

Rural Task Force #3 Meeting

December 8, 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
Fred Featherly	MDOT – Office of Passenger Transportation
Josh Grab	MDOT – Rural Task Force Program Manager
Gail Huff	St. Joseph County Transportation Authority
Brian Kernstock	Calhoun County Road Department
Sean McBride	Kalamazoo Metro
Patricia Rayl	Village of Middleville
Hailey Savola	ROWE Professional Services Company
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 11:00 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. Voting members Miller, Minkus, Myland, Parsons, Welch and Grab (substituting for Sanada as voting member for MDOT on State D Economic Development projects) introduced themselves and stated the county and township from which they were participating.

Approval of the December 8, 2021 Meeting Agenda

MOTION by Minkus, ***SUPPORT*** by Parsons, ***“to approve the agenda as presented.”*** Motion approved unanimous on a roll call vote.

Approval of April 7, 2021 Rural Task Force #3 Meeting Minutes

Minkus suggested a minor change, which had been emailed earlier to Nagler. MOTION by Minkus, SUPPORT by Parsons **“to approve the minutes of the April 7 RTF #3 meeting, amended as proposed.”** Motion approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

Review of 2022 Projects

Nagler shared an image of the fiscal constraint spreadsheet for 2022. He noted that the program was constrained except for Branch County, which was over-programmed by \$24,000, the cost of the City of Bronson’s Matteson Street project. MOTION by Miller, SUPPORT by Welch, **“to reduce the federal portion the Branch County 2022 Countywide Preventive Maintenance project Job Number 206967 by \$24,000.”** Motion approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

Myland said that Youngs Prairie Road in St. Joseph County will be moved back several years and the Road Commission would like to propose a different project in its stead, using the same job number. It was noted that the change in projects was approved at the St. Joseph County RTF meeting in November. MOTION by Myland, SUPPORT by Minkus, **“to change the location of St. Joseph County’s Job Number 205793 to Fawn River Road from Mill Pond Road to Balk Road using \$281,000 in STL, \$272,404 in EDD and \$225,153 in HIP/COVID funding and to add a new project on Angevine Road/Leland Road/Silver Street from Wakeman Road to N. Angling Road using \$300,000 in STL and \$75,000 in Local funding.”** Motion approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

Featherly said that Branch County transit has a previously approved project for facility roof repairs. The project was delayed for several years. As a result, the roof is no longer repairable and must be replaced and the project cost has increased. To cover the cost, Branch County Transit Authority is requesting \$10,400 in 2022 STL funding for a vehicle purchase, which would allow money to be transferred to the roof replacement. Miller stated that the Road Commission would be willing to reduce the amount of STL on their 2022 project by the amount of the request in addition to the previously approved reduction. MOTION by Miller, SUPPORT by Parsons, **“to approve a vehicle purchase project for the Branch County Transit Authority using \$10,400 in STL and the reduction in the amount of STL programmed for Branch County Road Commission’s Countywide Preventive Maintenance project in the same amount to preserve fiscal constraint.”** Motion approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

2023 – 2026 Call For Projects

MOTION by Parsons, SUPPORT by Minkus, **“to apply \$281,471 in HIP/COVID funding to the Calhoun County Road Departments 2023 28 Mile Road project, Job Number 206765.”** Motion approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

Nagler noted that because the amount of STL funding allocated to the region for 2023 was reduced in the latest estimates, four of the five counties were overprogrammed and decreases in funding would be required to bring the region back into fiscal constraint.

MOTION by Welch, SUPPORT by Parsons, **“to reduce the amount of STL funding for Barry County Road Commission’s 2023 Preventive Maintenance project by \$25,778 to bring the county back into fiscal constraint.”** Motion approved unanimously on a roll call vote

MOTION by Miller, SUPPORT by Parsons, ***“to reduce the amount of STL funding for Branch County’s 2023 Preventive Maintenance project by \$22,520 to bring the county back into fiscal constraint.”***

Motion approved on a roll call vote

It was noted that Calhoun County was under-programmed for 2023 and could add funding to their projects.

MOTION by Parsons, SUPPORT by Welch, ***“to increase STL funding to Calhoun County Road Department’s 28 Mile project, Job Number 206765 by \$110,692 and EDD by \$6,109 and to change the project limits to Lake to H drive North.”*** Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Minkus said that at the Kalamazoo County RTF meeting in November, the Road Commission and Metro had agreed to prorate the needed amount of STL reduction between the two projects. In addition, approval was given for a change in project location for the Road Commission to use State D funding to upgrade a road to all-season status. Minkus asked if EDD funding could be programmed for the project even though the road is not yet shown as a proposed all-season road. Grab said that yes it can be programmed but that the change will need to be made before the funding can be obligated. Minkus indicated that later in the meeting he will seek approval from the Task Force for applying to have the change to proposed all-season road.

