

**Rural Task Force #3 Meeting**  
**December 16, 2024**  
**Kalamazoo County Road Commission**

**Members in Attendance:**

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

**Others in Attendance:**

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Dan Hawver      | Village of Tekonsha                      |
| Jeff Heppler    | Village of Augusta                       |
| Jim Hoekstra    | Road Commission of Kalamazoo County      |
| Art Kale        | Village of Homer                         |
| Dylan Kennedy   | Barry County Road Commission             |
| Brian Kernstock | Calhoun County Road Department           |
| Edward Kline    | St. Joseph County Road Commission        |
| Sean McBride    | Kalamazoo Metro                          |
| Brian Stark     | MDOT – Rural Task Force Program Manager  |
| Gary White      | Village of Tekonsha                      |
| Tim Woodhams    | Civica Engineering                       |
| <br>            |  |
| Fred Nagler     | Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study/SMPC |

**Call to Order**

Chair Parsons called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held at the offices of the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County.

**Approval of the December 16, 2024 Meeting Agenda**

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

In response to a request by Chair Parsons, attenders and voting members introduced themselves.

**Approval of December 11, 2023 Rural Task Force #3 Meeting Minutes**

## **Rural Task Force #3 December 16, 2024 Meeting**

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MOTION by Welch, SUPPORT by Myland ***“to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2023 Rural Task Force #3 meeting.”*** Motion approved unanimously.

### **Rural Task Force Program Updates**

Stark presented updates to RTF program funding, carry-forward amounts and use, and items that have affected current and future estimates of funding. He reported that MDOT is investigating the possibility of using STBG funding to cover costs for newly required enhanced bridge inspection procedures. Parsons said that at the last County Road Association meeting four options for other uses of STBG funding were presented for consideration. Stark reported that state legislation for drunk driving penalty has been forwarded for consideration. If, as hoped, it is approved next year it will allow MDOT to remove the current diversion of 1% of STBG funding to safety projects that is required by the federal highway bill. Finally, he noted that recordings of the recently completed RTF Roadshow meetings are available on the MDOT website’s Rural Task Force section.

### **Review of 2025 Projects**

#### **St. Joseph County**

MOTION by Myland, SUPPORT by Welch ***“to reduce STBG funding for the County’s preventive maintenance project, Job Number 216324 to \$277,951 STBG and \$69,487 Local funding to bring the County into fiscal constraint .”*** Motion approved unanimously.

Nagler reported that in bringing the RTF program for 2025 into constraint at the last meeting, it went unnoticed that several counties were over-programmed in relation to the agreed-upon distribution at the expense of Branch County, which is currently significantly under their allocation. In response, MOTION by Parsons, SUPPORT by Miller ***“to add \$105,298 in STBG funding to Branch County’s Countywide Preventive Maintenance project, Job Number 216406.”*** Motion approved unanimously.

### **2026 – 2029 Call for Project**

#### **2026**

#### **St. Joseph County**

MOTION by Myland, SUPPORT by Welch, ***“to decrease STBG funding to Job Number 216327 by \$2,000.”*** Motion approved Unanimously

#### **Kalamazoo County**

MOTION by Minkus, SUPPORT by Welch, ***“to delete Kalamazoo County’s Douglas Avenue project, Job Number 216414 and to transfer \$522,000 in 2025 STBG allocation to Barry County, to be repaid in 2029.”*** Motion approved unanimously.

#### **Barry County**

MOTION by Welch, SUPPORT by Myland ***“to increase Barry County’s Countywide Preventive Maintenance project, Job Number 216335 to \$2,509,001 STBG and \$627,250 Local Match.”*** Motion approved Unanimously.

#### **Calhoun County**

Discussion was held regarding chip seal projects that were approved as illustrative for the villages of

Tekonsha and Homer at the last Calhoun County RTF meeting. At that meeting, it was suggested that the Road Department could likely do the projects for the villages for less out-of-pocket cost than they would pay for engineering/administration/local match using STBG funding. It was agreed that the projects would be approved as illustrative and could be moved to the TIP if it proved advantageous for the villages to do so. The villages now believe that it is in their financial interest to use STBG funding. It was agreed that they should meet again to discuss the matter and possibly request a change for 2027 – 2029.

MOTION by Parsons, SUPPORT by Welch, ***“to reduce STBG funding to Calhoun County Road Department’s Job Number 216375 by \$40,000 to \$469,000.”*** Motion approved unanimously.

### **Branch County**

MOTION by Miller, SUPPORT by Minkus, ***“to add \$186,000 in STBG funding to Branch County’s 2024 Countywide Preventive Maintenance project, Job Number 216413.”*** Motion approved unanimously.

### **2027**

Members were presented with a draft tracking spreadsheet reflecting the projects and amounts approved at the recently held County level meetings

MOTION by Welch, SUPPORT, by Parsons, ***“to reduce the proposed 2027 Barry County Countywide Preventive Maintenance project to 267,000 STBG and \$66,750 Local Match and add a Countywide Pavement Marking Project using \$350,000 in STBG.”*** Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION by Minkus, SUPPORT by Welch, ***“to approve the remainder of the 2027 projects as proposed and approved at the County RTF meetings and presented in the meeting packet.”*** Motion approved unanimously.

### **2028**

MOTION by Welch, SUPPORT by Parsons, ***“to approve the 2028 projects as approved at the County RTF meetings and presented in the meeting packet.”*** Motion approved unanimously.

### **2029**

MOTION by Welch, SUPPORT by Minkus, ***“to reduce the proposed 2029 Barry County Countywide Preventive Maintenance project from the amount approved at the County RTF meeting by \$375,000 to \$709,000 and add a Countywide Pavement Marking project using \$375,000 in STBG.”*** Motion approved unanimously.

MOTION by Welch, SUPPORT by Miller, ***“to approve the remainder of the 2029 projects as approved at the County RTF meetings and presented in the meeting packet.”*** Motion approved unanimously.

### **Illustrative Projects**

MOTION by Minkus, SUPPORT by Welch, ***“to approve the illustrative projects as approved at the County RTF meetings and presented in the meeting packet.”*** Motion approved unanimously.

***Other Business***

Myland asked Stark about how the three-year EDD balance is calculated. Stark explained that any while the funds must be expended within three fiscal years of when it was allocated, having them programmed in future years counts against the balance. He reminded the RTF that he generates a tracking spreadsheet every year and contacts agencies that are in danger of losing the funds. So far there are no agencies in RTF #3 that need to be concerned. Myland reminded Miller that Branch County currently is approaching \$1,000,000 in unobligated EDD funds by the end of 2029 and should look at starting to use them soon.

***Public Comment***

No public comment was offered.

***Adjourn***

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:52.

**Minutes approved: \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.**

*Questions or comments on these minutes can be directed to:*

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