

NILES-BUCHANAN-CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE and POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday January 28, 2025

1:30 pm

In Person: Niles District Library – 620 E Main St, Niles, MI 49120
Basement Community Room

Web: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9489277047?pwd=RzkydlFacGFHNkVWeURpak1kSEcxUT09>

Audio: Call in Number: 1 (312) 626-6799
Meeting ID: 948 927 7047
Passcode: 000619

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Changes to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of the Minutes from the November 26, 2024 Meeting *Action* pg. 2
5. Staff Report
6. Local Agency Updates
7. Transit Updates
8. MDOT Updates pg. 6
9. MDOT Project Amendments *Action* pg. 8
10. Approval of 2026-2029 projects for inclusion in the TIP *Action*
 - NATS STBG Funded Projects pg. 9
 - Rural Task Force Projects within the NATS Planning Area pg. 10
 - CMAQ&CRP funded Projects pg. 10
11. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment
12. Adjournment

Comments can be sent prior to the meeting to Brandon Kovnat at kovnatb@swmpc.org or by calling (269) 925-1137 x 1524. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please contact Kim Gallagher at (269) 925-1137 x 1518 or by email at gallagherk@swmpc.org

Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study 2024 Meeting Attendance

From the November 26th, 2024, 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	V		V			P		V	A	
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	(Vacant)		x								V				
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Dan Fette	x			A	A		A			A		A	A	
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	(Vacant)		x												
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (Policy)	(Vacant)		x												
Berrien Co. Road Dept. (TAC)	Kevin Stack	X			A	P		A			P		P	A	
Bertrand Township	Butch Payton	x	x		P			P			P		P	P	
Buchanan Township	Lynn Ferris	x	x		A			A			P		P	A	
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (1)	Roseann Marchetti		x		P	A		P			P		P	P	
Cass Co. Board of Commissioners (2)	James Lawrence		x		P	A		A			A		A	A	
Cass Co. Planning Commission	Roseann Marchetti	x			P	A		P			P		P	P	
Cass Co. Road Comm. (Policy)	Sandra Seanor		x		P	P		P			P		P	P	
Cass Co. Road Comm. (TAC)	Joe Bellina (TAC Chair)	x			A	P		P			P		P	V	
City of Buchanan	Don Ryman		x		A	A		A			V		A	A	
City of Buchanan	Rich Murphy	x			P	P		A			P		A	A	
City of Niles (1)	Georgia Boggs		x		A	A		A			A		A	A	
City of Niles (2)	Serita Mason		x		P	V		V			P		P	A	
City of Niles (3)	(Vacant)		x												
City of Niles Community Dev. Director	Rick Huff	x				P		A			P		P	P	
City of Niles Dial-A-Ride Transit	Pepper Miller	x	x		P	P		P			P		A	A	
City of Niles Public Works Dir./Airport	Joe Ray	x				P		P			P		P	P	
Howard Township	Bill Kasprzak	x	x		P	P		S			P		P	P	
Kinexus	(Vacant)	x													
Mason Township	Doug Fetters	x	x		A	A		S			A		A	P	
MDOT - Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x		P	P		P			P		P	A	
MDOT - Southwest Region	Josh Grab	x	x		V	P		A			A			V	
MDOT - Southwest Region (Alternate)	Adrain Stroupe	Alt	Alt			P		P			P		P	P	
MDOT - Transportation Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x		V	A		A			V		V	V	
Milton Township	Susan Flowers	x	x		P	P		P			V		V	A	
Niles Charter Township	Richard Cooper (P. Ch.)	x	x		P	P		P			P		A	P	
Ontwa Township	Meryl Christensen	x	x		P	P		A			A		A	A	
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians	Robert Torzynski	x	x		A	A		A			A		A	A	
Village of Edwardsburg	Dawn Bolock	x	x		P	P		A			A		P	P	
Federal Highway Administration	Christina Nicholaides	NV	NV		A	A		A			A		A	V	
Federal Transit Administration	Susan Weber	NV	NV		A	A		A			A		A	A	
EGLE - Air Quality	Breanna Bukowski	NV			A	A		A			A		A	A	
MDOT - Modeling	Jon Roberts	NV			A	A		A			A		A	A	
MDOT - Office of Passenger Trans.	Fred Featherly	NV			V	A		A			A		A	A	
Michiana Area Council of Governments	Caitlin Stevens	NV	NV		A	A		A			A		A	A	
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	x	x		A	P		P			A		P	P	
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Brandon Kovnat	NV	NV		P	P		P			P		P	P	

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

Guests: Jerry Marchetti; Mei Bowers representing State Rep Brad Piquette (*virtual*)

Minutes
NILES BUCHANAN CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE and POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, November 26, 2024 – 1:30 pm
Niles District Library, Niles MI

Call to Order and Roll Call

Technical Advisory Vice Chair, Joe Ray, called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and Kim Gallagher took roll call.

