

Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study 2023 Meeting Attendance

From the February 27th, 2023, Meeting

NATS MEMBER ORG./POSITION	MEMBERS (2022)	TAC	POL	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners (1)	Michael Majerek		x		P										
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	(Vacant)		x												
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Dan Fette	x			A										
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	(Vacant)		x												
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (Policy)	(Vacant)		x												
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (TAC)	Kevin Stack	X			A										
Bertrand Township	Butch Payton	x	x		P										
Buchanan Township	Lynn Ferris	x	x		A										
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (1)	Roseann Marchetti		x		P										
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	James Lawrence		x		P										
Cass Co. Planning Commission	Roseann Marchetti	x			P										
Cass Co. Road Comm. (Policy)	Sandra Seanor		x		P										
Cass Co. Road Comm. (TAC)	Joe Bellina (TAC Chair)	x			A										
City of Buchanan	Don Ryman		x		A										
City of Buchanan	Rich Murphy	x			P										
City of Niles (1)	Georgia Boggs		x		A										
City of Niles (2)	Serita Mason		x		P										
City of Niles (3)	(Vacant)		x												
City of Niles Community Dev. Director	(VACANT)	x													
City of Niles Dial-A-Ride Transit	Pepper Miller	x	x		P										
City of Niles Public Works Dir./Airport	Joe Ray	x													
Howard Township	Bill Kasprzak	x	x		P										
Kinexus	(Vacant)	x													
Mason Township	Doug Fetters	x	x		A										
MDOT - Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x		P										
MDOT - Southwest Region	Josh Grab	x	x		V										
MDOT - Southwest Region (Alternate)	(Vacant)	Alt	Alt												
MDOT - Transportation Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x		V										
Milton Township	Susan Flowers	x	x		P										
Niles Charter Township	Richard Cooper (P. Ch.)	x	x		P										
Ontwa Township	Meryl Christensen	x	x		P										
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians	Robert Torzynski	x	x		A										
Village of Edwardsburg	Dawn Bolock	x	x		P										
Federal Highway Administration	Andrew Sibold	NV	NV		A										
Federal Transit Administration	Susan Weber	NV	NV		A										
EGLE - Air Quality	Breanna Bukowski	NV			A										
MDOT - Modeling	Jon Roberts	NV			A										
MDOT - Office of Passenger Trans.	Fred Featherly	NV			V										
Michiana Area Council of Governments	Caitlin Stevens	NV	NV		A										
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	x	x		A										
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Brandon Kovnat	NV	NV		P										

P. Ch.: Policy Chair; Alt: Alternate; NV: Non-voting; P: Present in Person; V- Present virtually; A: Absent.

GUESTS: Zane Aldrich - SWMPC

Minutes
NILES BUCHANAN CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE and POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, February 27, 2024 – 1:30 pm
Niles District Library, Niles MI

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. Kovnat took roll call.

Joe Ray introduced Rick Huff. Huff, the City Administrator for the City of Niles. Huff is joining the Technical Advisory Committee, in the position previously held by Ryan Millan.

2. Changes to the Agenda

None.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of the Minutes from the November 28, 2023, Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes for November 28, 2023 Joint NATS Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee Meeting. Made by Roseann Marchetti and seconded by Jim Sturdevant. **Motion approved.**

5. Staff Report

Kovnat presented the timeline for the upcoming 2027-2029 call for projects.

6. Local Agency Updates

Rich Murphy said that the Buchanan Downtown Street project was going to be re-bid on March 1st due to the initial bidding coming in too high.

The Gumwood realignment – Property acquired, and tree clearing is complete. resolution of a NEPA issue is required before obligation.

7. Transit Updates

Pepper Miller announced that a new bus was received in December and should be on the road within the week.

8. MDOT Updates

(see meeting packet page 8-9 for more details)

Jon Smith presented on the US-12 & M-51 project: the Bridge on US-12 over M-51 was demolished, and work on is proceeding on building the new at grade intersection. Detour routes were presented.

More information can be found on MI Drive at: <https://mdotjboss.state.mi.us/MiDrive/map>

9. 2024 Safety Targets

Kovnat presented the Statewide safety targets and highlighted the difficulties in predicting future traffic crashes.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee recommend that the Policy Committee Approve the Statewide Safety Targets for 2024. Made by Kevin Stack and seconded by Jim Sturdevant. **Motion passed.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendations from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Roseann Marchetti and seconded by Sandra Seanor. **Motion passed.**

10. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment

Joe Ray complimented the new MDOT update format. He also discussed the arduous process required to receive federal transportation funds which lead to higher costs.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM.

Minutes compiled by Zane Aldrich, SWMPC Associate Planner

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