

Rural Task Force #3 Meeting

January 12, 2016

Road Commission of Kalamazoo County - Kalamazoo, MI

Members in Attendance:

Trent Arver	Branch County Road Commission
Christopher Bolt	Calhoun County Road Department
Ryan Minkus	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Jake Welch	Barry County Road Commission
Garrett Myland	St. Joseph County Road Commission
Darrell Harden	Michigan Department of Transportation

Others in Attendance:

Jeff Sorensen	Cooper Township
Carl Newton	City of Galesburg
Mark Worden	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Geoff Wilson	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Mark Honeysett	Village of Constantine
Douglas Peck	Barry County Road Commission
Angela Kline	Calhoun County Road Department
Steve Stepek	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Megan Arndt	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Fred Nagler	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study

Call to Order

Vice-Chair Bolt called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. at the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County.

Election of Officers

With current chairperson Tom Hohm no longer working for a member agency, it was necessary to elect a new chair. MOTION by Welch, SUPPORT by Arver, ***“to select Christopher Bolt for Chair.”*** Motion passed.

With former Vice-Chair Bolt now Chair, it was necessary to elect a new Vice-Chair. MOTION by Arver, SUPPORT by Myland, ***“to select Jake Welch as Vice Chair.”*** Motion passed.

Chair Bolt asked if there were any public comments prior to continuing with the Agenda. There were no comments.

Approval of Previous Minutes

No comments or changes were presented to minutes from the January 6, 2015 meeting.

MOTION by Arver, SUPPORT by Welch, ***“to approve the January 6, 2015 Rural Task Force #3 Minutes as presented.”*** Motion passed.

Changes to RTF Program

Harden outlined changes to the Rural Task Force program that resulted in a reduction of target amounts for the previously approved 2016 and 2017 programs as well as lower than historically typical target amounts for 2018 – 2020. He also noted that as there are currently changes afoot that could lead to an increase in funding and target amounts, agencies are encouraged to include illustrative projects in their programs.

Changes to 2016 and 2017 Projects

Due to the changes in target amounts noted earlier by Harden, it was necessary to reduce programmed totals for the remainder of the current 4-year plan. A reduction of \$387,636 in STL programming was needed for 2016; reductions of \$710,181 in STL and \$44,396 in EDD programming were needed for 2017.

Steppek suggested that the easiest solution would be to have each county’s share of the reduction be the same percentage of the total reduction needed as their respective target amounts are to the Region #3 total target.

Klein questioned whether the approach suggested by Steppek would adequately address historical give and take by counties, as some forewent funding in previous years in order to be able to program one larger project in ’16 or ’17. Steppek felt that it would, as the give and take was balanced out over the 4-year program.

MOTION by Arver, SUPPORT by Welch, ***“to approve reducing each county’s total programming amount for 2016 and 2017 by the same percentage of the total Region reduction needed as their target amount is of the Regional total target.”***

During discussion of the motion, Welch suggested that it would be more fair to all if, rather than using percentage of target amount, the percentage of the previously approved programming amount be applied to the total needed. It was pointed out that that approach would lead to a significantly larger cut for Barry County in 2017.

AMENDED MOTION by Arver, SUPPORT by Welch ***“to approve reducing each county’s total programmed amount for 2016 and 2017 by the same percentage of the Region total reduction needed as their previously approved programmed amount is of the Region total programmed amount.”***

Harden noted that per Region #3 Bylaws he is only eligible to vote on motions for State funding.

AMENDED MOTION by Arver, SUPPORT by Welch, ***“to approve reducing each county’s total STL programmed amount for 2016 and 2017 by the same percentage of the Region total reduction needed as their previously approved programmed amount is of the Region total programmed amount.”*** Motion Passed

MOTION by Arver, SUPPORT by Welch, ***“to approve reducing each county’s total EDD programming amount for 2017 by the same percentage of the Region total reduction needed as their previously approved programmed amount is of the Region total programmed amount.”*** Motion Passed

Harden suggested that any changes, done to meet the approved programming reduction, that are in excess of approved administrative amendment amounts would need to be voted on by the full Task Force.

Myland requested that if an increase in funding makes implementation of illustrative projects possible, St. Joseph County’s illustrative projects be given first preference for approval.

MOTION by Myland, SUPPORT by Arver, ***“to give first preference to St. Joseph County if funding for illustrative projects becomes available for 2016 or 2017.”*** Motion Passed.

MOTION by Welch, SUPPORT by Arver, ***“to allow member counties to make changes to previously approved 2016 and 2017 projects in excess of administrative amendment amounts until January 31, 2016 in order to meet revised funding targets.”***

During discussion of the motion Harden raised concerns of lack of public notification for such changes.

AMENDED MOTION by Welch, SUPPORT by Arver, ***“to allow member counties to make changes to previously approved 2016 and 2017 projects in excess of administrative amendment amounts until January 31, 2016 and that the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study will post any such changes to the Southcentral Michigan Planning Council’s Region #3 website page for public notice.”*** Motion Passed.

Proposed 2018 - 2020 Projects

Discussion was opened regarding 2018 - 2020 projects as approved at the November sub-taskforce meetings.

St; Joseph County proposed changing their 2020 Covered Bridge project to Youngs Prairie Road, keeping the budget as proposed.

Barry County proposed breaking out \$290,000 in STL funding from their 2018 Countywide Maintenance project to create a Countywide Pavement Marking project. The 2018 EDD funding would remain as proposed.

MOTION by Arver, SUPPORT by Harden, ***“to approve the EDD portion of the proposed 2018 to 2020 projects with the stipulation that all counties will abide by the target restraint.”*** Motion Passed

MOTION by Welch, SUPPORT by Minkus, ***“to approve the STL portion of the proposed 2018 to 2020 projects, amended as proposed by St. Joseph and Barry Counties.”*** Motion Passed

Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

Other Business

Arver asked what procedures should be used in the future to make arrangements between counties to swap funding across fiscal years. It was noted that such arrangements make it possible for counties to program larger projects, which should allow them to realize savings due to scale. This benefits everyone. Stepek suggested that the 2017-2020 Call for Projects document contains a sample agreement for similar arrangements between Task Forces that could be adapted by the counties to memorialize such arrangements. Stepek also suggested that any such cycle of funding swaps be completed within each four year call period. This would minimize the likelihood of problems when creating new programs.

Bolt asked where the change of Barry County to Region 8B stands. Stepek noted that there is still no pending State legislation to make that move possible. Welch noted that Brad Lamberg keeps close track on what the legislature does and it is his feeling that the longer they go without making the change the less likely it is to happen. Welch also recommended that, due to uncertainty with Barry County's status as a member of RTF #3, that any deals for swapping funding across fiscal years be limited to a two year window.

Bolt passed out a fact sheet regarding the new federal transportation funding (FAST) act.

In anticipation of increased funding levels as a result of new federal and state legislation, a meeting time of 1:30 p.m. on March 2, 2016 was set for the full task force to reconvene to address possible program changes. The meeting will be held at the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County.

Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Minutes approved: March 2, 2016

Questions or comments on these minutes can be directed to:

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