

Coloma-Watervliet Small Urban Meeting

Tuesday, December 9th, 2025, at 1:30 PM

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

376 W. Main Street, Suite 130,

Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Introductions
2. Overview of the Small Urban Program
3. Review of past Coloma-Watervliet Small Urban Projects
4. Discussion and Approval of Projects for 2027 & 2029
5. Privilege of the floor or public comment
6. Adjournment

Comments can be sent prior to the meeting to Brandon Kovnat at kovnatb@swmpc.org or by calling (269) 925-1137 x 1524. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please contact Kim Gallagher at (269) 925-1137 x 1518 or by email at gallagherk@swmpc.org

Voting Members

City of Coloma

City of Watervliet

Berrien County Road Department

Berrien Bus

Meeting Minutes
Coloma-Watervliet-Hartford Small Urban Area
Thursday, April 13 2023 at 10 AM
Hartford Public Library

Attendance

	Name	Representing
Voting Committee	Barry Antilla	Van Buren County Road Commission
	Laurie Schlipp	Van Buren County Public Transit
	Kevin Stack	Berrien County Road Department
	Dennis Schuh	Berrien Bus
	Rod Burkholder	City of Coloma
Staff	Kim Gallagher	SWMPC
	Brandon Kovnat	SWMPC
Others Present	Dave Clift	Van Buren County Road Commission
	Todd Bohle	City of Coloma
	Steve Carlisle	Wightman & Associates, on behalf of Coloma

1. **Call to Order & Introductions**

Kim Gallagher called the meeting to order at 10 AM and led the roll call.

2. **Overview of the Small Urban Program & Meeting Purpose**

Gallagher explained that MDOT allocates, in alternating years, \$375,000 in federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding to every census-designated urban area in Michigan with a population between 5,000 and 49,000 funding. The purpose of this meeting is to program the \$375,000 in federal funding for FY 2023.

Stack added that the FY 2023 funds are unprogrammed due to the cancelation of the Road Department's Red Arrow project. The project was completed using only local funding, no federal funds were used.

3. **Approval of the Minutes from the January 12, 2022, Small Urban Meeting**

Motion to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2022, Colom-Hartford-Watervliet Small Urban Meeting. Made by Barry Anttila and seconded by Laurie Schlipp. **Motion approved.**

4. **Discussion and Vote on Funding Transit Projects with the FY 2023 Small Urban Funds**

SWMPC staff discovered that the FY 2023 funding was available in March. However, there is not enough time to get a road project approved before the fiscal constraint runs out. Only transit projects could be approved in time to use the funds.

Dennis Schuh presented the following requests for Berrien Bus:

- **Ford Transit Vans:** The previous state contract for Ford Transit Vans expired, resulting in an increased cost of \$17,000 to \$20,000 per van. Berrien Bus requested four vans in a previous grant but can now only afford three due to the higher costs. Schuh requested \$56,000 in Small Urban funds to cover the remaining costs for the fourth van.

- **Communication Upgrade:** Berrien Bus is switching to 800 MHz communication, requiring new radios, antennas, and other transmission equipment. Schuh trusted \$104,000 in Small urban funds for the communication equipment.

Laurie Schlipp presented the following request for Van Buren County Transit

- **Bus Funding:** Schlipp explained that CMAQ funds were programmed for a bus replacement. The CMAQ funding for Van Buren County has been reduced, while the cost of a medium-duty bus has risen by approximately \$73,000. She highlighted that about 50% of Van Buren County Transit's buses have either met or exceeded their useful life. Schlipp said she could use as much funding as possible to replace buses.

Schlipp and Schuh agreed to split the small urban funding as follows:

Agency	Project	Federal	CTF Match	Local	Total
Berrien Bus	Radio Equipment	\$104,000	\$26,000	\$0	\$130,000
	Transit Van	\$56,000	\$14,000	\$0	\$70,000
Van Buren Public Transit	Replace one medium-duty bus.	\$133,200	\$33,300	\$6,900	\$173,400
	Replace one medium-duty bus <i>Partially funded by CMAQ</i>	\$81,800	\$20,450	\$0	\$102,250
Total		\$375,000			

Motion to award the FY 2023 Coloma-Watervliet-Hartford Small Urban federal funding to the projects as shown in the table above. Made by Dennis Schuh and seconded by Laurie Schlipp. **Motion approved.**

5. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment

There was a brief discussion about the 2020 urban area boundaries and how these may affect Small urban funding.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM.