Changes to the Agenda

Gallagher announced that the agenda items regarding the Niles Dial-A-Ride Transportation (NDART) safety targets and state of good repair targets are being removed since NDART Director Pepper Miller is on vacation. NATS has 180 days to vote on supporting the transit targets after NDART adopts them, allowing approval to occur at a future meeting.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of the Minutes from the October NATS Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the October 22, 2024 Joint NATS Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee Meeting. Made by Sandra Seanor and seconded by Roseann Marchetti. **Motion approved.**

Staff Report

Gallagher announced that the Project Review Subcommittee, originally scheduled for this morning (November, 26th, 2024), will be rescheduled, due to required attendees not being available.

Gallagher provided an update on the Regional EV Survey, noting that 33 responses were received. The survey results will inform the development of the EV Readiness Plan, which will serve as a toolkit for local jurisdictions, covering costs and potential locations for EV infrastructure. The first technical memo is expected to be completed in February.

Local Project Updates

Joe Bellina presented an update on the 2024 Gumwood Realignment Project stating that construction is complete and the roundabout at Gumwood and Redfield is open to traffic.

Butch Payton gave an update on the Bertrand Road Project stating that construction is complete.

Joe Ray gave an update on the 2025 Sycamore Street project stating that the GI was submitted, and he is awaiting NEPA approval.

FY 2025 Project Amendments

Brandon Kovnat reminded attendees that the FY 2025 Elhart Road project was being removed from the NATS TIP since it was already completed using local funds. He said that then presented the following Amendments:

Remove the Cass County Road Commission's Elkhart Road Project

Federal	Local	Total
\$89,849	\$33,353	\$123,202

Initial FY 2025 Balance of \$6,722 + \$89,849 = Total available 2025 Funding of \$96,571 which will be split as follows:

Sycamore Street – City of Niles

	Federal	Local	Total
Currently Programed	\$118,731	\$44,074	\$162,805
Increase	+\$25,343	+\$20,872	+\$46,215
Revised Amount	\$144,074	\$64,964	\$209,020

Bertrand Road – Berrien County Road Department

	Federal	Local	Total
Programed	\$333,698	\$123,872	\$457,570
Increase	+\$71,228	+\$182,556	+253,784
Revised Amount	\$404,926	\$306,428	\$711,354

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the amendments to the NATS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program as presented. Made by Bill Kasprzak and seconded by Rose Ann Marchetti. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory committee. Made by Sandra Seanor and seconded by Butch Payton. **Motion approved.**

Transit Updates

None.

MDOT Projects Updates

Jon Smith said that the US-12 and M-51 intersection is open to traffic. He added that signal on Us-12 and Gumwood should be completed before Christmas.

Adrian Stroupe announced that he had mapped the Region's bike network and will met with MDOT TAP staff in December to discuss signage.

Safety Targets

Kovnat gave a presentation on the FY 2025 Statewide Safety Targets, stating that the information is very similar to the presentation he gave in 2024.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee support the Statewide Safety Targets for FY 2025 as set by the Michigan Department of Transportation. Made by Butch Payton and seconded by Bill Kasprzak. **Motion approved.**

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

Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment

Gallagher presented the 2025 NATS meeting dates, noting that committee members will receive a reminder email with the meeting packet one week prior to each meeting. She added that all meetings will be posted on the SWMPC website calendar.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 28, 2025 at 1:30 PM.

Minutes taken by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Transportation Planner

Michigan Department of Transportation Projects

Within the NATS Planning Area

Updated January 13th, 2025 by Jon Smith, MDOT Coloma TSC Engineer – smithj29@michigan.gov

Projects Completed in FY 2024

Niles Township

Project: M-139 over the Franz and Norton Drain – Culvert repairs (JN209684)

Status: Construction complete.

Est Con: Mar. 4, 2024 – Jul. 29, 2024

Projects Currently Under Construction

City of Niles and Niles Township

Project: M-51 from Chestnut Ln. to M-60BR – Interchange reconstruction and asphalt resurfacing (JN202003)

Status: Construction work in 2024 was completed. Landscaping and final punch list work anticipated to start in March.

Est Con: Sep. 25, 2023 – Dec. 30, 2025

NATS Area

Project: Regionwide signal upgrades (JN209414)

Status: Construction complete.

