

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
 Technical Advisory Committee

MINUTES

May 22, 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 Richard Cooper, Niles Charter 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 Erin Jolivette, MDOT Coloma TSC Shelley Klug, Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance Joseph Kring, Bertrand Township Don Kronewitter, Milton Township Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Jan Personette, Four Flags Area Chamber of Commerce Don Ryman, City of Buchanan
TAC Members Absent:	Joe Bellina, Cass County Road Commission Pat Bellaire, Village of Edwardsburg Barbara Cook, Cass County Planning Commission Fred Featherly, MDOT-Multi-Modal Irving Frost, Howard Township Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Jason Latham, MDOT Southwest Region (Alternate) 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 Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Representative, MACOG (ex officio)
SWMPC Staff Present:	Suzann Flowers Trevor Thomas
Others Present:	Sue Kronewitter, Milton Township Jerry Marchetti, Ontwa Township Jim Klett, Klett Construction Kim O’Haver, Buchanan Dial A Ride

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Both Chair and Vice-Chair were absent and the Committee asked Richard Cooper to chair the meeting. Cooper called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m. and led the group in introductions.

2. Minutes

Motion by Personette with support by Gruchot to approve the April 24, 2012 NATS Technical Committee meeting minutes as is. **Motion passed.**

3. Staff Report

▪ **Rural Task Force Training**

Flowers also attended a training session to wrap up the Rural Task Force season. This was an opportunity to give comments and feedback to MDOT on the overall process and to ensure that the process continues to move smoothly as the regions take over the administrative process on behalf of MDOT. Regions and Road Commission agencies were also able to provide comment on the proposed framework for the region.

▪ **NADO Conference**

Flowers attended the National Association of Development Organizations annual conference in Burlington, VT. Flowers indicated the importance that the conference placed on safety, freight, and coordination of transportation within a region. The conference was designed for rural transportation agencies and small MPO regions.

▪ **Freight Workshop**

Flowers also attended a freight workshop hosted by MDOT. US DOT has been compiling data on various ground freight carriers and presented aggregate data that has been collected and can be used by MPOs to better understand freight transportation in Michigan.

▪ **Southwest Michigan Safety Forum**

Thomas reported on the Traffic Safety forum that has been reformed and will be meeting quarterly to provide information on key issues to traffic safety officials from around the region. He also presented several of the slides that he presented at the forum. The first of these meetings was held in April and focused on non-motorized and pedestrian safety. Thomas presented on information pertinent to the TwinCATS Walk and Roll group along with what types of activities are happening in the region. In addition, there were presentations made by regional law enforcement and one that focused on the MDOT Traffic Safety Database. This database shows a tremendous amount of information in regards to crashes and various other types of information that could be very useful to the MPO. If people have more questions they can contact Thomas. The next Traffic Safety meeting will be their legislative meeting in August.

▪ **Annual UWP**

Flowers discussed the annual work program and asked the Committee members if they had specific projects or tasks that they wanted the MPO staff to be working on for the next fiscal year. At the June meeting, the full UWP will be placed on the agenda for formal action to take place by the members.

▪ **Long Range Plan Goals**

Flowers discussed the development of the Long Range Plan goals and she asked if Committee members have comments to please send them to her or Thomas. The next version that members will see will include objectives and performance measures, which will be an indication of how the MPO measures their success.

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-completed	May-12
		MDOT	M-139 over St. Joseph-River Bridge Replacement	Completed	May-12
2011		Niles Dial A Ride	Bike racks-purchase up to 5 bicycle racks and install kits for buses	Project has been approved by Niles City Council	May-12
		Niles Dial A Ride	Generator	Project has not been approved by Niles City Council	May-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	Apr-12
		Niles Dial A Ride	Replacement tires	The grant was just awarded in September 2011; project is completed	Apr-12
		Niles Dial A Ride	Landscaping	Project has been approved by Niles City Council-will be completed in September	Apr-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	Construction underway	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	Feb-12
	108186	MDOT	M-51 slope stabilization near Pucker St	Project moved out of 2011-2014 TIP	Apr-12
	110758	MDOT	M-60 weigh station at US-12 interchange	-spring 2012 Construction; completed	Feb-12
	90361	MDOT	US-12 resurfacing from M-60 to Edwardsburg	-let construction 2012 May-October	Feb-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
	112084	Berrien County Road Commission	Bertrand Road; Mayflower to Red Bud Trail	Construction July 16	May-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; project removed from 2011-2014 TIP	Apr-12
	111239	MDOT	US-31 Walton Rd over US-31, US-31 NB CON Phase-bridge	let in June 2012; Construction July-September	May-12