Minutes taken by Brandon Kovnat, *SWMPD Transportation Planner*

Coloma Watervliet Small Urban Funded Projects 2019-2025

Year	Agency	Proejct	Federal	Local or CTF	Total
2019	Berrien County Road Department	Red Arrow Highway from Boyer Rd to Coloma City Limits - Resurfacing	\$335,000	\$102,500	\$437,500
2019	Berrien Bus	Vehicle Replacement	\$40,000	\$10,000	\$50,000
2021	City of Hartford	Prospect St from Marion Ave to N. Center St - Reconstruction	\$280,000	\$260,700	\$540,700
2021	Van Buren CRC	Red Arrow Highway from 70th St to Hartford City Limits - Mill & HMA overlay	\$47,500	\$73,000	\$120,500
2021	Van Buren Public Transit	Bus Replacement	\$47,500	CTF: \$22,000 Local: \$40,500	\$110,000
2023	Van Buren Public Transit	Replace one bus (partial funding - remaining funds came from CMAQ)	\$81,800	\$20,450	\$102,250
2023	Van Buren Public Transit	Replace one bus	\$133,200	\$33,300	\$166,500
2023	Berrien Bus	Radio Equipment	\$104,000	\$26,000	\$130,000
2023	Berrien Bus	Transit Van Purchase	\$56,000	\$14,000	\$70,000
2025	City of Coloma	West St. from W St. Joseph to W Center St - Crush & Shape Reconstruction	\$385,000	\$100,000	\$485,000

Approved illustrative List

Priority	Agency	Project Name	Federal Cost	Match	Total Cost
1	Van Buren County Road Commission*	Red Arrow Highway from Hartford Village limits to 59.5 St – Mill and HMA Overlay	\$385,000	\$365,000	\$750,000
2	City of Watervliet	Riverside Dr and Paw Paw Ave from M-140 to Peachtree Place - Reconstruction	\$375,000	\$115,796	\$572,000
3	City of Hartford*	W. Main St from West City Limits to Center St – Mill and HMA Overlay	\$372,000	\$93,000	\$465,000
4	City of Hartford*	Marion Avenue W. Main St to Prospect St – Work TBD	\$375,000	\$200,000	\$575,000

* These projects are no longer eligible for Small Urban funding since are not within the 2020 Coloma-Watervliet ABUB

Summary of Requested Projects to utilize the Coloma-Watervliet Small Urban Funding

Agency	Project	Length (mi)	Federal	Local or CTF	Total Participating
City of Watervliet	W Parsons St from M-140 to Western Ave Crush and Shape	0.9	\$420,000	\$84,000	\$504,000
City of Watervliet	E St. Joseph Ave from Sutherland Ave to Watervliet East City limits – Mill & Asphalt Overlay	0.4	\$120,000	\$30,000	\$150,000
Berrien CRD	Coloma North Rd from Coloma Twp limits south to Coloma City Limits – Mill & Asphalt Overlay	1.43	\$240,000	\$60,000	\$300,000
Berrien CRD	Paw Paw Ave from Watervliet Twp line to Watervliet City Limits – Mill & Asphalt Overlay	0.89	\$160,000	\$40,000	\$200,000
Berrien Bus	Maintenance Equipment - Rolling Jack for Lift, air powered floor jack, air conditioner service machine	NA	\$18,400	\$4,600	\$23,000
Berrien Bus	Facility Improvements - 7 natural gas furnaces	NA	\$33,600	\$8,400	\$42,000

If you require assistance accessing this information or require it in an alternative format, contact the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinator at www.Michigan.gov/MDOT-ADA.

Michigan Department
of Transportation
2606 (11/2025)

**MDOT SMALL URBAN PROGRAM
ROAD PROJECT APPLICATION**

Page 1 of 2

ALL FIELDS MUST BE COMPLETED

JOB REQUEST

New Job or Job Change	Job Number	Change Type FY Cost Scope Delete Move Illustrative
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REQUESTING AGENCY INFORMATION

Agency Name	Contact Person	Telephone Number
Street Address	City/Zip Code	E-Mail Address

PROJECT INFORMATION

Small Urban Area	Small Urban Area Priority	Year of Improvement	Length (Miles)
Road Name	Work Type Code		
Project Limits/Location			
Description			

Is The Road Segment/Project Federal-Aid Eligible?	Yes	No
Is Sidewalk Work to Be Included in the Participating Costs?	Yes	No
Is Right-Of-Way/Land Acquisition Required? If Yes, Please Explain:	Yes	No
Does The Road Have Truck Restrictions? If Yes, Please Explain:	Yes	No

COST INFORMATION

Include participating construction capital costs and non-participating costs. (Do not include ROW, feasibility studies, design, testing, preliminary engineering, or construction engineering). Non-participating costs can include water, sewer, utilities, etc.