Est Con: Dec. 17, 2023 – Dec. 03, 2024

Bertrand Township

Project: US-12 from Galien Township line to west of Mayflower Rd– Shoulder rehabilitation (JN127449)

Status: Tree clearing work in progress. Road work begins in April. Detour paving completed in 2024.

Est Con: Aug. 19, 2024 – Sep. 15, 2027

Milton Township

Project: US-12 and Gumwood Intersection – Traffic signal installation (JN218477)

Status: Signals constructed, awaiting power hook-up.

Est Con: TBD – TBD

Projects Scheduled for Construction in 2025

Bertrand Township and Niles Township

Project: S. US-31 from US-12 to Niles/Berrien Township Line - Concrete repairs and shoulder resurfacing (JN 216911)

Status: Work begins in April. Project let and came in 24.65% under Engineer's Estimate.

Est Con: Apr. 28, 2025 – Aug. 27, 2025

Niles Township

Project: US-31 under Niles-Buchanan Rd. – Bridge Capital Preventive maintenance (JN208503)

Status: Work begins in July. Project let and came in 24.65% under Engineer's Estimate.

Est Con: Jul. 08, 2025 – Oct. 10, 2025

Michigan Department of Transportation Projects

Within the NATS Planning Area

Updated January 13th, 2025 by Jon Smith, MDOT Coloma TSC Engineer – smithj29@michigan.gov

Projects Scheduled for Construction in 2026

Ontwa Township

Project: US-12 at Beebe Rd and Adamsville Rd intersection – Addition of Left turn lane and Passing Flare (JN214141)

Status: Design in progress. Base plans under review.

Village of Edwardsburg, Ontwa Township, and Mason Township

Project: US-12 from E. of M-62 to Union – Milling & One Course Asphalt Overlay (JN216909)

Status: Design in progress.

City of Niles and Bertrand Township

Project: US-12 @ Redbud and M-139 @ M-139 – Modernize signals (JN211989)

Status: Design in progress.

Ontwa Township

Project: US-12 from Edwardsburg to Lane Rr & Brady to Five Points Rd– Shoulder widening (JN221615)

Status: Design will begin soon.

Projects Scheduled for Construction in 2027

City of Niles and Niles Township

Project: M-51 from White St. to Pokagon Hwy. – Shoulder widening (JN221627)

Status: Design will begin soon.

City of Niles and Niles Township

Project: M-51 from Fort Street to North Niles City Limit– Vulnerable Road Users Road Safet Audit (JN218747)

Status: Scheduled to be completed in 2027

Projects Scheduled for Construction in 2029

City of Niles and Niles Township

Project: M51 – Install pedestrian crosswalk (JN220343)

Status: Design to begin in late-2026

Milton Township

Project: US-12 at Gumwood Rd. – Construct a Roundabout (JN220408)

Status: Design to begin in late-2026

MDOT Amendment Requests

January 21, 2025

Fiscal year: 2025 **Phase:** ROW **Job Number:** 211989

Project: Regional Signal Upgrades

Location: 7 signals in Southwest Michigan. Within TwinCATS: M-63 & Lincoln Ave, M-63/Main St at the bridge over St. Joseph River

Amendment: Cost increase to ROW due to latest estimate from MDOT Region Real Estate

	Current			Proposed		
	Federal STBG	State	Total	Federal STBG	State	Total
ROW	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000

Fiscal year: FY 2025 **Phase:** PE & CON **Job Number:** 221444

Project: Preventive Maintenance (Crack Seal, Chip Seal, and Fog Seal) on various routes in Southwest MI

Location: With NATS area includes portions of US-31, US-12 and M-62 in the townships of Niles, Milton and Ontwa.

Amendment: Add project

Phase	Federal Surface Transportation (ST)	State	Total
PE	\$93,309	\$20,691	\$114,000
CON	\$2,679,016	\$594,064	\$3,273,080
Total	\$2,772,325	\$614,755	\$3,387,080

Only costs within NATS shown above. Total project cost with all location & phases is estimated at \$5,600,000

