

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
 Technical Advisory Committee

MINUTES

June 28, 2011

1:30 P.M.

Niles City Council Chambers

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

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Ray called the meeting to order at 1:33 P.M. and led the group in introductions.

2. Minutes

- *Motion by **Frost**, seconded by **Coulston**, to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2011 TAC meeting. Harden mentioned that in the Complete Streets notes, that we should state in the*

minutes that not every road needs a treatment to make them complete and that Complete Streets is not a cookie cutter program. Motion approved.

3. Staff Report

- **Transit Consolidation Feasibility Study update**

- Rahtz gave a summary of the kickoff meeting with the consultants, which was held on June 1st at Michigan Works! Benton Harbor. Around 55 people were in attendance, representing social service agencies, government agencies, transportation providers, citizens, riders, people with disabilities, and a variety of other groups.

- Anna informed the group that this would be her last NATS meeting and that she was headed for a job in California. The group wished her good luck. Rahtz stated that Suzann Flowers would take her place as transportation planner for the MPO.

- **Asset Management Update**

- Thomas stated that the Berrien County PASER ratings will be done on July 17, and that Cass County ratings will be done beginning August 15. Thomas stated that ½ of federal aid eligible roads in Berrien and Cass Counties will be rated. Cities and Villages are welcome to ride along during this rating.

- **Complete Streets Workshop**

- Flowers stated that a Complete Streets workshop will be held at Andrews University on June 30th, 2011 from 6:30-8:30pm. She added that, in contrast to the Complete Streets workshop held by MSU-Extension on May 3rd, this workshop will be free. The focus of the workshop will be to promote and foster citizen advocacy, as well as to provide information about the Michigan Complete Streets legislation and how local governments can get started with writing Complete Streets policies.
- Darrell Harden stated that Complete Streets is not a cookie cutter approach to road designs. That each road is different and not all roads need sidewalks and bicycle lanes. It depends on the conditions of the road such as speed and amount of traffic.

- **Rail Update**

- Rahtz stated that MDOT will still be taking comments on the draft statewide rail plan until July 1, 2011. The draft plan is online at www.michigan.gov/mirailplan.

- **Plug-In Vehicle Conference**

- Thomas discussed his attendance at a conference on electric vehicles on the Western Michigan University campus, June 15. He gave an overview of the panel presentations and the materials they presented. This material included considerations of battery quality and the range of electric vehicles, the cost of these vehicles, considerations of the enablement and provision of charging stations, and the likely future prevalence of electric cars. The Committee subsequently discussed issues related to their knowledge of battery cost and reliability, car range, and the logistics of charging costs.

4. Project Updates

- **2009**
 - **Niles Dial-a-Ride Transit**
 - Bus shelters – finalizing order, will be installed in July
- **2010**
 - **Berrien County Road Commission**
 - Niles-Buchanan Rd and Bell Rd – obligated; waiting for sealing in June 2011, project is being worked on
 - **Cass County Road Commission**
 - Bell Rd – obligated; construction late summer 2011
 - Lakeshore Dr – obligated; project is complete
 - **Michigan Department of Transportation**
 - M-139 over St. Joseph River Bridge Replacement – in progress with draft hydraulics study, base plan alignment, and traffic plan; will be holding a design charrette in the fall; environmental assessment will be done fall 2011
 - M-139 over Dowagiac River bridge work – construction 2012
 - **Niles Dial-a-Ride Transit**
 - Steering Committee will be meeting in a couple of weeks
- **2011**
 - **Berrien County Road Commission**
 - Dayton Rd, Pucker St, Red Bud Trail, and Orange Rd –waiting for agreement from MDOT
 - **Michigan Department of Transportation**
 - US-31 freeway signing upgrade (jn108921) – fall 2011 letting and spring 2012 construction
 - US-31 BR over Dowagiac River bridge replacement (86785) – fall 2011 letting and spring 2012 construction
 - M-139 (Main St) over St. Joseph River bridge replacement SUB and PE phases (104152) –
 - M-51 slope stabilization near Pucker St (108186) –moved to 2012, monitoring movement, slope is currently stable
 - M-60 weigh station at US-12 interchange (110758) –September letting, Oct/Nov construction
 - US-12 resurfacing from M-60 to Edwardsburg (90361) –on schedule for September letting
 - **Niles Dial-A-Ride**
 - Nothing to report
 - **Cass County Road Commission**
 - Beebe Rd-waiting for contract from MDOT
 - Pine Lake St-done
 - Redfield St-waiting for contact from MDOT

5. Old Business

- **Unified Work Program approval**
 - Rahtz passed out copies of the draft NATS FY 2012 Unified Work Program.
 - *Motion by **Harden**, seconded by **Auvil**, to recommend that the SWMPC board approve the FY 2012 UWP, on the condition that changes are made based on*

suggestions from committee members. Motion approved unanimously.

