

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
 Technical Advisory Committee

MINUTES

April 24, 2012

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 Barbara Cook, Cass County Planning Commission Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township 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 Don Kronewitter, Milton Township Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Joe Ray, City of Niles Don Ryman, City of Buchanan Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC
TAC Members Absent:	Joe Bellina, Cass County Road Commission Pat Bellaire, Village of Edwardsburg Neil Coulston, City of Niles DPW/Airport Fred Featherly, MDOT-Multi-Modal Juan Ganum, City of Niles Community Development Darrell Harden, MDOT Southwest Region Shelley Klug, Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Jason Latham, MDOT Southwest Region (Alternate) John Monaghan, Village of Edwardsburg (Alternate) Jan Personette, Four Flags Area Chamber of Commerce Robert Rusch, MDEQ Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex officio) Evan Smith, Niles Dial A Ride Transit Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Representative, MACOG (ex officio)
SWMPC Staff Present:	Trevor Thomas
Others Present:	Sue Kronewitter, Milton Township Jerry Marchetti, Ontwa Township

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Ray called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. and led the group in introductions.

2. Minutes

Motion was made by Frost with support by Auvil to approve the March 27, 2012 NATS Technical Committee meeting minutes as is. **Motion passed.**

3. Staff Report

▪ Transit presentation by Niles Dial-A-Ride

Getman-Dissette presented on the services provided by Niles Dial-A-Ride (NDAR) and the ways in which these services are funded.

- Frost asked about the extent to which NDAR connects to South Bend transit services. Getman-Dissette responded that there is a NDAR route that connects hourly to connecting point on Auten Rd. South Bend has cut part of their connecting service to this route, but riders still want the NDAR connection, and both agencies are working to improve transfer service.
- Woolcock asked where CMAQ funding fits into the financial information presented for NDAR. Getman-Dissette responded that CMAQ funds were not included in the figures presented, and that such funds go over and beyond the standard scheduled apportionments.
- Gruchot asked where NDAR funding figures into NATS. Getman-Dissette responded that all NDAR federal funds have to be listed in the TIP, including 5307 and CMAQ funds (and 5311 funds for Buchanan Dial-A-Ride).
- S. Kronewitter asked how driver pay is determined and how it compares to pay offered drivers in South Bend. Getman-Dissette responded that it starts at \$8.50/hr, with an average of about \$10 and a maximum of \$14. Kronewitter said that this is much lower than the pay and benefits of South Bend drivers, to which Getman-Dissette said that NDAR would like to pay more but doesn't have sufficient funding. O'Haver claimed to be in a similar situation to NDAR with respect to driver pay.

▪ By law change for Buchanan Dial-A-Ride

Thomas provided notice of a proposed amendment to the by-laws to include Kim O'Haver as a voting representative for Buchanan Dial-A-Ride on both the NATS Technical and Policy committees. Since by-law changes require at least a 30-day notice before voting, the official vote will occur at the May, 2012 NATS meetings.

4. Project Updates

Fiscal Year	Job Number	Agency	Project Name	Update Information	Date of last update
2010			M-139 over Dowagiac River bridge work	2012 May-October-letting,	Mar-12
		MDOT	M-139 over St. Joseph River Bridge Replacement	Deplicate – PE phase of the same project listed in 2011	April-12
2011		Niles Dial A Ride	Bike racks-purchase up to 5 bicycle racks and install kits for buses	The grant was just awarded in September 2011 and the projects will be completed in 2012; April 2012 Update: project has been approved by Niles City Council	April-12

		Niles Dial A Ride	Generator	The grant was just awarded in September 2011 and the projects will be completed in 2012; April Update: project has been approved by Niles City Council	April-12
		Niles Dial A Ride	On bus camera system	The grant was just awarded in September 2011 and the projects will be completed in 2013	Feb-12
		Niles Dial A Ride	Preventative maintenance	The grant was just awarded in September 2011 and the projects will be completed in 2013	Feb-12
		Niles Dial A Ride	Ramp lift	The grant was just awarded in September 2011 and the projects will be completed in 2013	April-12
		Niles Dial A Ride	Replacement tires- ordered October 2011	The grant was just awarded in September 2011 and the projects will be completed in 2016; April 2012 Update: Finished (2012 portion only?)	April-12
		Niles Dial A Ride	Landscaping	The grant was just awarded in September 2011 and the projects will be completed in 2017; April 2012 Update: Approved by City Council, to be finished in September	April-12
	112861	Cass County Road Commission	Pine Lake St. M-60 to Anderson Rd	Completed	Feb-12
	110364	Cass County Road Commission	Redfield St from Kline Rd to Conrad Rd	Completed	Feb-12
	109283	Cass County Road Commission	Redfield St. over Christina Creek	let in Feb.	Feb-12
	107691	Cass County Road Commission	Redfield St and Bertrand Rd Berrien County Line to Ironwood Rd	Completed	Feb-12
	114517	Cass County Road Commission	Redfield St. M-62 to Brande Creek Rd	construction 2012, let in Jan.	Feb-12

