

Rural Task Force #3 Meeting

April 7, 2021

Online Microsoft Teams Meeting

Members in Attendance:

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| 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:

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| 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 20 years 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: December 8, 2021

Questions or comments on these minutes can be directed to:

*Fred Nagler
Associate Planner
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
fnagler@katsmpo.org*