6. New Business

• TIP Amendments

• Cass County Road Commission

- Add in FY 2011 the project named Redfield St from M-62 to Brande Creek Road. Federal cost is \$182,913 (STU) and county cost is \$40,560.
- Add in FY 2011 the project named Redfield St over Christiana Creek. Federal cost is \$924,800 (BRT), state cost is \$174,400, and local cost is \$57,800.
- Remove in FY 2012 the project named Redfield St from M-62 to Ridgewood Dr. Federal cost is \$76,800 (STU) and local cost is \$19,200.
- Remove in FY 2012 the project named Redfield St from State Line Rd to Oak St. Federal cost is \$76,800 (STU), and local cost is \$19,200.
- *Motion by **Harden**, seconded by **Gruchot**, to approve the modification of the above Cass County projects in the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. **Motion approved unanimously.***

• Berrien Bus

- Add in FY 2012 the applicable portion of 5311 Rural Operating Funds, totaling \$21,110

• Berrien County Road Commission

- Add in FY 2012 the project named Red Bud Trail at Old Bitty Creek. Federal cost is \$150,000 (STU), and local cost is \$150,000 (from fish passage grant).
- *Motion by **Harden**, seconded by **Bellina** to approve the modification of the above Berrien Bus and Berrien County Road Commission projects in the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. **Motion approved unanimously.***

• Michigan Department of Transportation

- Add in FY 2011 the project named Pre-Construction Phases GPA (region wide), with federal cost of \$65,841 (ST) and local cost of \$21,110
- Modify in FY 2011 the project named US-12 from M-60 to Edwardsburg, changing the project description to "Mill and two-course HMA overlay. Pave 7-foot shoulders. Isolated drainage improvement determined by need. Gumwood Road intersection improvement (JN 106876) to center left turn lanes and right turn lanes each leg of US-12. Guardrail upgrade as determined by condition and road treatment. ROW sought to own and maintain culvert ends outside existing 33' ROW. Concept intend to treat US-12 pavement and produce off the road impacts only at isolated locations."
- *LaMore asked about the nature of the above overlay. Harden speculates that the epoxy overlay is likely to be confined to the bridge superstructure and not the deck.*
- Add in FY 2012 the project named CPM CSM Bridge Trunkline GPA, with federal cost of \$663,020 (ST) and state cost of \$165,755.
- Add in FY 2012 the project named US-12 at Gumwood Road, with federal cost of \$668,700 (STH) and state cost of \$74,300.
- Add to illustrative list in FY 2012 the project named US-31 (NB over St. Joseph River). Federal cost is \$663,020 (BHN), and state cost is \$165,755.
- Modify in FY 2013 the project named M-139 over St. Joseph River, changing the federal cost from \$4,531,200 (BRT) to \$0 and changing state costs from \$1,132,800 to \$5,664,000.

- *Motion by **Bellina**, seconded by **Harden**, to approve the modification of the above Michigan Department of Transportation projects in the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. **Motion approved unanimously.***
 - Administratively delete from FY 2011 the project named US-31BR over Dowagiac River, as it is duplicated in the FY 2011-2014 TIP.
 - *Motion by **Getman-Dissette**, seconded by **Auvil**, to approve the administrative modification of the above Michigan Department of Transportation project in the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. **Motion approved unanimously.***
 - *Harden raised question of why Committee approval is needed for above administrative change, as the need for approval seems counter to the purpose of making changes administratively.*
- **Travel Demand Model data**
 - Thomas stated that he is working with Brad Sharlow on finalizing the socioeconomic data for the travel demand model for the next long range transportation plan. The base year for the data is 2010. He will make the draft data available electronically and on paper as soon as possible so that the committees could approve the data at the August meeting.

7. Public Comment

- None

8. Privilege of the Floor

- Getman-Dissette stated that, \$2,000 of CMAQ funds will not be used by Niles DAR. She asked that it be allocated to another project. Harden asked the reason why the funds would not be used and there was an issue about not receiving a flex letter. Berndt asked that the money be moved to the John Beers Road project in the TwinCATS MPO. Harden asked if SWMPC could utilize their administrative action authority to make this change.
- Motion by **Bellina** with support from **Harden** to authorize the SWMPC to move the \$2,000 out of the NATS Niles DAR CMAQ project to the TwinCATS John Beers Road project. **Motion approved unanimously.**

9. Adjournment: 2:04 P.M.

- *Motion by **Auvil**, seconded by **Harden**, to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved unanimously.*
- The next meeting is **August 23, 2011 at 1:30 P.M.**

Minutes compiled by: Suzann Flowers and Trevor Thomas, Transportation Planners, 6/29/11