Niles Buchanan Cass Area Transportation Study

2026-2029 Proposed Projects

Road Name	Project Location	Length	Work	Year	Agency	Federal Funding	Local Funding	Total Estimate
Redbud Trail	US-12 to Bertrand Rd	2.6 miles	HMA Overlay	2026	Berrien County Road Department	\$167,923	\$41,828	\$209,750
Pokagon Street	Pokagon St from 2nd St to 5th St	0.25 miles	Milling & Asphalt Overlay (1.5")	2026	City of Niles	\$391,078	\$108,923	\$500,000
Ontario Road	Ontario Rd from Third St to County Line	1.5 miles	Milling & Asphalt Overlay (1.5")	2027	Berrien County Road Department	\$250,000	\$400,000	\$650,000
Redfield Street	Redfield St from Countyline to Batchelor Rd	1 mile	Asphalt Overlay (1.5")	2027	Cass County Road Commission	\$156,350	\$34,650	\$191,000
Redfield Street	Redfield St from Fir Rd to Kline Rd	1.5 miles	Asphalt Overlay (1.5")	2027	Cass County Road Commission	\$164,650	\$103,650	\$268,300
Redfield Street	Redfield St from M 62 to Brande Creek / Gast Ditch	0.85 miles	Asphalt Overlay (1.5")	2028	Cass County Road Commission	\$98,461	\$60,039	\$158,500
Terminal Road	Terminal Rd from Lake St to Progressive	1.1 miles	Milling & Asphalt Overlay (1.5")	2028	City of Niles	\$186,361	\$113,639	\$300,000
Sycamore Street	Sycamore St from Front St to 5th St	0.25 miles	Milling & Asphalt Overlay (1.5")	2028	City of Niles	\$173,937	\$106,063	\$280,000
Broadway Street	Broadway St from N 5th St to S 10th St	0.3 miles	Milling & Asphalt Overlay (1.5")	2028	City of Niles	\$124,241	\$75,759	\$200,000
E. Main Street	E Main St from City limits to County line	0.75 miles	Milling & Asphalt Overlay (1.5")	2029	Berrien County Road Department	\$276,125	\$123,875	\$400,000
Ironwood Drive	Ironwood Dr from Redfield St to Bell Rd	1.85 miles	Asphalt Overlay (1.5")	2029	Cass County Road Commission	\$317,875	\$133,125	\$451,000
Niles Buchanan Road	Niles Buchanan Rd from City of Niles limits to US-31	1.8 miles	Milling & Asphalt Overlay (1.5")	IL	Berrien County Road Department	\$450,000	\$300,000	\$750,000
Third Street	Third St from Fulkerson St to Ontario Rd	1 mile	Milling & Asphalt Overlay (1.5")	IL	Berrien County Road Department	\$409,250	\$90,750	\$500,000
Redfield Street	Redfield St from Kline Rd to Conrad Rd	1 mile	Asphalt Overlay (1.5")	IL	Cass County Road Commission	\$144,465	\$32,035	\$176,500
17th Street	17th St from E Main St to Oak St	0.5 miles	Milling & Asphalt Overlay (1.5")	IL	City of Niles	\$188,255	\$41,745	\$230,000
17th Street	17th St from Oak St to Eagle St	0.5 miles	Milling & Asphalt Overlay (1.5")	IL	City of Niles	\$188,255	\$41,745	\$230,000
17th Street	17th St from Eagle St. to Lake St	0.5 miles	Milling & Asphalt Overlay (1.5")	IL	City of Niles	\$245,550	\$54,450	\$300,000

IL are Illustrative projects, which are projects that may be funded if additional funding becomes available.

Rural Task Force Funded Projects within the NATS Planning Area 2026-2029

Fiscal Year	Agency	Project	Length	Work	Federal Funding	State D	Local Funding	Total Estimate
2026	Cass CRC	Fir Rd from Redfield Rd to US-12	1.0 mi	Asphalt Overlay (1.5")	\$194,256	\$50,000	\$30,744	\$275,000
2029	Cass CRC	Old 205 from Stateline to US-12	1.68 mi	Milling & Asphalt Overlay (1.5")	\$225,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$275,000
2029	Cass CRC	Bell Rd from Ironwood Dr to US-12	0.4 mi	Asphalt Overlay (1.5")	\$70,200	\$0	\$15,570	\$85,770

Approved by the Region 4 RTF on January, 15, 2025

Proposed Berrien CMAQ & NATS CRP funded projects within the NATS Planning Area 2026-2029

Fiscal Year	Agency	Project	CMAQ	NATS CRP	State CTF	Total Estimate
2026	Niles DART	Replace a 1 Bus	\$92,000	\$65,000	\$39,250	\$196,250
2027	Niles DART	Replace a 1 Bus	\$92,000	\$66,000	\$39,500	\$197,500
2028	Niles DART	Replace a 1 Bus	\$92,000	\$68,000	\$40,000	\$200,000
2029	Niles DART	Replace a 1 Bus	\$92,000	\$69,000	\$40,250	\$201,250

Approved by the Berrien CMAQ Committee on November 13, 2024