

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Advisory Committee

MINUTES

December 16, 2014

1:00 P.M.

Niles City Council Chambers

TAC Members Present:	Jason Auvil, Berrien County Planning Commission Joe Bellina, Cass County Road Commission Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township Kris Welch, MDOT Statewide Planning Paul Lott, MDOT Statewide Planning Don Ryman, City of Buchanan Dennis Schuh, Berrien County Public Transit Kim O'Haver, Buchanan Dial A Ride
TAC Members Absent:	Bill Marx, City of Buchanan John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development Melinda Michael, Four Flags Area Council on Tourism Jan Personette, Four Flags Area Chamber of Commerce Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Erin Jolivette, MDOT Coloma TSC Craig Bradfield, Howard Township Pat Bellaire, Village of Edwardsburg Barbara Cook, Cass County Planning Commission Fred Featherly, MDOT-Multi-Modal Katie Furner, Niles Dial-a-Ride Juan Ganum, City of Niles Community Development Darrell Harden, MDOT Southwest Region John Klimek, Berrien County Board of Commissioners Joseph Kring, Bertrand Township Jason Latham, MDOT Southwest Region (Alternate) Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) John Monaghan, Village of Edwardsburg (Alternate) Joe Ray, City of Niles Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex officio) Joe Sobieralski, Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance Bob Sutton, Mason Township Planning Commission Kelly Sweeney, Milton Township Zach Dripps, MACOG
SWMPC Staff Present:	Kris Martin Kim Gallagher

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Meeting was called to order by Bellina at 1:05 p.m and Ryman led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

2. Minutes

A motion by Auvil with support by Lott to approve the TAC Committee Meeting minutes from November 25. **Motion passed.**

Ryman said that there are people that are on the committee that are currently not in office or have had their position changed. They include Jane Mitchell, who was the former Buchanan Township supervisor, and Joseph Kring of Bertrand Township. Ryman said that we need to fill these vacant committee seats.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Staff Report

- **Cass County CMAQ Meeting- December 19th this meeting takes place at 10am.**
Gallagher reminded the group that the Cass County CMAQ meeting would take place immediately after the Rural Task Force (RTF) meeting on December 19th beginning at 10 AM at the Cass County Road Commission, 340 N O'Keefe St in Cassopolis. All Cass County jurisdictions are encouraged to attend.

5. Public Transit Updates

Gallagher said that Evan Smith from Niles Dial a Ride spoke at City of Niles Meeting last Monday in which he addressed the transit consolidation study. Dan Fette from the Berrien County Economic Development Department addressed the Berrien County Board of Commissioners last week and talked about the consolidation study, so consolidation continues to be in discussions and attempts to educate people about the study continue. O'Haver said that everything is on task and operational.

6. Land Use Updates

Land use updates for the Berrien County Master plan will be open for comments in next year. For more information visit <http://www.berriencounty.org/>

7. Project Updates

Fiscal Year	Job Number	Agency	Project Name	Update Information	Date of last update	Bid Savings	Obligation Month	Bills Submitted
2013	118207	Berrien County	IN-MI River Valley Trail	Have sent a new offer to Alcoa for their property; still a question of who has environmental liability. Richard Cooper met with Marcy Colclough they are working with the attorneys on an agreement that we can work with it to acquire	December 2014			

				property more for the trail. We will be looking to apply for grants soon.				
2014	104152	MDOT	M-139 CON phase Bridge replacement	Came in under engineers' estimate; construction in October	August 2014			
		Niles DAR	Maintenance software					
		Niles DAR	Preventative maintenance					
		Niles DAR	Replacement computers					
		Niles DAR	Replacement bus					
		Niles DAR	Operating assistance					
		Cass County RC	Gumwood Road TAP project	Obligated- bidding will take place in two months	November 2014			
2015		Berrien County RC	Range Line Road, Lake St and Main St Resurfacing	Program application will be submitted in December				
		Berrien County RC	Madron Lake, North Main, and Red Bud Trail	Program application will be submitted in December				
		City of Niles	Broadway Avenue Resurfacing	GI Package submitted--only issue was a couple of utility poles. Aiming for December letting	October 2014			
		Cass County	Adamsville Road Reconstruct	Design work underway	November 2014			
		Buchanan Dial-a-Ride	Replacement Bus	Contract probably not coming until next September	October 2014			
		Niles Dial-A-Ride	Replacement Tires					

Other Updates

8. Old Business

▪ **Transportation Alternatives- Subcommittee Recommendations**

Gallagher noted that the TAP subcommittee recommended that the Gumwood Road Non-Motorized Path Phase II use the NATS MPO allocation of TAP funds. The project will be the 2nd phase of an overall project to connect the communities and commercial services in Indiana with planned residential communities in Michigan. The fully developed project will connect communities in Milton Township to the planned local Milton Township government and recreation facilities. This is the second phase of the overall project, Phase one was approved last year and will be constructed this year.

▪ **US 12 Garage Sale Safety Follow Up**

Kris Martin thanked the group for the suggestions at the last MPO meeting. We will look to partner with MDOT regional offices along the US 12 route to place safety signs in the communities have lots of sales registered. We will also reach out to the people that register for the sale to help promote safe driving and ask for drives to slow down and use caution. We also will promote safe driving on the US 12 Facebook page. A suggestion was brought up to ask drives to use their hazard lights when pulling over on the side of the road.

9. New Business

▪ **TIP Amendments**

Gallagher said that there was only one TIP Amendment this month.

Cass County Road Commission, Gumwood Multi-Use Path, Phase II, project summary is to use the full grant funds of \$44,266.00 (81.85%) with a match of \$9,815.86 (18.15%) coming from the Cass County Road Commission. The total project cost is \$54,081.86 for phase 2 of this project.

Phase two of the project in Milton Township was recommended by the TAC subcommittee for approval.

A motion by Auvil with support by Cooper to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the December TIP Amendments. **Motion passed.**

• **Legislative Updates**

- **Federal-** None.
- **State-** Lott shared that the Michigan House and Senate have two different transportation bills. The Senate bill would replace the current gasoline tax with a wholesale tax, delivering \$1.2 billion in revenue by FY 2017. There is a deadline of Thursday for a vote before the lame duck session ends. The House bill would take some funds away from schools to fund roads, which as a concern of many.

Senate 5477 would create a 15 percent wholesale tax and replace the flat rate tax.

Senate Bills 658, 659, would be an internet sales tax for online shopping funding might go towards roads. The bills passed the Senate and were sent to the house.

O'Haver said that the House Version would reduce transit funding by 20-30%. If the House version passes, a lot of small and rural transit authorities would be starved of funds. O'Haver urged committee members to contact their legislators to maintain transit funding.

9. Public Comment

None.

10. Privilege of the Floor

None.

11. Adjournment at 1:37 p.m.

- The next meeting will be January 27 at 1:00 PM.

Minutes compiled by: Kris Martin and Kim Gallagher, Associate Planners, 2014.