STP–Urban Requested (Federal Participating)

Local Match (Local Participating)

Non-Participating Costs

Other (Describe:)

PARTICIPATING CONSTRUCTION CAPITAL TOTAL

Advance Construct (AC)

Year:

Amount:

Advance Construct Conversion (ACC)

Year:

Amount:

Local Financial Assurance - this indicates the local government has sufficient funds the local match amounts listed here.

OTHER COMMENTS

SUBMITTED BY	TITLE	DATE

If you require assistance accessing this information or require it in an alternative format, contact the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinator at www.Michigan.gov/MDOT-ADA.

Michigan Department
of Transportation
2606 (11/2025)

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Local Match (Local Participating)

Non-Participating Costs

Other (Describe:)

PARTICIPATING CONSTRUCTION CAPITAL TOTAL

Advance Construct (AC)

Year:

Amount:

Advance Construct Conversion (ACC)

Year:

Amount:

Local Financial Assurance - this indicates the local government has sufficient funds the local match amounts listed here.

OTHER COMMENTS

SUBMITTED BY	TITLE	DATE

Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study
2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Project Application

If you need assistance, please contact Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Transportation Planner
Email kovnatb@swmpc.org or call (269) 925-1137 x 1524

Applicant Information

Agency Name:	<input type="text"/>		
Contact Name:	<input type="text"/>	Title:	<input type="text"/>
Email Address:	<input type="text"/>	Phone Number:	<input type="text"/>
Engineer/Consultant:	<input type="text"/>	Company:	<input type="text"/>
Email Address:	<input type="text"/>	Phone Number:	<input type="text"/>

Project Description

Project Name/Road Name:

Project Limits (From/To):

Project Length (to the nearest hundredth of a mile): miles

City, Village, or Township:

Additional location description if needed

Major Work Type: Preferred Year of Funding:

Detailed Work Description (Include all work items as part of this project e.g. drain cleaning, curb and gutter replacement, guardrail, tree clearing, grading, culvert replacement, all types of ROW, ADA upgrades, etc.).

Describe any non-participating work if applicable

What is the need and purpose for this project (what issues are being addressed by the proposed work)

If you are submitting multiple applications, please rank your applications by priority.

Rank: of

Proposed Budget

	Amount	Percent of Total
Total Participating Construction Estimate	\$	100 %
STBG Requested	\$	%
Local Match	\$	%
	\$	%
	\$	%

Are the other funding sources secured? Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, provide details on when these funds will be secured

Non-Participating Cost Estimate: \$_____

Total Project Estimate with Non-Participating: \$_____

Are you willing to contribute additional local match above the minimum 18.15% required: Yes ☐ No ☐

Are you willing to use an Advance Construct (AC): Yes ☐ No ☐

If so, what is the maximum Amount: \$_____

Estimated Project Schedule

Activity	Date (Month/Year)
NEPA/SHPPO Submitted	
Right-of-Way Certification Submitted	
Grade Inspection (GI) Completed	
Full Biddable Package Submitted to MDOT	
Project Letting	
Construction Start	
Project Completion	

System Preservation

What is the most recent PASER rating (<https://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/tamcMap/>): _____

Do the project limits begin or end at a road with a PASER of 7 or higher: Yes ☐ No ☐

Which MDOT guidelines will the project use:

What is the expected increase in Remaining Service Life (RSL): _____ Years

What is the current state of drainage on the road:

Regional Significance

What is the average annual daily traffic (AADT) volume for the limits of this project? _____ Vehicles/day

What is the National Functional Classification (NFC) of the road:

Safety

For the questions below use the five-year totals from 2019-2023 (<https://www.michigantrafficcrashfacts.org/>)

All Crashes

Total number of crashes: _____

Number of fatalities: _____

Number of Serious Injuries: _____

Pedestrian and Bicycle Crashes

Total number of crashes: _____

Number of fatalities: _____

Number of Serious Injuries: _____

List the safety countermeasures included in the project
Use the attached list of countermeasures and associated crash types

