

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
 Technical Advisory Committee

MINUTES

July 24, 2012

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 Richard Cooper, Niles Charter Township Irving Frost, Howard Township Erin Jolivette, MDOT Coloma TSC Joseph Kring, Bertrand Township Don Kronewitter, Milton Township Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Bill Marx, City of Buchanan Kim O’Haver, Buchanan Dial A Ride Jan Personette, Four Flags Area Chamber of Commerce Don Ryman, City of Buchanan
TAC Members Absent:	Pat Bellaire, Village of Edwardsburg Barbara Cook, Cass County Planning Commission Fred Featherly, MDOT-Multi-Modal Juan Ganum, City of Niles Community Development John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development-Representing BC Planning Kelly Getman-Dissette, Niles Dial-A-Ride Transit 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) 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 Gautam Mani Trevor Thomas
Others Present:	John Eby, Niles Daily Star Jim Klett, Klett Construction Sue Kronewitter, Milton Township

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Bellina called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and led the group in introductions.

2. Minutes

A motion by Berndt with support by Frost to approve the NATS Joint Technical and Policy Committee Meeting Minutes for June 26, 2012 as is. **Motion passed.**

3. Staff Report

Flowers requested that Committee members search through SWMPC maps that were brought to the meeting, and take any that may be useful to their communities. Flowers said SWMPC would encourage community leaders outside the Committee to take any maps remaining, after the Policy Committee meeting

Flowers introduced Gautam Mani, the recently hired transportation planner at SWMPC. Mani introduced himself to the group.

4. Project Updates

Thomas made a call for project updates.

Fiscal Year	Job Number	Agency	Project Name	Update Information	Date of last update	Bid Savings
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	Completed	Apr-12	
		Niles Dial A Ride	Landscaping	Completed	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, under construction; East abutment will be completed before school starts.	July 2012	
	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	Completed	June 2012	
	112862	Cass County Road Commission	Beebe Rd.- Runkle St. to Leet Rd. -Resurface			
	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 (portable truck weigh station)	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, DEQ permits, obtaining final plan; local agency obligation filled;	July 2012	
	112084	Berrien County Road Commission	Bertrand Road; Mayflower to Red Bud Trail	Under Construction	July 2012	
	112101	Berrien County Road Commission	West River Rd, Ullery Rd, Pucker St, and Main St. CON Phase	Completed	June 2012	
	112086	Berrien County Road Commission	Bertrand Rd, Ontario Rd, Fulkerson, and Bell Rd.CON Phase	Completed	July 2012	
	112863	Cass County Road Commission	Bertrand Rd from Ironwood Dr. to Batchelor JN 112863	In design, Grade inspection is done, final plans going in	June 2012	

			CON Phase			
		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., need last approved TIP letter	June 2012	
		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.	June 2012	
		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, need last approved TIP letter	June 2012	
		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, need last approved TIP letter	June 2012	
	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;	July 2012	
	111239	MDOT	US-31 Walton Rd over US-31, US-31 NB CON Phase-bridge	Let in June 2012; Under construction in July 2012	July 2012	
	115698	MDOT	Indiana State Line-US12; cold milling, overlay, sidewalk ramp upgrades		May 2012	
	116115	MDOT	West of Mayflower Road to M-139		April 2012	
	115699	MDOT	US 31 From End of Freeway at Napier Avenue to I-94. – On M60 Bridge from M51-M60- Resurface			

Ryman noted that the area west of the bypass on US-31 and US-12 (within the City of Buchanan) was scheduled to have started during the spring of 2012, and finished by the fall. Jolivette noted that the project was only programmed this past spring, will be let in the fall, and will commence in the Spring of 2013.

5. Old Business

There were no items to be discussed for Old Business.

6. New Business

▪ NATS UWP

Thomas explained that the new format for the UWP is structured according to specific projects, allowing individuals and communities to understand where money is actually going. Thomas thanked Kim Gallagher of SWMPC for her efforts in creating this new format. O'Haver praised the new format as much more accessible.

A motion by O'Haver with support by Cooper to recommend to the NATS Policy Committee to place the NATS Annual Unified Planning Work Program out for the required 10 day public comment period. **Motion passed.**

▪ Legislative Updates

○ Federal

Thomas stated that MAP-21 had officially passed both the US House and Senate, ensuring continued funding for two years. In addition, the MPO threshold of 50,000 people will remain in place. Previous proposal was to raise this threshold to 200,000, which would have stripped TwinCATS of its MPO status. States have more leeway to spend non-motorized funds, and transit funds have been reorganized into new categories.

O'Haver stated that MAP-21 eliminated section 5339, which could create problems in trying to purchase buses for Buchanan's Dial-a-Ride.

Lenze stated that MAP-21 makes changes to funding based on road classification. There have been no changes so far in Michigan, but MDOT is conducting a review. Lenze noted that the number of funding groups has been narrowed down.

○ State

There were no legislative updates at the state level.

7. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

8. Privilege of the Floor

Personette discussed an open house at Fort St. Joseph that would feature an update on archaeological digs in the area, as well as re-enactments at Fort and Bond Streets in Niles. The open house is August 11-12, 2012.

Personette also discussed Project Connect, taking place August 22, 2012 at Niles High School. Project Connect is a "One-Stop Shop" for people in need of a variety of vital services, including health care and legal counseling. Breakfast and lunch will be provided, as well as Dial-A-Ride services in Niles and Buchanan.

Thomas announced his departure from SWMPC in September to pursue a PhD. Thomas thanked the group.

9. Adjournment: 1:48 p.m.

A motion by Personette with support by Auvil to adjourn the NATS Technical Committee meeting. **Motion passed.**

- The next meeting is **August 28, 2012 at 1:30 P.M.**

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