

Rural Task Force #3 Meeting

January 6, 2015

Kalamazoo County Road Commission - Kalamazoo, MI

Members in Attendance:

Trent Arver	Branch County Road Commission
Christopher Bolt	Calhoun County Road Department
Tom Hohm	Kalamazoo County Road Commission
Brad Lamberg	Barry County Road Commission
Chris Minger	St. Joseph County Road Commission

Others in Attendance:

Megan Arndt	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Kara Derrickson	Branch Area Transit Authority
Joe Eichorn	Park Township
Marc Elliott	Oshtemo Township
Kelly Kanaan	St. Joseph County Transportation Authority
Angela Kline	Calhoun County Road Department
Sean McBride	Kalamazoo Metro Transit
Ryan Minkus	Kalamazoo County Road Commission
Garrett Myland	St. Joseph County Road Commission
Randy Smith	Brady Township
Jodi Stefforia	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Steve Stepek	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Jake Welch	Barry County Road Commission
Steve Yorks	St. Joseph County Transportation Authority

Call to Order

Chairperson Trent Arver called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission.

Elect Officers

Trent Arver noted that elections are held in odd-numbered years with two year terms for the offices of Chair and Vice Chair. MOTION by Lamberg ***to select Tom Hohm for Chair***, SUPPORT by Minger. Motion passed. MOTION by Lamberg ***to select Christopher Bolt as Vice Chair***, SUPPORT by Hohm. Motion passed.

Approval of Previous Minutes

No comments or changes were presented to minutes from the April 22, 2014 meeting.

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MOTION by Arver, SUPPORT by Lamberg, ***“to approve the April 22, 2014 Rural Task Force #3 Minutes as presented.”*** Motion passed.

Changes to RTF Program

Lamberg noted that the County Road Association of Michigan (CRA) and MDOT have established two committees to address RTF issues. One committee is focused on the future of the RTF program and its administration and the other committee is working on the outstanding questions and issues with respect to the changes imposed effective with the end of fiscal year '13. There were no updates on how the payback will occur for agencies that had a negative balance at the end of fiscal year 2013 or how agencies with a positive balance might receive the balance of the funds, i.e., the second phase.

Arver asked if the RTF program allowed for advance construct when using RTF money. Stepek replied that you can advance construct with STP money but probably not with Category D funding.

Changes to Rural Task Force #3 Member Counties

It was noted that with implementation of the Regional Prosperity Initiative, Barry County will eventually be removed from this task force and join the rural task force in the Grand region. It was discussed that funding to individual task forces is based on mileage and population. Timing as to when Barry will no longer be part of rural task force #3 is unknown as well as what happens to any positive or negative balance (per MDOT county-specific targets) 'carried' by Barry County at the date of the transition. It was suggested that this topic be kept on future agendas until the transition occurs as well as the topic of crafting formal agreements between counties that lend/borrow funds in a program year.

Review of FY 2015-2017 Projects

Stepek reminded everyone that the program still needs to be constrained each year and it is unlikely that MDOT will approve the program if there are any changes that affect constraint in any year.

Hohm noted that Kalamazoo County does not have a 2017 project due to cuts made at the last meeting in order to constrain the program.

In response to a question of out-year project planning, Stepek noted that the RTF program follows the STIP years and no funding targets have been provided yet by MDOT for 2018 or beyond. He added that the RTF is a 4-year program with one year of overlap so we'll develop a program for 2018 – 2020 with one year of overlap (2017 – which is already programmed). He reminded everyone that 2018 will not come with county targets as MDOT has done in the past; MODT will provide a target for the task force as a whole. KATS staff will, however, breakdown the target into county-specific levels per past funding allocations.

Regarding changes to the 2015 - 2017 program, Arver stated that Branch County's two 2015 Division Road projects need to be delayed until 2016. After some discussion, Arver stated that he is able to move up an equivalent amount of work programmed for preventative maintenance in 2016 to 2015 so as to move the Division Road projects to 2016.

Lamberg indicated that Barry County's 2016 programmed pavement markings project needs to be pushed back to 2017 or 2018. Lamberg suggested that the \$290,000 in pavement markings be added to Branch County preventative maintenance in 2016 and Arver agreed to take \$290,000 from the Branch County cold pavement recycling project in 2017 and add a pavement marking project for Barry County in the same amount. Lamberg noted that this is the type of agreement that should be formalized in a document for future reference.

MOTION by Arver, SUPPORT by Minger **to approve the following changes to the 2014-2017 program:**

Move 2015 Branch County Division Road projects (\$196,000) to 2016; add \$196,000 to 2015 Branch County countywide Preventative Maintenance; remove \$196,000 from 2016 Branch County countywide Preventative Maintenance to remain constrained for 2015 and 2016.

Move 2016 Barry County Pavement Markings (\$290,000) to 2017, allocate that \$290,000 to 2016 Branch County countywide Preventative Maintenance. Reduce 2017 Branch County Cold Pavement Recycling by \$290,000 to accommodate Barry County's \$290,000 2017 Pavement Markings project to remain constrained for 2017.

Motion passed.

Hohm stated that if funding were to become available for 2017, he would request that continuation of the 42nd Street project in Kalamazoo County be considered for funding as it was necessary to put an additional \$100,000 in local funding toward it.

Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

Other Business

Arver noted that he would like the specific projects added to the 'old style' spreadsheet, not just the county totals for each year and that the spreadsheet be kept current.

Steppek stated that the next round of local rural task force meetings next fiscal year will address years 2018-2020, mirroring the STIP years. KATS will provide county-specific targets in advance. There is no need for the local task forces to meet this year unless there are local project changes.

Regarding bid savings and overages, presently, the program is run pro-rata. If projects are under the estimate, the savings are used by MDOT to balance the RTF program statewide. Bid savings do not stay in the individual rural task force. If a project is significantly under, a local agency could argue that they or their task force should get those funds to apply to another project or a new project

Steppek urged the members to let KATS know if any of their project bids come in low or a project may not move ahead so that the full task force can meet and reprogram the funds.

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Adjourn

MOTION by Bold, SUPPORT by Arver, “to adjourn the meeting.” Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Minutes approved: January 12, 2016

Questions or comments on these minutes can be directed to:

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