	108921	MDOT	US-31 freeway signing upgrade	– Let, construction 2012 April-August; April 2012 Update: Construction Underway	April-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	Feb-12
	108186	MDOT	M-51 slope stabilization near Pucker St	–continuing to monitor the slope, consultant hired for base design; April 2012 Update: Project moved out of 2011-2014 TIP	April-12
	110758	MDOT	M-60 weigh station at US-12 interchange	–spring 2012 Construction	Feb-12
	90361	MDOT	US-12 resurfacing from M-60 to Edwardsburg	–let construction 2012 May-October; April 2012 Update: construction to begin week following NATS meeting	April-12
	86785	MDOT	M-139 Over Dowagiac River, near N limit of Niles bridge replacement-	2012 Construction	Feb-12
	112819	MDOT	US-12, .68 miles east of Cassopolis Rd	MDOT is obtaining culvert right of way	Feb-12
2012	114518	Berrien County Road Commission	Red Bud Trail at Old Bitty Creek	design phase	Feb-12
	112101	Berrien County Road Commission	West River Rd, Ullery Rd, Pucker St, and Main St. CON Phase	contract signed	Feb-12
	112086	Berrien County Road Commission	Bertrand Rd, Ontario Rd, Fulkerson, and Bell Rd.CON Phase	contract signed	Feb-12
	112863	Cass County Road Commission	Bertrand Rd from Ironwood Dr. to Batchelor JN 112863 CON Phase	In design	Feb-12
		Niles Dial A Ride	Garage equipment	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.	Feb-12

		Niles Dial A Ride	Garage 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.	Feb-12
		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.	Feb-12
		Niles Dial A Ride	Scheduling software	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.	Feb-12
	108186	MDOT	M-51 near Pucker St. CON Phase restore and rehabilitate design phase 2013	construction consultant working on design; April 2012 Update: project removed from 2011-2014 TIP	April-12
	111239	MDOT	US-31 Walton Rd over US-31, US-31 NB CON Phase-bridge	let in June 2012	

5. Old Business

- **NATS Non-motor/pedestrian subcommittee**
 - Thomas recapped the TAC and Policy Committee decisions to create a non-motorized subcommittee similar to the TwinCATS Walk & Roll Subcommittee. This subcommittee is intended to be primarily informational in focus, with the areas of greatest need for walking and biking facilities in the NATS area.
 - Membership time obligations were discussed, and it was agreed that the subcommittee would meet quarterly for approximately one hour on the same day as NATS meetings, with exact times to be determined.
 - Thomas solicited committee members to participate on the subcommittee. Getman-Dissette volunteered. She also suggested talking to Joanne Johnson, who has expressed interested in participating in non-motorized groups.

- **Public Participation Plan**
 - Thomas presented staff updates to the official MPO Public Participation Plan. He stated that a NATS-approved version of the plan would appear before the full SWMPC Board in July for final approval. He requested a motion for TAC approval of the plan.

Motion was made by Gruchot, supported by Auvil. **Motion passed.**

6. New Business

▪ TIP Amendments

- Niles Dial-A-Ride requested amendments affecting 11 projects in the 2011-2014 TIP:
 - Projects added:
 - FY 2012 Fuel Capitalization project with federal cost of \$32k and state match of \$8k
 - Projects modified:
 - FY 2012 Preventative Maintenance project reduces federal costs from \$160k to \$140k and state match from \$40k to \$35k
 - FY 2013 Preventative Maintenance project reduces federal costs from \$160k to \$140k and state match from \$40k to \$35k
 - FY 2014 Maintenance Software project reduces federal costs from \$3k to \$2k, keeping state match at \$1k
 - FY 2014 Preventative Maintenance project reduces federal costs from \$164k to \$140k and state match from \$41k to \$35k
 - Projects deleted
 - FY 2012 Garage Maintenance project with federal cost of \$12k and state match of \$3k
 - FY 2012 Scheduling Software project with federal cost of \$36k and state match of \$9k
 - FY 2012 Garage Equipment project with federal cost of \$10k and state match of \$3k
 - FY 2013 Bus Replacement project with federal cost of \$63k and state match of \$16k
 - FY 2014 Parking Lot project with federal cost of \$6k and state match of \$2k
 - FY 2014 Trolley Façade project with federal cost of \$5k and state match of \$1k
- MDOT requested Amendments affecting 4 projects in the 2011-2014 TIP
 - Projects added:
 - FY 2012 Resurface project on US-12 (PE phase) for \$57k federal cost and \$13k state cost
 - FY 2012 Resurface project on US-12 (Con phase) for \$1,989k federal cost and \$441k state cost
 - Projects deleted:
 - FY 2012 Slope Restoration project near Pucker Street (Con phase) for \$1,097k federal cost and \$243k (project delayed to FY 2018)
 - FY 2014 Roadside Facility project at Niles-Buchanan Road carpool lot (PE phase) for \$6k federal cost and \$1k state cost (project was a duplication)

Motion to accept amendments was made by Woolcock and supported by Auvil. **Motion passed.**

▪ Legislative Updates

- Federal
Thomas reminded the committee of the July time frame for federal transportation reauthorization (with the likelihood of further extension of the existing transportation bill), but there were no other updates.

- State

7. Public Comment

None

8. Privilege of the Floor

None

9. Adjournment: 2:26 p.m.

Motion by Frost with support by Auvil to adjourn the NATS Technical Committee meeting. **Motion passed.**

- The next meeting is **Mary 22, 2012 at 1:30 P.M.**

Minutes compiled by: Suzann Flowers and Trevor Thomas, Transportation Planners, April 2012