

# Rural Task Force #3 Meeting

*February 24, 2014*

*Kalamazoo County Road Commission - Kalamazoo, MI*

## ***In Attendance:***

Jake Welsh	Barry County Road Commission
Trent Arver	Branch County Road Commission
Kara Derrickson	Branch Area Transit Authority
Callie Melton	Priorities Michigan
Darrell Harden	Michigan Department of Transportation
Tom Hohm	Kalamazoo County Road Commission
Sean McBride	Kalamazoo Metro Transit
Christopher Bolt	St. Joseph County Road Commission
Angela Kline	Calhoun County Road Department
Jerry Peterson	Calhoun County Road Department
Joanna Johnson	Kalamazoo County Road Commission
Randy Smith	Brady Township
Thomas Swiat, Jr.	Prairie Ronde Township
Brad Lamberg	Barry County Road Commission
Chris Minger	St. Joseph County Road Commission
Ann Nieuwenhuis	Comstock Township
Kathy Schultz	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Steve Stepek	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Jodi Stefforia	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Taylor Raupp	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Steve Yorks	St. Joseph County Transportation Authority

## ***Handouts:***

Minutes of March 13, 2013 Full RTF Meeting  
Task Force #3 County Balance Sheets 2014-2017  
New Rural Task Force Guidelines  
Draft Bylaws

## ***Call to Order***

Vice-Chairperson Tom Hohm called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission. The meeting started off with the Pledge of Allegiance and introduction of those in attendance.

**Review of Current Voting Members of the Rural Task Force #3**

The current voting members of Rural Task Force #3 are:

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

**Approval of Additional Voting Members**

Darrell Harden represents Michigan Department of Transportation as a voting member of the full Rural Task Force on State Category D funds only.

**Approval of Previous Local Rural Task Force Minutes (March 13, 2013) (handout)**

No comments or changes were presented.

MOTION by Hohm, SUPPORT by Lamberg, **“to approve the March 13, 2013 Rural Task Force #3 Minutes as presented.”** Motion approved.

**Changes to RTF Guidelines**

The Rural Task Force now requires financial constraint at the full rural task force level, where Surface Transportation Program (STP) must be balanced per fiscal year. Fiscal years can no longer be over-programmed, and any remaining funds in a year cannot be carried over. Additionally, the Rural Task Force (RTF) now has the ability to borrow from another task force if it is repaid within the program period and with the consent of the committee. The new guidelines require managing the four years of Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) which is locked-in, giving more assurance to funding levels and allowing for increased flexibility among the counties of the task force. It is still not known how MDOT will manage those task forces across the state that had a negative balance at the end of fiscal year 2013 due to previously allowed over-programming.

**Review of FY 2013 - 2017 Projects by Local Rural Task Forces (handout)**

The latest budget sheet shows many issues with funding in the next several years. FY 2014 needs to be reduced by more than \$200,000, while FY 2015 and 2016 are under-programmed, and 2017 is significantly over-programmed.

Darrell Harden of MDOT suggested that the task force develop a prioritized illustrative list to facilitate a quick turnaround in the event that bid savings allow for the selection of an additional project(s). The members concurred that illustrative projects will be discussed at the April meeting of the full task force.

Any projects that can be delayed a year or split into two years would help in decreasing over spending. Tom Hohm suggested splitting the Transit request for 2014. Sean McBride of Kalamazoo Metro Transit stated that the funding would be applied towards the purchase of new vans that are in need of replacement and that, if possible, the purchase can be split into 2014/2015 purchases.

Trent Arver offered to switch Branch County's STP funds for 2014 in order to balance the 2014 budget. \$200,000 would be moved from 2014 to 2015 in Branch County under preventative maintenance. The new amount for fiscal year 2014 would be \$490,800 and the \$200,000 would be identified as preventative maintenance in 2015.

MOTION by Lamberg, SUPPORT by Peterson, **"to move \$200,000 in STP funds for Branch County in fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2015."** Motion Approved.

Calhoun County requested that their 2017 project on 25 ½ Mile Road be moved from FY 2017 to FY 2015.

MOTION by Peterson, SUPPORT by Hohm, **"to move the FY 2017 25 ½ Mile Road project for Calhoun County to FY 2015."** Motion Approved.

In FY 2017, after moving the Calhoun County project, a negative balance of \$600,000 was still shown. In order to balance out FY 2017, the Kalamazoo County Road Commission would move their D Avenue project and Kalamazoo Metro Transit would move their van purchase to the illustrative. A balance of approximately \$14,000 would then be obligated to Barry County's Lawrence Road project.

MOTION by Peterson, Support by Hohm, **"to move the Kalamazoo FY 2017 projects to Illustrative and to add the balance of FY 2017 STP to the FY 2017 Barry County Road Commission's Lawrence Road project."** Motion Approved.

The committee looked at the TEDF funds for the program. At this time, the Rural Task force is moving towards clearing the negative balance. Darrell Harden noted that the group was making progress towards clearing that balance.

MOTION by Harden, Support by Lamberg, **"to leave the TEDF amounts in the FY 2014-2017 programs as part of the submittal to MDOT."** Motion Approved.

### **Public Comment**

Callie Melton from Priorities Michigan stated that some of the topics covered in today's meeting are relevant to work being done by Priorities Michigan, and that some of the issues that the RTF is currently dealing with might benefit from initiatives that are being worked on by Priorities Michigan.

### **Rural Task Force Bylaws Discussion**

A copy of the draft Rural Task Force Bylaws were provided at the local Rural Task Force meetings for review and discussion. MDOT is interested in the Rural Task Forces around the State adopting bylaws to better outline the process. The bylaws' adoption is not required, but are just an advisement. There was a consensus that bylaws will not be adopted at this time, and will be reconsidered at April's meeting.

Tom Hohm asked the committee to consider target fund amounts developed using population and lane mileage as presented in the information from MDOT. This would allow each county to have a target amount in each fiscal year. This could also be considered in the bylaws.

MOTION by Hohm, **“to work with KATS to designate targets using population and lane miles as a percentage in order to have target fund amounts.”** The Motion died due to lack of SUPPORT.

Other members stated that they felt that they already abide by similar unofficial policies and felt that supporting this motion would seem uncooperative on a regional scale and would limit their ability to be flexible at the meetings.

***Other Business***

The next meeting of the Rural Task Force will be in April, 2014. Potential dates for this meeting will be announced soon.

Steve Stepek identified that there was an all-season map available for the members to review. Any all-season route map updates should be submitted to KATS.

***Adjourn***

MOTION by Peterson, SUPPORT by Hohm, **“to adjourn the meeting.”** Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

*Questions or comments on these minutes can be directed to:*

*Taylor Raupp  
Associate Planner  
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study  
(269) 343-0766 traupp@katsmpo.org*