

# Rural Task Force #3 Meeting

*April 7, 2021*

## *Online Microsoft Teams Meeting*

### **Members in Attendance:**

Jay Miller	Branch County Road Commission
Ryan Minkus	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Garrett Myland	St. Joseph County Road Commission
Kristine Parsons	Calhoun County Road Department
Jake Welch	Chair - Barry County Road Commission, Chair
Brian Sanada	MDOT SW Region Planning

### **Others in Attendance:**

Allen Balog	St. Joseph County Transportation Authority
Kara Derrickson	Branch Area Transit Authority
Josh Grab	MDOT – Rural Task Force Program Manager
Gail Huff	St. Joseph County Transportation Authority
Brian Kernstock	Calhoun County Road Department
Mark Kloha	MDOT – Small Urban Task Force Manager
Sean McBride	Kalamazoo Metro
Bill Voigt	Barry County Transit Authority
Fred Nagler	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study/SMPC
Steve Stepek	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study/SMPC
Ali Townshend	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study/SMPC

### **Call to Order**

Chair Welch called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. The meeting was held online in accordance with the Kalamazoo County State of Emergency Declaration allowing continued virtual participation by parties subject to the Michigan Open Meetings Act.

### **Approval of March 5, 2021 Rural Task Force #3 Meeting Minutes**

Several minor changes were proposed.

MOTION by Parsons, SUPPORT by Minkus, ***“to approve the March 5, 2021 Rural Task Force #3 Meeting Minutes amended as proposed.”*** Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

**Items Tabled from March 5, 2021 Meeting**

**Request from Marshall Dial-A-Ride to repurpose unspent flexed funding from vehicle purchase to purchase of office furniture:**

At the March 5 meeting, RTF members asked that that specific information on the original project be provided before they consider taking action. In the absence of representation from Marshall Dial-A-Ride, Nagler presented the Project Number, obligation and final costs, and remaining unspent funding that was flexed to transit.

MOTION by Parsons, SUPPORT by Minkus, ***“to approve the repurposing of unspent funding from the Marshall Dial-A-Ride Job Number 120306 from a vehicle purchase to the purchase of office furniture.”*** Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

**Request from Barry County Transit Authority to repurpose unspent flexed funding:**

At the March 5 meeting RTF members asked that Barry County Transit Authority present a specific project request for the use of repurposed funding before they consider taking action. Voigt presented the request, stating that they propose the purchase of a 2 post vehicle lift with leftover funding flexed to transit from 2017.

MOTION by Welch, SUPPORT by Parsons, ***“to approved the repurposing of unspent funding from the 2017 Barry County Transit Authority project to the purchase of a vehicle lift.”*** Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

**Review of 2021 - 2023 Projects**

Nagler shared the current fiscal constraint tracking spreadsheet.

Parsons said that the Calhoun County Road Department would like to rescind their previously approved request to apply HIP/COVID funding to their 2023 28 Mile Road Project, leaving the federal and state funding as programmed.

MOTION by Parsons, SUPPORT by Welch, ***“to approve the removal of \$281,471 in HIP/COVID funding from project number 207765 in 2023.”*** Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Minkus stated that the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County wants to add \$1.35 Million in local funding to their 2022 S. Avenue project.

MOTION by Minkus, SUPPORT by Welch, ***“to add, \$1.35 Million in local funding to the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County’s 2023 S Avenue Project, Job Number 205411.”*** Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Welch said that Barry County Road Commission has come to an agreement with Oakland County to sell their 2022 STP allocation.

**HIP/COVID Funding**

Grab indicated that capacity for programming HIP/COVID funding into regular jobs is now available. For specially eligibility category jobs, only Preventive maintenance is currently available. The remaining categories are not yet enabled in JobNet. MDOT has been looking into the use of HIP funding for routine

maintenance on non-federal aid roads and it appears at this point that it will be allowed. Debt Service repayment can cover almost any activity if an agency can show a loss of revenue.

Myland asked if documentation of CRA and MTF fund changes can be used to demonstrate loss of revenue. Grab indicated that it can but agencies might want to show what activities they had intended for the revenue before it was lost. He said that special eligibility categories will be under increased scrutiny for future audits. Myland asked if spending down fund balances as a result of revenue reduction would count. Grab suggested that if the specific question is emailed to him he will check with the federal government for guidance.

Stepek suggested that agencies talk to their finance person to be sure that they are comfortable getting audited under the conditions for special eligibility scenarios they are considering. If they are not comfortable he recommended that they consider using the HIP/COVID funding on a physical project.

Nagler asked and Grab confirmed that programming HIP/COVID funding for special eligibility categories will need to be approved by the full Rural Task Force.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

**Other Business**

Minkus said that the RCKC is in the process of doing virtual public information meeting for projects. Anyone interested in attending can go to the RCKC website's project page to get information on how to join meetings. He said that a recent survey has shown that costs for HMA have doubled and those for Bridge work have tripled over the last year and that those reflect what the County has seen. The RCKC is hosting a presentation by the Michigan State Police on how speed limits are set. The presentation, which will take place on April 20 at 9:00 a.m. is geared toward local officials and he might be able to get RTF members in if they are interested.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

**Minutes approved: \_\_\_\_\_, 2021**

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

*Fred Nagler  
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Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study  
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