

**Niles Multi-Modal Plan**  
**Steering Committee Meeting – February 27, 2014**

**Meeting Notes-**

**FINAL MEETING OF THE MULTI MODAL PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE**

**Attendance:**

John Jekot, Village Board

Jack Pfingston, CMAP

Bruce Sylvester, Village of Niles

Eric Lambrechts, Niles Police Department

Mike Shields, Niles resident

Charlotte O'Donnell, Pace Bus

Rudy Kubica, Rudy's Cycle

Joe Reichert, Amlings Cycle

Louella Preston, Niles resident

Aren Kriks, I-DOT

*Consultants:*

Stacey Meekins, SSE

Vig Krishnamurthy, SSE

**Minutes from 12-12-2013:**

John Jekot asked that his name be added to the list of those who attended the meeting. John Jekot then moved and Erich Lambrechts seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2013 meeting with the one suggested revision. Motion passed.

**Review of 'Acknowledgements' Section:**

Bruce Sylvester handed-out the 'Acknowledgements' page and noted that it would be placed as the first page of the plan. No comments.

**Implementation Discussion:**

Stacey Meekins distributed the latest version of the implementation section and provided an overview. Mike Shields asked if the implementation plan is too aggressive. Jack Pfingston stated that this implementation plan—as drafted—is more detailed and better than other plans that CMAP has seen and funded. Mike S. asked if Niles is obligated to implement this plan, since we've used \$90,000 of CMAPs' money to create it. Jack P. responded that the short answer is 'yes'. Louella Preston asked if this plan becomes integrated into the Villages 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Mike S. responded that it does not really become a part of that plan, but rather this Bike-Pedestrian plan fulfills one of the goals of the 2030 Plan. Bruce Sylvester stated that this item will be presented to the Village Board at its March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting for approval/adoption. Mike S. asked if we could get some advocates to that meeting to encourage the Village Board to adopt this plan. Bruce S. distributed a sign-up sheet for members of the Steering Committee who could come to the meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> to present it to the Board. Bruce will also try to contact some of the people who spoke passionately during the various pop-up meetings to see if they could attend on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Bruce will also put-out a press release notifying local news outlets about this plan and its presentation to the Village Board. Louella P. noted that a word was missing on page 62 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> line down from the top in the 'Recommendation' column. Stacey M. noted that the missing word is 'crossings' and she will add it to the final plan before it is distributed.

**Police Department and Implementation of the Safety Components of the Plan:**

Eric Lambrechts of the Niles Police Department provided an overview of the Police's efforts to enforce laws in the Village to promote safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. Mike S commented that Niles is a 'car-centric' community and it is dangerous for walkers. Bruce S. mentioned the effectiveness of red-light cameras at catching vehicles that do not stop at red lights. Stacey M.

noted that Recommendation No. 48 addresses that issue, and encouraged the Village to rotate where enforcement occurs—through the use of squad cars rather than stationary red-light cameras—as a means to enforce traffic laws. Rudy Kubica asked if Recommendation No. 3 on page 62 could be expanded to encompass/include Cleveland Avenue, which led to a discussion about how to improve pedestrian crossings at Cleveland and Caldwell. Stacey M. will make that change. Aren Kirks discussed that I-DOT will not approve HAWK signals such as suggested in the plan. Stacey M. stated that the plan provides for flexibility in which types of enhancements are provided, and said over time I-DOT may begin to allow/approve features that they currently do not allow.

Jack P. suggested that as the Village considers implementing this plan, it may wish to prioritize non-budget items or 'low-cost' items such as Recommendation No. 6. He said that 'low-cost/high-impact' changes can have the most 'bang for the buck' and generate the most positive response from the community. Mike S. agreed that the plan needs to be implemented and that the public likes to see results. He encouraged staff to 'keep it warm—keep the public informed' about efforts to implement this plan.

**Next Steps/Village Board Adoption:**

Mike S. asked when/how the Village Board will receive this plan. Bruce S. responded that it will be presented to them at their March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, at which time they will be asked to approve/adopt it. Mike S. asked that the plan be distributed to the members of the Village Board as far in advance of the 25<sup>th</sup> as possible—so they have time to review it given its length and amount of detail.

Motion by Mike S. seconded by John J. to approve the 'Village of Niles Multi-Modal Transportation Plan' and recommend that the Village Board approve and adopt the plan. Motion passed unanimously.

Charlotte O'Donnell announced a 'Transport Chicago' event to be held in early June and encouraged people to sign-up for the event at [TransportChicago.org](http://TransportChicago.org).

Bruce S. thanked everyone on the Multi- Modal Plan Steering Committee for their time and efforts overseeing the creation of this plan.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.