

Meeting Minutes
Three Rivers Small Urban Area Meeting
April 14, 2021

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. The meeting was held on Microsoft Teams in accordance with the Kalamazoo County State of Emergency allowing remote participation by parties subject to the Michigan Open Meetings Act.

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Introductions

The following individuals were in attendance:

Alan Balog, St. Joseph County Transit Authority

Gail Huff, St. Joseph County Transit Authority

Garrett Myland, St. Joseph County Road Commission

Amy Roth, City of Three Rivers

Fred Nagler, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study for Southcentral Michigan Planning Commission

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

No Comments were offered.

Review of Voting Members

Voting members, entitled to a single vote each, were identified as Myland for the County Road Commission, Balog for the Transit Authority and Roth for the City of Three Rivers.

HIP/COVID Funding

Nagler presented an overview of the recently approved Highway Infrastructure Program, (HIP/COVID) funding. The Michigan Department of Transportation has allocated \$81,204 in federal HIP/COVID funding with no local match required to each Small Urban area in the state. Funds cannot be used to match other federal funding but may be applied to overmatch amounts on previously programmed and unobligated projects. Agencies have until fiscal year 2024 to obligate funding, though MDOT has encouraged those Small Urban areas not in line for funding in 2024 to obligate funding for approved projects as early as possible. Eligibility for funding is the same as for regular STP federal funding. In addition, there are specific special eligibilities outside of typical projects. If agencies are interested in programming one of the special eligibilities, they must be approved by the Federal Highway Administration. Currently there is not much guidance available on how to program and document the special eligibilities, but agencies can contact Mark Kloha, Michigan Department of Transportation Small Urban Program Manager, and he will help them navigate the process.

Myland stated the Road Commission is also eligible for HIP/COVID funding through the Rural Task Force program and as such they feel that the Small Urban funding is more appropriately use for the municipal or transit agencies. Roth and Balog both said that they are in the process of gathering information on HIP/COVID funding and are not prepared to put forth any projects for consideration at this time. They

expect to arrive at a preliminary agreement on sharing the funding and will contact Nagler to convene another public meeting at which they will each present their proposed projects for approval.

Roth asked if the funding could be added to their existing 2021 Small Urban project, which is significantly overmatched. Nagler stated that yes, they could, as long as the funding is not yet obligated. Roth stated that it is not and they expect to obligate the project in August for construction in 2022

Discussion/Action on Projects for FY 2021 - 2023

Myland stated that he recently realized that the project programmed for 2023 is partially on non-federal aid eligible roads. Their Road Commission is waiting to hear on the outcome of an application for other funding for their next project on the approved priority list. Pending the result the Road Commission will return with a proposal for a replacement to the currently approved 2023 project

Public Comments

No public comments were offered

Other Business

No other business was brought forth for consideration.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 A.M.

Minutes prepared:
April 14, 2021