

**Meeting Minutes  
Sturgis Small Urban Area Meeting  
September 25, 2024**

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. at the offices of St. Joseph County Road Commission.

**Introductions**

The following individuals were in attendance:

Barry Cox, City of Sturgis  
Allen Balog, St. Joseph County Transportation Authority  
Garrett Myland, St. Joseph County Road Commission  
Frank Stanko, Watershed Voice

Attending Virtually via Microsoft Teams:

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

**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 Cox for the City of Sturgis.

**Discussion of Projects for FY 2023 - 2026**

Cox said that the current approved project for 2026 is S. Lakeview Avenue, US 12 to Mechanic Street. The City of Sturgis believes that because of work types proposed for the project, current Michigan Department of Transportation mandated application and reviews will require at least one year of work and make the project too costly to engineer and bring to bid. Instead, the City is requesting that the highest priority project be changed to N. Centerville from US 12 to W. Lafayette. In addition to requiring less intensive review and work types, the project is more in line with the good asset management practice of using the right fix at the right time rather than defaulting to worst-first project selection.

MOTION by Balog, SUPPORT by Cox, ***“to Change the #1 priority project in 2026 to N. Centerville Road from US 12 to the north leg of W. Lafayette for a total project cost of at least \$481,250.”*** Motion approved unanimously.

As a result of the approval, the prioritization for 2026 is as follows:

Rank	Road Name	Limits	Agency	STP Cost
1	N. Centerville	US 12 to W. Lafayette	Sturgis	\$385,000
2	Franks Avenue	Fawn River to US 12	SJCRC	\$220,000
3.	Bus Purchase		Transit	\$100,000

4. Wenzel Avenue M66 to S. Nottawa Sturgis \$385,000

Nagler requested revised project data sheets be submitted and said they would be forwarded to MDOT Planning along with the meeting minutes and proof of advertising so the project can be reprogrammed.

**Other Business**

Balog said that the Transit Authority has several vehicles that are quite old and at or near the end of their useful life. He questioned what federal aid program would be best to use to try and obtain funding in the earliest timeframe. Nagler suggested that of the three task forces, Sturgis Small Urban, Three Rivers Small Urban or Rural Taks Force (RTF), the RTF has the most flexibility and is in the Call for Projects phase. He said that county-level RTF meetings will be organized soon and it would be a good time to bring the requests up for consideration. Myland reminded Balog that funding for transit has been included in the St. Joseph County's portion of the RTF Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) each year of the current 2023-2026 TIP. Nagler reviewed the most current iteration of the TIP and informed Balog that there is currently \$105,000 programmed for both 2025 and 2026 that are available for vehicle purchases.

**Public Comment**

No Public Comments were Offered

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

Minutes prepared: September 26, 2024