

# Barry County Rural Sub-Task Force Meeting

*November 1, 2021*

## *Microsoft Teams Meeting*

*In accordance with the Kalamazoo County State of Emergency Declaration permitting continued remote participation by parties subject to the Michigan Open Meetings Act, the meeting was hosted by the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study via a Microsoft Teams*

### ***In Attendance***

Patricia Rayl	Village of Middleville
Bill Voigt	Barry County Transit
Jake Welch	Barry County Road Commission
Ali Townshend	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Fred Nagler	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study

### ***Call To Order***

The Barry County Local Rural Task Force Meeting was called to order at 10:06 p.m.

### ***Introductions***

Attendees were recognized and introduced themselves

### ***Approval of Previous Local Rural Task Force Minutes***

There were no corrections to the minutes of the previous sub-task force meeting.

MOTION by Voigt, SUPPORT by Rayl, ***“to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2020 Barry County Local Rural Task Force Meeting.”*** Motion approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

### ***Review of Approved RTF Region #3 Projects for 2022***

There were no proposed changes to the approved project for 2022. It was noted that due to the current status of the federal highway program being under a continuing resolution, the Michigan Department of Transportation has set the estimated 2022 county allocations for the Rural Task Force at the same level as 2021. As a result, it may be necessary to reprogram the Barry County Road Commission project to the lower 2021 amount.

MOTION by Welch, SUPPORT by Voigt, ***“to approve the reduction of federal funding for project number 206904 from \$780,000 to \$753,222 if necessary to bring the fiscal year 2022 program into fiscal constraint.”*** Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

***Call for Projects 2023 – 2026***

Rayl said that the Village of Middleville is planning on constructing a roundabout at the intersection of Grand Rapids and Main streets to address confusing traffic patterns and improve operation. She said that the village is requesting approval of the programming of \$150,000 in 2025 or 2026 to be applied to the construction. Discussion ensued with questions on what studies have been performed on the need for a roundabout at that location. Voigt and Welch both indicated that they had doubts about the benefit to Barry County overall of the project and the appropriateness of programming Rural Task Force funds at this point. Welch added that his analysis of the history of RTF funding for Middleville projects shows, in his opinion, that the village has received a disproportionately high allocation.

***MOTION by Rayl, “to approve the programming of \$150,000 of federal funding in 2025 for the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Grand Rapids and Main Streets in the Village of Middleville.”*** Motion failed for lack of support.

Welch noted that despite the current lack of support, the project could be revisited in future meetings if the Village can show the benefit to the county as a whole.

Voigt said that Barry County Transit will not be requesting any Rural Task Force funding for 2023 – 2026.

***MOTION by Welch, SUPPORT by Voigt, “to approve programming all available Rural Task Force federal funding for 2024 through 2026 to the Barry County Road Commission for countywide preventive maintenance projects.”*** Motion approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

In response to a question from Rayl, Voigt stated that Barry County Transit has benefitted from recent federal funding for facility improvements and vehicle purchases and that his analysis indicated that there is no need for federal funding in the current call for projects period.

***Public Comments***

Rayl asked when the next call for projects would be issued. Welch explained that the calls are issued every four years with a year of overlap between them.

Rayle asked whether there is likely to be an increase in Rural Task Force funding as a result of passage of the pending Build Back Better federal legislation. Nagler indicated that the results are unknown, as negotiations continue in congress, so the content of the final bill is uncertain.

Welch stated that he has been trying to come up with a good way to determine allocation of RTF funding among the eligible agencies. He suggested that the group work on a formula that could be used to fairly distribute the funds to avoid future disagreements. Nagler cautioned the group that any wider discussion should include all eligible municipalities regardless of their historic level of participation.

***Other Business***

No other business was brought forward.

***Adjournment***

the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

**Minutes Approved November 12, 2024**