

CASS COUNTY RURAL TASK FORCE

Cass County Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2019, 1:00 PM

Cass County Road Commission offices, 340 N O'Keefe St, Cassopolis, MI 49031

Attendance	Name	Representing
Voting Members	Joe Bellina	Cass County Road Commission
	Evan Smith	Cass County Public Transit
	Ben Anderson	Village of Cassopolis
Staff	Brandon Kovnat	SWMPC
	Kim Gallagher	SWMPC
Others Present	Steve Lucas	Cass County Road Commission
	Emilie Sarratore	Village of Cassopolis
	Charlie Arnold	Mason Township

1. **Call to Order and Introductions**

Cass County RTF Chair Joe Bellina called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

2. **Overview of Purpose of the Meeting and RTF Program**

Bellina explained that MDOT allocates federal surface transportation funds and state economic development funds (State D) to rural areas in the state. The Rural Task Force (RTF) decides how to use these funds. The meeting purpose is to choose the projects for 2020-2023. Cass County is a part of the Region Four RTF which includes Cass, Berrien, and Van Buren Counties. At the Region Four RTF meeting, they typically approve all decisions made at the county meetings.

3. **Changes or Additions to the Agenda**

None.

4. **Approval of Minutes of the 2018 Meeting**

**Motion** to approve minutes from the January 11, 2018 meeting. Made by Evan Smith and seconded by Ben Anderson. **Motion approved.**

5. **Obligation Report from 2018**

Kovnat said that all projects were complete except transit projects which has 3 years to spend funds.

6. **Review of 2019 and 2020 Projects**

2019 Projects: There are \$8,391 of federal funds remaining. Evan proposed to use all \$8,391 and \$1,609 in CTF match for a roof on the Cass County Transit Authority Office.

**Motion** to use remaining 2019 federal funds on a roof for Cass County Transit. Made by Joe Bellina, second by Ben Anderson. **Motion Approved.**

2020 projects: Bellina said that the federal cost for Daily Road had decreased from \$75,200 to \$72,960. There is a balance of \$10,995 in 2020. Bellina also said he needed to increase the cost of several projects which he would do by adding additional local match.

**Motion** to apply the remaining federal balance in 2020 of \$10,995 to N. O'keefe Street. Made by Evan Smith and seconded by Joe Bellina. **Motion approved.**

**7. Selection of Projects for 2021-2023**

The proposed list of projects was reviewed (see attached – Cass County RTF 2020-2023 Application Summary).

2021: There is \$624,000 in federal funds allocated for 2021. The applications for 2021 requested to use a total of \$624,000. Therefore, all of the proposed projects for 2021 were accepted.

2022: There is \$637,000 in federal funds allocated for 2022. The applications for 2022 total a request of \$1,489,400. Joe said he could fund Barron Lake Road for \$185,000 in federal, \$87,000 in State D, and a \$198,000 local match. This would leave \$452,000 to use on N. O'Keefe Street, with a \$238,000 local match from the Village of Cassopolis.

2023: There is \$649,000 in federal funds allocated for 2023. The applications for 2023 total a request of \$553,480. Joe said that the remaining balance of \$95,520 could be used for Hilton Street which was originally proposed for 2022.

The list of 2021-2023 projects was read (see attached Cass County Rural Task Force Proposed Projects for 2020-2023).

Kovnat asked about the State D balance. Joe said he wanted to conserve state D funding for the Village of Marcellus's Reed Street. If the Village was not able to do this project, the State D funds would carry over to 2024.

**Motion** to approve the 2021-2023 Cass County Rural Task Force projects as agreed upon. Made by Evan Smith and seconded by Ben Anderson. **Motion approved.**

**8. Proposed Changes to All Season Road Network**

None.

**9. Public Comment**

None.

**10. Other New Business**

None.

**11. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM.

*Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC associate Planner*