Counter Measure	Crash Type Addressed	Does this address a fatal or serious injury crash
<i>Improved pavement markings</i>	<i>Angle, Rear-End Crashes</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Complete Streets

Are there existing pedestrian and/or bicycle facilities within the limits of the project? If so, please explain

Describe any improvements to pedestrian and/or bicycle facilities included with the project

Will the new/improved pedestrian and/or bicycle facilities connect to existing pedestrian/bicycle facility or one that is planned to be completed before 2029: Y/N Yes ☐ No ☐

Does your agency have a policy for maintaining non-motorized transportation infrastructure, such as bike lanes and pedestrian pathways/sidewalks? Yes ☐ No ☐

Accessibility and Equity

Is the project located in a Disadvantaged Community (DAC), as identified by the Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/>): Yes ☐ No ☐

Does this project remove a priority ADA barrier, as identified in an adopted ADA Transition Plan or similar plan? Yes ☐ No ☐

Strategic Planning & Investment

The project crosses jurisdictional boundaries. Yes ☐ No ☐

The project will coordinate with other infrastructure projects (i.e. utility, water, sewer, etc.) Yes ☐ No ☐

The Project is identified in a pavement asset management plan Yes ☐ No ☐

There is an asset management plan covering utilities along the length of the project Yes ☐ No ☐

The city/village/Township has adopted an asset management policy Yes ☐ No ☐

The project supports goals or objectives from another planning document (ex. master plan or rec plan) Yes ☐ No ☐

If the project supports goals or objectives in another planning document please identify the plan, specify the relevant goals or objectives, and describe how this project will help achieve them

Risk Assessment

Does right of way need to be acquired? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown ☐

Does the project intersect with a railroad crossing? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown ☐

Does the project require utility relocation? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown ☐

Are the project limits within a defined FEMA floodplain? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown ☐

Will there be trees removed within the project limits? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown ☐

Is the project within 100 feet of a cemetery? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown ☐

Are there historic elements withing 100 feet of the proposed work* Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown ☐

Describe approximately how many individual mature trees or acres of trees will be removed if applicable

* Historic elements include any of the following if they are 50 years old or older: **objects** (ex. Statues or monuments), **structures** (ex. bridges, stone curbs, or brick streets), intentional/designed landscapes, **buildings**, **Historic districts**, **intentional/designed landscapes**

Existing and Proposed Roadway Design

	Existing			Proposed		
Number of lanes	Through Lanes: ____	Center Turn Lane (Y/N): ____	On Street Parking (Y/N): ____	Through Lanes: ____	Center Turn Lane (Y/N): ____	On Street Parking (Y/N): ____
Shoulder	<input type="checkbox"/> Paved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unpaved		Width: _____ Ft.	<input type="checkbox"/> Paved <input type="checkbox"/> Unpaved		Width: _____ Ft.
Sidewalk/path	Placement		Width: _____ Ft.	Placement		Width: _____ Ft.
On road bicycle facilities	<div> <input type="radio"/> Bike Lanes <input type="radio"/> Other (Specify) _____ </div> <div> <input type="radio"/> Sharrows <input type="radio"/> None </div> <div> <input type="radio"/> Wide Shoulders <input type="radio"/> None </div>					
Utilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Utility Work is needed <input type="checkbox"/> Water/Sewer Work is needed					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Replacement of utilities <input type="checkbox"/> Relocation of utilities <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer and/or water line work					

Applicant Acknowledgements

By signing below, the project sponsor ensures that they have read and understood the appropriate federal guidance and agree to follow all applicable federal regulations and requirements from the acceptance of federal funds, should this project receive an award. In addition, the project sponsor acknowledges the potential loss of federal funds if the project is not obligated within the programmed fiscal year or if Michigan Department of Transportation statewide obligation limitations have been met.

Certification of Matching Funds

By signing below, the Project Sponsor assures that sufficient funds are available to pay any costs above the awarded federal fund amount and that completion of this project is not contingent upon additional grants (the sources of matching funds may be changed after STBG funding has been awarded, in accordance with all established TIP amendment guidelines).