MOTION by Minkus, SUPPORT by Miller, ***“to reduce the amount of STL funding to Metro’s 2023 vehicle purchase project, job number 205416 by \$2,500; to change the location of the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County’s project 205414 to W Avenue from 42nd St. to 44th St;; to reduce the amount of STL funding to Job Number 205414 by \$102,362; and to add \$238,691 in HIP/COVID Job Number 205414.”***

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

MOTION by Myland, SUPPORT by Minkus, ***“to reduce the amount of funding programmed for the St. Joseph County Road Commission’s 2023 Silver Street project, Job Number 205801, to \$607,468 in STL and \$154,867 in EDD.”*** Motion approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

Steppek reminded the group that since 2023 is a transition year from one TIP cycle to the next, it is important that agencies are sure that their programming is correct, as there will be an extended “lock in” period early to mid-2022 where no changes to the 2023 program can be made.

MOTION by Welch, SUPPORT by Parsons, ***“to approve programming \$271,722 in HIP/COVID funding to a county-wide centerline and edge painting project for the Barry County Road Commission in 2023.”***

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

For 2024 – 2026, it was suggested that each county present for approval the projects and funding approved at the local RTF meetings that were held in November.

MOTION by Myland, Support by Minkus to approve the following project programming in St. Joseph County for 2024-2026:

- ***2024: North Angling from the Village of Centreville limits to Butler Road using \$679,000 in STL and 235,500 in Local Match***

- **2025: Millers Mill Road from Countyline to Youngs Prairie using \$483,840 in STL and \$120,960 in local match, a countywide preventive maintenance project using \$124,160 in STL, and the purchase of a bus using \$84,000 in STL**
- **2026: Widening of Lutz from Fairchild Road to Centreville-Constantine Road using \$621,000 in STL and 289,000 in EDD, and the purchase of a bus using \$84,000 in STL for Fiscal Year 2026.**

Motion approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

MOTION by Minkus, SUPPORT by Myland, to approve the following project programming in Kalamazoo County for 2024-2026:

- **2024: Q Ave. - 29th St. to 33rd St using \$523,500 in STL and \$289,989 in EDD, and a van purchase using \$148,500 in STL**
- **2025: W Ave. – 44th Street to 47th St. using \$575,500 in STL and \$77,000 in EDD, and a van purchase using \$109,500 in STL**
- **2026: Q Ave. – 33rd St. to 36th St. using \$586,500 in STL and \$79,000 in EDD, and a van purchase using \$111,500 in STL**

Motion approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

MOTION by Parsons, SUPPORT by Myland to approve the following project programming in Calhoun County for 2024-2026:

- **2024: R Drive S from W County Line to 1 ½ Mile Road using \$864,000 STL**
- **2025: 28 Mile Road from H Drive N to the south branch of Rice Creek using \$881,000 in STL**
- **2026: 28 Mile Road from the south branch of Rice Creek to C Drive using \$470,000 in STL**

Motion approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

MOTION by Miller, SUPPORT by Minkus to approve the following project programming in Branch County for 2024-2026:

- **2024: Countywide Preventive Maintenance using \$664,000 in STL and \$101,000 in EDD**
- **2025: Countywide Preventive Maintenance using \$677,000 in STL and \$103,000 in EDD**
- **2026: Countywide Preventive Maintenance using \$689,000 in STL and \$105,000 in EDD**

Motion approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

MOTION by Welch, SUPPORT by Myland to approve the following project programming in Barry County for 2024-2026:

- **2024: Countywide Preventive Maintenance using \$797,000 in STL and \$104,000 in EDD**
- **2025: Countywide Preventive Maintenance using \$812,000 in STL and \$105,000 in EDD**
- **2026: Countywide Preventive Maintenance using \$828,000 in STL and \$107,000 in EDD**

Motion approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

Public Comment

Grab presented an update to the status of the Rural Task Force program. MDOT is working to determine the effect on the program of the recently passed federal infrastructure program and will disseminate information once it is known. He is working on determining if there are any State D funding that are in danger of being lost by any counties as a result of exceeding the three-year expiration. The LFFE federal fund exchange program continues and now includes the ability to program exchanged RTF funds for Urban projects. All LFFE trades must be made between agencies from different planning regions.

Other Business

Myland said that last year unexpectedly low project bids meant that a significant amount of federal funding went unused in RTF #3. He asked for clarification of what happens to STL funding that isn't used in the fiscal year for which it is allocated. Grab and Stepek explained that the funding stays within the task force but that federal rules preclude it from being programmed for another year. Instead, it is placed in a "bank" of carryover funding that accumulates indefinitely and is used to cover overages due to high bid results or project cost overruns so that local agencies won't have to use local funds. Grab showed an example of how to determine the balance of accumulated unused funds in the LABR reports that are distributed monthly by MDOT. Ways to utilize unawarded funding within the same fiscal year were discussed including the use of illustrative projects or flexing to transit, which has more leeway for the use of such funding. It was agreed that even the measures discussed are difficult to enact given the amount of time it takes to get projects to bid.

Minkus presented a map showing a section of W Avenue from 42nd Street to the east county line that is currently not an all-season road or proposed to be. The RCKC would like to change the status of the road section to proposed all-season and use State D funding to upgrade the road and make it full all-season. Parsons said that the CCRD would approve the change, as the section of road in question connects with their all-season network.

MOTION by Minkus, SUPPORT by Parsons, ***"to add W Avenue from 42nd Street to the east county line in Kalamazoo County to the proposed all-season road network."*** Motion approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

Minutes approved: January 26, 2022

Questions or comments on these minutes can be directed to:

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