

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Advisory Committee

MINUTES

May 24, 2016

1:00 P.M.

Niles City Council Chambers

TAC Members Present:	Joe Bellina, Cass County Road Commission Pat Bellaire, Village of Edwardsburg Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Craig Bradfield, Howard Township Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township Kelly Getman-Dissette, Niles Dial A Ride Jan Personette, Four Flags Area Chamber of Commerce Bob Sutton, Mason Township Don Ryman, City of Buchanan Evan Smith, Berrien County Community Development/Berrien County Transit Jonathon Smith, MDOT Coloma Office Joe Ray, City of Niles
TAC Members Absent:	Malinda Cole-Crocker, Buchanan Township Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Fred Featherly, MDOT-Multi-Modal John Klimek, Berrien County Board of Commissioners John Lanum, Michigan Department of Transportation Bill Marx, City of Buchanan Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Melinda Michael, Four Flags Area Council on Tourism Jason Latham, MDOT Southwest Region Barbara Cook, Cass County Planning Commission Steve Hicks, Bertrand Township Kim O'Haver, Buchanan Dial A Ride Representative, Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance Representative, Milton Township
SWMPC Staff Present:	John Egelhaaf Brandon Kovnat Jerrid Burdue
Others Present:	Pete Fournier, Cass County Road Commission

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting was called to order by Joe Ray at 1:03 p.m. and he led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by introductions.

2. Changes to the Agenda

John Egelhaaf suggested the addition to discuss combining the meetings for TAC and Policy under New Business.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Minutes

Motion to approve the April 26, 2016 TAC Meeting Minutes by Kelly Getman-Dissette and supported by Jan Personette. **Motion Approved.**

5. Staff Report

John introduced Brandon Kovnat and Jerrid Burdue, both new SWMPC staff. Brandon is taking Gautam position and Jerrid is a summer intern.

Burdue introduced a new project update template. SWMPC will provide these templates to the respected agencies for them to fill out and submit prior to the meeting. The goal is to have these included in the meeting packet and PowerPoint so no updates are missed.

6. Public Transit Updates

▪ Niles Dial A Ride

Kelly described an issue with receiving the necessary funding for the Niles Dial A Ride. Niles requested \$266,000 but was offered far less by MACOG. There is a disagreement among MACOG, Transpo, and NICTD, and Niles Dial A Ride over splitting money. If no agreement is reached soon, a meeting between MACOG and SWMPC will be necessary. MACOG suggested that STP funding be used as an offset. Bellina asked if other agencies use STP funding; they do but run on a different TIP schedule than SWMPC. At this time all our 2016 STP funds have been programmed. The issue is in part by Niles using grants for some Dial A Ride funding last fiscal year, which lowered the 5-year average funding requirements. Disregarding last year, the 4-year average was close to \$220,000. \$230,000 is needed this year to keep current services. In a prior meeting, TICTD stated that Niles could increase fares, other possibilities mentioned by MACOG and Transpo included cutting service. Personette stated that the City advertizes to bring people in but there are limited resources for them to get around the area. There will be a half-mil, simply renewing the millage, in August.

▪ Buchanan Dial A Ride

Not present.

▪ Other Updates

Evan Smith discussed Berrien Bus service across the state line; they are now insured to do so. Citizens enjoy the South Bend - Mishawaka area for shopping.

7. Land Use Updates

Bob Sutton requested an updated land use map from SWMPC for Mason Township.

8. Project Updates

MDOT

Jonathon Smith said MDOT will start work on reconstructing shoulders on US-12 between M-139 and M-60 after July 4th. There may also be concrete patches in places. Smith asked about a TIP amendment for a scoping project for the US-12 bridge over M-51. This is not a TIP amendment month; this will need to wait until June. The round-a-bout construction for US-12 and Old M-205 intersection will start in about a week.

Niles Charter Township

Richard Cooper discussed the findings of an archaeological study for the Indiana Michigan River Valley Trail. The trail will need to be moved slightly due to historical artifacts being found.

Berrien County Road Commission

Berndt: The 2016 Bertrand Township project is scheduled to start in July.

Cass County Road Commission

Bellina: 2016 project in Ontwa Township of Adamsville Road letting is in June.

Fir Road (Redfield to US-12) correction: not HMA, but rather seal coating. June letting.

Fir Road (Stateline to Redfield) Letting is in May, bid came back high.

9. Old Business

None.

10. New Business

▪ Unified Work Program

Brandon outlined the UWP and stated the role that SWMPC plays. Some of the items mentioned were congestion management, public participation, and updating the SWMPC's website. He talked about the 18.15 percent local match which is based on Census population data. Egelhaaf stated that federal funds have increased by 2% since the 2016 UWP.

Motion to approve of the UWP and to send to Policy by Pat Miller and supported by Bob Sutton. **Motion Passed.**

▪ State and Federal Updates

None.

▪ TAC and Policy Meetings

Richard Cooper and Pete Fournier lead discussion on joining the TAC and Policy meetings into one. Many individuals belong to both and the material covered is very similar. The overall consensus is to try a joint meeting in June at 1:30pm.

11. Public Comment

None.

12. Privilege of the Floor

Joe Ray stated that the Grant Street viaduct construction will start June 6th and will be closed for around two months.

Bob Sutton asked when the US-12 roadwork would be done is Edwardsburg be completed; Bellina: when the railroad is done.

13. Adjournment at 1:59 p.m.

- The next meeting will be June 28 at 1:30 PM.