Name: _____ Title: _____

Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study
2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Project Application

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Applicant Information

Agency Name:			
Contact Name:		Title:	
Email Address:		Phone Number:	
Engineer/Consultant:		Company:	
Email Address:		Phone Number:	

Project Description

Project Name/Road Name: _____

Project Limits (From/To): _____

Project Length (to the nearest hundredth of a mile): ____ miles

City, Village, or Township: _____

Additional location description if needed

Major Work Type: _____ Preferred Year of Funding: _____

Detailed Work Description (Include all work items as part of this project e.g. drain cleaning, curb and gutter replacement, guardrail, tree clearing, grading, culvert replacement, all types of ROW, ADA upgrades, etc.).

Describe any non-participating work if applicable

What is the need and purpose for this project (what issues are being addressed by the proposed work)

If you are submitting multiple applications, please rank your applications by priority.

Rank: ____ of ____

Proposed Budget

	Amount	Percent of Total
Total Participating Construction Estimate	\$	100 %
STBG Requested	\$	%
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	\$	%

Are the other funding sources secured? Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, provide details on when these funds will be secured

Non-Participating Cost Estimate: \$_____

Total Project Estimate with Non-Participating: \$_____

Are you willing to contribute additional local match above the minimum 18.15% required: Yes ☐ No ☐

Are you willing to use an Advance Construct (AC): Yes ☐ No ☐

If so, what is the maximum Amount: \$_____

Estimated Project Schedule

Activity	Date (Month/Year)
NEPA/SHPPO Submitted	
Right-of-Way Certification Submitted	
Grade Inspection (GI) Completed	
Full Biddable Package Submitted to MDOT	
Project Letting	
Construction Start	
Project Completion	

System Preservation

What is the most recent PASER rating (<https://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/tamcMap/>): _____

Do the project limits begin or end at a road with a PASER of 7 or higher: Yes ☐ No ☐

Which MDOT guidelines will the project use:

What is the expected increase in Remaining Service Life (RSL): _____ Years

What is the current state of drainage on the road:

Regional Significance

What is the average annual daily traffic (AADT) volume for the limits of this project? _____ Vehicles/day

What is the National Functional Classification (NFC) of the road:

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Number of fatalities: _____

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		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

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Does your agency have a policy for maintaining non-motorized transportation infrastructure, such as bike lanes and pedestrian pathways/sidewalks? Yes ☐ No ☐

Accessibility and Equity

Is the project located in a Disadvantaged Community (DAC), as identified by the Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/>): Yes ☐ No ☐

Does this project remove a priority ADA barrier, as identified in an adopted ADA Transition Plan or similar plan? Yes ☐ No ☐

Strategic Planning & Investment

The project crosses jurisdictional boundaries. Yes ☐ No ☐

The project will coordinate with other infrastructure projects (i.e. utility, water, sewer, etc.) Yes ☐ No ☐

The Project is identified in a pavement asset management plan Yes ☐ No ☐

There is an asset management plan covering utilities along the length of the project Yes ☐ No ☐

The city/village/Township has adopted an asset management policy Yes ☐ No ☐

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Shoulder	<input type="checkbox"/> Paved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unpaved		Width: ____ Ft.	<input type="checkbox"/> Paved <input type="checkbox"/> Unpaved		Width: ____ Ft.
Sidewalk/ path	Placement		Width: ____ Ft.	Placement		Width: ____ Ft.
On road bicycle facilities	<input type="radio"/> Bike Lanes <input type="radio"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="radio"/> Sharrows <input type="radio"/> Wide Shoulders <input type="radio"/> None			<input type="radio"/> Bike Lanes <input type="radio"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="radio"/> Sharrows <input type="radio"/> Wide Shoulders <input type="radio"/> None		
Utilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Utility Work is needed <input type="checkbox"/> Water/Sewer Work is needed			<input type="checkbox"/> Replacement of utilities <input type="checkbox"/> Relocation of utilities <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer and/or water line work		

Applicant Acknowledgements

By signing below, the project sponsor ensures that they have read and understood the appropriate federal guidance and agree to follow all applicable federal regulations and requirements from the acceptance of federal funds, should this project receive an award. In addition, the project sponsor acknowledges the potential loss of federal funds if the project is not obligated within the programmed fiscal year or if Michigan Department of Transportation statewide obligation limitations have been met.

Certification of Matching Funds

By signing below, the Project Sponsor assures that sufficient funds are available to pay any costs above the awarded federal fund amount and that completion of this project is not contingent upon additional grants (the sources of matching funds may be changed after STBG funding has been awarded, in accordance with all established TIP amendment guidelines).

Name: _____ Title: _____