5. Old Business

- **Buchanan Dial A Ride membership on TAC and Policy Committees**

Flowers explained that all members have had adequate opportunity to review the proposal to add Buchanan Dial A Ride to the voting members of the Technical Advisory Committee.

Motion by Auvil with support by Harden to approve Buchanan Dial A Ride to have one vote on the NATS Technical Advisory Committee. **Motion passed.**

6. New Business

- **Brad Sharlow-MDOT**

Flowers stated that at the TwinCATS Committee meetings held the day before that Lenze asked that a subcommittee be formed to discuss the future socio-economic data and then bring that information to the full committee for review. Flowers will be in touch with members to set up that meeting in the next couple of weeks. This will be on future agendas.

- **TIP Amendments**

- MDOT

- 2012

- Adding JN 115698, M-62 PE phase federal cost of 29,000, state cost of 6,000 for total phase cost of 35,000; total project cost of 955,000.
- Adding JN 115698, M-62 ROW phase federal cost 4,000, state cost 1,000 for a total phase cost of 5,000 and total project cost of 955,000.
- Adding JN 115698, M-62 CON phase federal cost 749,000, state cost 166,000 for a total phase cost of 915,000 and total project cost of 955,000.
- Adding JN115699, On US-31 and M-60 BR; PE phase for a federal cost of 1,000 and state cost of fewer than 1,000 for a total phase cost of 2,000 and total project cost of 70,000.

- 2013

- Adding JN115699, On US-31 and M-60 BR; CON phase for a federal cost of 30,000 and state cost of under 7,000 for a total phase cost of 37,000 and total project cost of 70,000.

JN 115699 that is within the MPO boundary is being placed in the 2011-2014 TIP.

Motion by Berndt with support by Auvil to approve the MDOT TIP requests as presented to be amended into the 2011-2014 NATS TIP. **Motion passed.**

▪ **Legislative Updates**

○ **Federal**

Flowers stated that the House and Senate are working through a Committee to hash out the details of the transportation bill.

○ **State**

Flowers also stated that members of the Michigan legislature were getting ready to go on summer recess and that there were no updates to mention. Flowers mentioned SB 351 as to shifting 2% of the sales tax for roads; the information was received from Larry Merritt from the Berrien County Road Commission.

-Flowers asked Harden to provide an update on the Complete Streets Advisory Council. Harden stated that a presentation has been made to the State Transportation Commission which is tasked with how the policy will be implemented by MDOT and that has to be completed by August.

7. Public Comment

No public comments were received during the month of May.

8. Privilege of the Floor

-Flowers stated that the first technical memo regarding the Berrien County Transit Coordination Study will be reviewed and discussed at an information meeting on June 6, 2012 from 1:30-3:30p.m. at Michigan Works in Benton Harbor. If anyone would like a copy of the document, she asked that they see her after the meeting.

-Lenze stated that he had new Michigan road maps for anyone that would like to take some.

-Ryman commented on how the gas tax for Michigan needs to be reflective of price increases so that Road Commissions can receive more money.

-Auvil stated that the federal budget for Indian tribes allocated previously was \$500 million dollars that was distributed to all 566 tribes in the country. Now Congress has cut the budget to \$300 million and the Pokagon's took a 60% funding cut. What that means for communities is that joint projects with jurisdictions may not be able to occur since the tribes will need to stockpile the funds for several years to have a viable project. The one positive is that the IRR funding is not considered match for federal dollars.

9. Adjournment: 2:13 p.m.

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

- The next meeting is **June 26, 2012 at 1:30 P.M.**

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