

Rural Task Force #3 Meeting
December 11, 2023
Kalamazoo County Road Commission

Members in Attendance:

Jim Hoekstra	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Jay Miller	Branch County Road Commission
Garrett Myland	St. Joseph County Road Commission, Vice Chair
Kristine Parsons	Calhoun County Road Department, Chair
Jake Welch	Chair - Barry County Road Commission

Others in Attendance:

Jeff Heppler	Village of Augusta
Brian Kernstock	Calhoun County Road Department
Sean McBride	Kalamazoo Metro
Jenny McCowen	Kalamazoo Metro
Brian Stark	MDOT – Rural Task Force Program Manager
Fred Nagler	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study/SMPC

Call to Order

Chair Parsons called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The meeting was held at the offices of the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County.

Approval of the December 11, 2023 Meeting Agenda

MOTION by Welch, SUPPORT by Hoekstra, **“to approve the agenda as presented.”** Motion approved unanimously.

Approval of April 4, 2023 Rural Task Force #3 Meeting Minutes

MOTION by Myland, SUPPORT by Welch **“to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2023 Rural Task Force #3 meeting.”** Motion approved unanimously.

Rural Task Force Program Updates/Questions

Stark presented updates to RTF program funding, carry-forward amounts and use, and items that have affected current and future estimates of funding. A discussion was held on carry forward amounts and how they are used in pro rata task forces for both STBG and EDD funds. Task Force members asked him to investigate if it would be possible to allow the RTF to redistribute the unspent carryforward funds similar to what Metropolitan Planning Organizations have been able to do at times in the past. Stark

reviewed the statuses of the State of Michigan buy-back program and direct State D grant program. Finally he noted that MDOT is planning on holding informational RTF road show programs in a number of locations across the state.

Review of 2024 – 2026 Projects

St. Joseph County

MOTION by Myland, SUPPORT by Welch ***“to transfer \$44,001 from Barry County’s 2024 STBG allocation to the Road Commission’s N. Angling project, Job Number 216317 to be repaid in 2026 by transferring \$44,001 from the Lutz Road project, Job Number 216327 to Barry County’s Preventive Maintenance project, Job Number 216335.”*** Motion approved unanimously. It was noted during discussion that local match for the project will be reduced, keeping the total cost the same.

Barry County

Welch said that the County is not planning on using \$349,000 of their 2025 STBG allocation and is entertaining offers of a trade with another county for future allocation.

Branch County

MOTION by Miller, SUPPORT by Hoekstra, ***“to add \$104,037 in STBG funding to Branch County’s 2024 Countywide Preventive Maintenance project.”*** Motion approved unanimously.

Kalamazoo County

MOTION by Hoekstra, SUPPORT by Welch, ***“to delete Barry County’s 2025 Countywide Preventive Maintenance project, Job Number 216334 and transfer \$358,000 of Barry County’s 2025 STBG allocation to Kalamazoo County’s G Avenue project, Job Number 216407 to be repaid in 2026 by transferring \$358,000 from Kalamazoo County’s Douglas Avenue project, Job Number 216414 to Barry County’s Preventive Maintenance project, Job Number 216335.”*** Motion approved unanimously.

MOTION by Hoekstra, SUPPORT by Welch, ***“to transfer \$282,658 from the Road Commission’s 2024 Mercury Drive project, Job Number 216404 to Kalamazoo Metro’s Van Purchase project, Job Number 216405, to be repaid by deleting Metro’s 2025 and 2026 Van Purchase projects and transferring the STBG funding to the Road Commissions respective years’ projects.”*** Motion approved unanimously

MOTION by Hoekstra, SUPPORT by Welch, ***“to reduce EDD funding to the Road Commission’s 2024 Mercury Drive project, Job Number 216404 by \$127,386, to be added to their 2025 G Avenue project, Job Number 216407.”*** Motion approved unanimously.

MOTION by Hoekstra, SUPPORT by Welch, ***“to change the location of the Road Commission’s 2025 G Avenue project to Q Avenue, 29th Street to 34th Street and update the road to all-season.”*** Motion approved unanimously. During discussion it was confirmed that the new project location is designated a proposed all-season road with MDOT.

MOTION by Hoekstra, SUPPORT by Welch, ***“to add the \$134,500 in STBG funding from the previously approved 2026 Metro Van Purchase project deletion to the Road Commission’s 2026 Douglas Avenue project, Job Number 216414; and add the \$131,500 in STBG funding from the previously approved 2025 Metro Van Purchase project deletion to the Road Commission’s 2025 Q Avenue project, Job Number 216407.”*** Motion approved unanimously.

Rural Task Force #3 December 11, 2023 Meeting

Page 3

MOTION by Hoekstra, SUPPORT by Welch **“to add \$38,526 in STBG funding to Metro’s 2024 Van Purchase project, Job Number 216,405.”** Motion approved unanimously

MOTION by Hoekstra, SUPPORT by Welch, **“to add \$40,000 in STBG funding to the Road Commission’s 2025 Q Avenue Project, Job Number 216407 in addition to the previously approved transfers.”** Motion approved unanimously.

MOTION by Hoekstra, SUPPORT by Myland, **“to approve adding \$60,000 in STBG funding to the Road Commission’s 2026 Douglas Avenue project, Job Number 216414.”** Motion approved unanimously.

Other Business

Welch related that on his 2023 pavement marking project, which used both STBG and EDD funding, MDOT coded pay items that exceeded the available amount to EDD. Because EDD was capped as opposed to STBG, which was pro rata, Branch County was invoiced for the EDD overage. He said that MDOT Planning and Local Agency Programs are working to charge the overage to STBG and reimburse the County. He stated that the County is happy with the resolution but wanted to tell the other RTF members to be aware in case they enter into a similar funding setup.

Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:39.

Minutes approved: December 16, 2024.

Questions or comments on these minutes can be directed to:

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