

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are responsible for a process that is cooperative, comprehensive, and continuing and that encompasses all modes of transportation. The SWMPC coordinates the two MPO areas (*shown below*) in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and member municipalities.

TIP FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program amendments and modifications were processed and an online template for TIP applications was created.

Performance measures, language for goals, objectives as required under **Moving Ahead for the Progress of the 21st Century** (MAP-21) legislation were researched and developed.

A grant was applied for and received from Great Lakes Integrated Science & Assessments Center (GLISA) to provide climate change research for consideration in NATS, TCATS Long Range Plans.

Activities contributing toward the **2013-2040 Long Range Transportation Plans (LRP)** included a stakeholder meeting for socioeconomic data development. An analysis was performed of all Berrien County Master Plans and Zoning Ordinances for changes that apply to Socio Economic Data Review.

Urbanized Area updates from the US Census were monitored and maps designed to communicate results to area municipalities. Meeting and outreach strategies were developed with final maps of Adjusted Census Urban Boundary for both MPOs to submit to MDOT and FHWA.

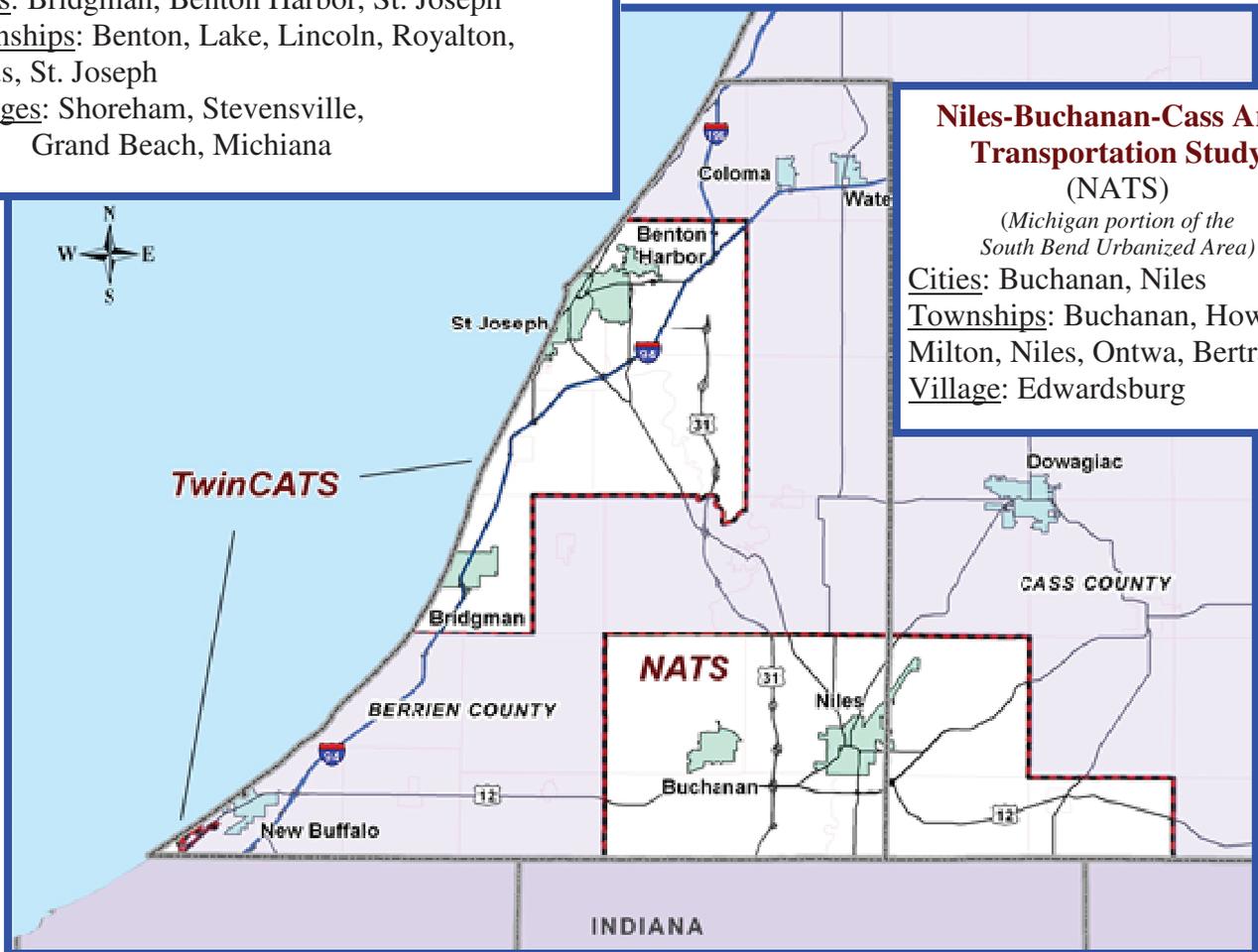
TwinCATS and NATS completed **2011 Annual Reports** and the **2013 Unified Work Plans**.

