

NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
 Technical Advisory Committee

MINUTES

August 23, 2011

1:30 P.M.

Niles City Council Chambers

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

- Harden stated that the June 2011 TAC minutes need to include a statement about Complete Streets not being a cookie cutter approach to road design.
- Motion by Ryman seconded by Coulston, to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2011 TAC

meeting with special note to include the comment from Harden. **Motion passed.**

3. Staff Report

- **Complete Streets Workshop update**

Thomas discussed the workshop that was held in Berrien Springs and was led by Nancy Krupiarz from the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance. The presentation discussed best practices and how to engage and organize citizens.

- **Complete Streets Policy Update**

Darrell Harden from MDOT presented information on Public Acts 134 and 135 (pertaining to state Complete Streets policy), talking specifically about what these acts mean for MDOT. Pursuant to the acts, MDOT must:

1. Adopt a complete streets policy by August of 2012,
2. Develop a model policy for local communities,
3. Prepare a 5 year program for non-motorized programs according to Act 51,
4. Consult with local agencies.

Harden will provide the presentation to SWMPC staff, and SWMPC staff will provide the presentation on the website.

- **Michigan Transportation Planning Association Conference (MTPA)**

Thomas discussed the annual MTPA conference that he and Flowers attended and discussed the major focus areas of the conference which were: Long Range Planning, Performance Measures, Freight Planning, and Asset Management. These topics were timely since SWMPC Staff will soon begin the process of updating the long range plan.

- **Mid America Trails and Greenways Conference**

Flowers discussed the conference, which will be held in Fort Wayne, IN October 2-5, 2011. Handouts for the conference were offered to attendees.

4. Project Updates

- **2009**

- **Niles Dial-a-Ride Transit**
 - Bus shelters – done

- **2010**

- **Berrien County Road Commission**
 - Niles-Buchanan Rd and Bell Rd – obligated; waiting for sealing in June 2011, project is being worked on-done
- **Cass County Road Commission (*update was given by Coulston*)**
 - Bell Rd – obligated; construction late summer 2011-done
 - Lakeshore Dr – obligated; project is complete-mostly 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-on schedule
 - M-139 over Dowagiac River bridge work – Spring construction 2012/November letting

- **Niles Dial-a-Ride Transit**
 - Nothing to report
- **2011**
 - **Berrien County Road Commission**
 - Dayton Rd, Pucker St, Red Bud Trail, and Orange Rd –waiting for agreement from MDOT-done
 - **Michigan Department of Transportation**
 - US-31 freeway signing upgrade (jn108921) – September 2011 letting and spring 2012 construction
 - M-139 (Main St) over St. Joseph River bridge replacement SUB and PE phases (104152) –environmental assessment being done
 - M-51 slope stabilization near Pucker St (108186) –continuing to monitor the slope since it seems to have stabilized and will push the project back indefinitely
 - M-60 weigh station at US-12 interchange (110758) –September letting, Oct/Nov construction-September 2011 letting and construction to begin in Oct/Nov
 - US-12 resurfacing from M-60 to Edwardsburg (90361) –on schedule for September letting and construction to begin in spring of 2012
 - **Niles Dial-A-Ride**
 - Nothing to report
 - **Cass County Road Commission (no representative from Cass County was present)**
 - 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
 - The UWP for 2012 has been approved by the full SWMPC Board and revisions are being made from FHWA and FTA.
- CMAQ John Beers Road
 - The \$2,000 from the Niles Dial A Ride free fare days has been moved to the John Beers Road sidewalk project which is located in the TwinCATS MPO region

6. New Business

- **TIP Amendments**
 - **MDOT**
 - FY 2011 MDOT project on M-51 near Pucker St. (job no. 108186) was amended to FY 2012. The total project cost was also amended from \$1,475,000 to \$1,825,000, reflecting costs not included in the federal funds or state match.
 - FY 2013 MDOT project on M-139 over the St. Joseph River (job no. 104152) was amended to FY 2014.
 - In the meeting handouts, the amended project was no longer listed as an Advanced Construct project. Lenze corrected this, saying that per MDOT policy, all MDOT projects over \$3,000,000 need to be listed as Advanced Construct.

- FY 2012 MDOT project on US-12 at Gumwood Rd. (job no. 106876) was deleted from the TIP.
 - Kronewitter asked why this project was being abandoned, and Harden replied that the work was still being performed and that it was being included in another project in the TIP.

Motion by Harden and second by Auvil to approve the MDOT TIP amendments. **Motion passed.**

- **Travel Demand Model data**

Thomas handed out sheets giving official 2010 base-year housing and population data that, upon approval, will be input to the next Travel Demand Model performed by MDOT for the NATS area. The sheets were split by jurisdiction and contained a front map key and a back table displaying official housing and population totals by Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ), as well as preliminary 2010 base-year employment data. Thomas requested that committee members respond with any errors they think might be present in the totals, and to be prepared to vote on approval for the base-year totals during the October, 2011 committee meeting.

7. Public Comment

N.A.

8. Privilege of the Floor

- Don Ryman expressed concern regarding the need to place a 4 way stop sign at the intersection of Red Bud Trail and Bertrand Road. There have been accidents in the past at this intersection, including a recent fatal accident, and people have expressed some concern over why there was a 4-way stop years ago and why it was removed. Ryman read from a 1995 letter (written in response to another fatal accident) that requested action be taken at the intersection.
- Joseph Kring stated that the Sheriff's Department has stepped up enforcement in this area.
- Sue Kronewitter also expressed concern about this intersection at that at the last Bertrand Township meeting she attended the topic was brought up.
- Rachael Tupica stated that at the end of September the transportation authorization will expire along with the federal gas tax that funds the highway trust fund. She mentioned that if people wanted to inform their congressional leaders of the importance of this funding source that they should contact them directly.

9. Adjournment: 2:29 P.M.

- *Motion by Ray, seconded by Auvil, to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved unanimously.*
- The next meeting is **September 27, 2011** at **1:30 P.M.**

Minutes compiled by: Suzann Flowers and Trevor Thomas, Transportation Planners, 8/29/2011