from Batchelor Rd to 0.75 miles East of Batchelor Rd. Amend project limits to "Batchelor Rd to Gumwood Rd" and amend length from 0.75 miles to 1.04 miles.
- *Motion by Cook, seconded by Personette, to recommend the approval of the above three amendments to the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved unanimously.*

7. Public Comment

- Johnson announced that the Disability Network of Southwest Michigan is starting a Transportation Advocacy Group (TAG). The TAGs have been successful in other counties in which the Disability Network works. The purpose is to convene transit riders to advocate for public transit in the region.

8. Privilege of the Floor

- Personette announced that the Hunter Ice Festival will be held the weekend of January 14th through 16th, 2011. It will feature an interactive ice carousel and staged ice fights, and will be filmed by the Food Channel, to air in May.
- Berndt announced that the Berrien County Road Commission will be holding its second steering committee meeting to discuss how to fund local road projects in Berrien County, on January 20th at 3:00 P.M. at Andrews University, Chan Shun Hall. The meeting is open to the public and all ideas are welcome. Part of the meeting will be focused on the idea of Complete Streets and how to address it through the distribution of funding from a potential countywide road millage.

9. Adjournment

- *Motion by Getman-Dissette, seconded by Frost, to adjourn the meeting at 1:56 P.M.*
- The next meeting is **January 25, 2011** at **1:30 P.M.**

Minutes compiled by: Anna Rahtz, Transportation Planner, 12/21/10

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