Twin Cities Area Transportation Study (TwinCATS)

Cities: Bridgman, Benton Harbor, St. Joseph
Townships: Benton, Lake, Lincoln, Royalton, Sodus, St. Joseph
Villages: Shoreham, Stevensville, Grand Beach, Michiana

Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study (NATS)

*(Michigan portion of the
South Bend Urbanized Area)*
Cities: Buchanan, Niles
Townships: Buchanan, Howard, Milton, Niles, Ontwa, Bertrand
Village: Edwardsburg



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Walk & Roll

The **Rural Task Force** (RTF) Program provides federal dollars to rural counties with a population under 400,000. Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF) funds must be spent in these geographic areas and both road and transit capital projects are eligible. All project selection is through the Rural Task Force which is comprised of equal representation from the county road commission, the cities and villages under 5,000 within the county, and the rural transit provider.

Region 4 is comprised of Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties. SWMPC is currently administering the program on behalf of MDOT. Staff attended MDOT training and planned and held local RTF training for eligible communities. Bylaws were drafted for each county's RTF, the Region IV Balance report was outlined, and a website created. RTF program administration provided MDOT with documentation on public consultation process.



In coordination with MDOT, SWMPC Traffic Engineering Staff inventoried and rated approximately **825 miles** of federal aid eligible roads throughout the region. Annual **Asset Management** reports were compiled for Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties and submitted to Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council. Local asset management plans have continued with the cities of Benton Harbor and New Buffalo with the goal of streamlining their road maintenance efforts and increasing cost effectiveness.

RoadSoft programming was updated and debugged to increase efficiency in conducting PASER ratings.

Staff conducted approximately **100 traffic counts**, and uploaded the data to a newly organized website which manages past, current, and future traffic counts.

Executive Director John Egelhaaf serves on the Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council and staff also attended and promoted conferences and training.

The TwinCATS Walk and Roll Plan was implemented by the adoption of **Complete Streets** policies which supports integration of bicycling, walking and transit into the transportation network, now included in the Long Range Plan. Non-motorized project locations were prioritized and a project evaluation matrix created.

NATS refined their Walk and Roll plan by approval to form a non-motorized and pedestrian subcommittee to focus on the assets and deficits within the area.

Other activities promoting transportation alternatives included continued outreach regarding the Southwest Michigan Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Map update, US Bicycle Route 35 information and Complete Streets training for local officials.

Transit Coordination and Mobility Management ensure that public transportation is accessible, integrated, and efficient. www.MyWayThere.org remains a useful tool with additions resulting from research into mobility options. **Regional Reduced Fare cards** provide many seniors and disabled individuals with affordable transportation.

SWMPC remains involved in the **Berrien County Consolidation Feasibility Study**, also in ongoing research involving local stakeholders to identify barriers to county-wide transit agency collaboration and proposed solutions.

In partnership with **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority**, SWMPC created an ADA plan and public outreach program and gave technical assistance regarding non-compliance issues. A public transit governance, operations and administration plan was prepared for the City of Benton Harbor.

SWMPC continues to participate in the West Michigan Passenger Rail Collaborative (**Westrain**) to support access and promotion of passenger rail.

