

BERRIEN COUNTY RURAL TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2019 at 1:00 PM

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, 376 W. Main St, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Attendance	Name	Representing
Voting Members	Brian Berndt	Berrien County Road Department
	Evan Smith	Berrien County Public Transit (Berrien Bus)
	Bob Getz	Village of Baroda
Staff	Brandon Kovnat	SWMPC
	Kim Gallagher	SWMPC
Others Present	Kevin Stack	Berrien County Road Department
	Eric Mallen	Citizen
	David Chandler	Sodus Township
	Ken Peters	Sodus Township

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Berrien County Rural Task Force (RTF) chair, Brian Berndt called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

2. Overview of Purpose of the RTF Meeting

Berndt explained that the meeting was to program projects for 2020 through 2023. He said that the Rural Task force was a program that manages federal surface transportation funds and state economic development category D funds (Known as State D funds).

3. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Approval of January 26, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from the January 10, 2018 meeting. Made by Evan Smith, second by Bob Getz. **Motion approved.**

5. Obligation Report from 2018

Berndt said that the Red Arrow Highway project came in above the estimated budget. He added that the Road department is still receiving the final payments from MDOT for 2018 projects.

Evan Smith said that he had to make a change his 2018 security cameras project. MDOT van contracts were higher than expected. Therefore, Berrien Bus diverted \$12,500 from the RTF project to add to a CMAQ funded van purchase. He then reallocated the remaining \$50,000 to purchase radios.

6. Review of 2019 and 2020 Project Status

Smith proposed a change to his 2019 project. Because he had to reprogram the 2018 security camera project, he would reprogram his 2019 garage Equipment project and change it to purchase security cameras.

Motion to amend the Berrien Bus 2018 Security camera project and the 2019 Garage Equipment project to reallocate the funds in 2018 to Radios for \$50,000 and a van for \$12,500 and purchase security cameras in 2019. Made by Evan Smith, Second by Bob Getz. **Motion approved.**

Berndt explained the changes between the 2020 project he submitted during the 2020-2023 call for projects and the 2020 project currently programmed for Red Arrow Highway. The original project was to resurface Red Arrow between intersections. The Revised plan for Red Arrow is to work on Intersections first.

7. Selection of Projects for 2020-2023

Berndt read the list of projects submitted for 2020-2023. This included the Road Department's request for projects on Red Arrow in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. The Village of Baroda requested to resurface two streets in 2022.

Berndt asked if Baroda was willing to wait on their project. Getz said that Red Arrow was in dire need of repair and he was willing to wait on his project. Therefore, the Berrien County RTF project list for 2020-2023 will include four projects on Red Arrow (See attached). The Baroda project will be added to the illustrative list.

Motion to approve the 2020-2023 Berrien county RTF projects list. Made by Evan Smith, second by Bob Getz. **Motion Approved.**

8. Proposed Changes to All Season Road Network

None.

9. New Business

None.

10. Public Comment

Berndt read a comment submitted by Eric Mallen (see attached) supporting a road diet on Red Arrow.

11. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.

Agency Name	Project Name	Project Limits	Year	Project Length (miles)	Project Description	STBG-Rural	D- Funds	Local	Total Cost
Berrien County Road Department	Red Arrow Highway	Community Hall Rd to Berrien St.	2020	1.32	Intersection Improvement Project at Union Pier Road	\$772,000	\$108,176	\$119,824	\$1,000,000
Berrien County Road Department	Red Arrow Highway	3000 Feet Northeast of Harbert Rd. to 2000 Feet Southwest of Harbert Rd.	2021	0.94	Intersection Improvement Project at Harbert Road	\$788,000	\$108,176	\$103,824	\$1,000,000
Berrien County Road Department	Red Arrow Highway	2000 Feet Southwest of Harbert Rd. to Cherry Beach Rd and from Sawyer Rd. to 3000 Feet Northeast of Harbert Rd.	2022	1.35	Mill and Resurface	\$803,000	\$108,176	\$103,824	\$1,015,000
Berrien County Road Department	Red Arrow Highway	Lakeside Rd. to Lakeshore Rd.	2023	1.46	Mill and Resurface	\$820,000	\$108,176	\$103,824	\$1,032,000
Village of Baroda	Streets Paving Project	Lemon Creek Rd- Cleveland Ave. to First St Stevensville/Baroda Rd-Lemon Creek Rd to North Village Limits	Illustrative	0.9	Mill and Resurface	\$287,780	\$0	\$99,646	\$387,426

Brandon Kovnat

From: ERIC MALLEN <e3bmallen@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, January 14, 2019 4:04 PM
To: Brandon Kovnat; bberndt@bcroad.org
Subject: Rural Task Force Meeting for 1/16 Comments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Brandon, Brian,

I reviewed the 4 project applications for funding that Brian submitted for resurfacing Red Arrow Highway that fell mainly in Chikaming Township. Brian told me on the phone today that these were mainly intersection upgrade projects. Plan would be to (1) obtain funding, (2) create a design that would feature a 3-lane road with 2 thru lanes and a dedicated left turn lane,(3) get Township approval, (4) then do the project.

All 4 projects were recorded with traffic volumes of 5-10 K vehicles per 24 hours and could easily qualify for the 3-lane "Road Diet" design. This would accommodate the proposed parks 10 ft. pedestrian/bike path.

Eric