

Van Buren County Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)

Van Buren County Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2019, 9:00 AM

Van Buren County Road Commission,

319 W James St, Lawrence, MI 49064

Name	Representing
Larry Hummel*	Van Buren County Road Commission
Tony Dacoba*	Van Buren Public Transit
Mike Dopp*	City of South Haven
Caitlyn Smeltzer	Abonmarche (on behalf of the City of South Haven)
Brandon Kovnat	Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
Kim Gallagher	Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

*Eligible to vote.

1. Call to Order and introduction

Larry Hummel called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM.

2. Overview and Purpose of the Meeting and CMAQ Program

Hummel explained that this was a second meeting to program Van Buren County's CMAQ funds for 2020 thru 2023. Hummel said the reason for this meeting was that Van Buren needed alternative projects in case truck replacements are not funded. He explained that truck replacements are not being approved by FHWA due to their refusal to process Buy America waivers. Buy America is a federal rule requiring equipment purchased with federal funds to be made in the U.S. with a certain percentage of U.S. components including steel content. No truck or bus meets these requirements therefore, congress grants a Buy America waiver. Currently the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is not processing waiver requests. However, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is processing waiver requests. Although CMAQ funding comes from FHWA, it is flexed to FTA when it is programed for transit. Therefore, bus purchases are being processed, while truck purchases are not.

Kovnat gave brief overview of the CMAQ program and explained why the funding amount for Van Buren County is being reduced in 2021-2023 from the 2017-2020 levels. CMAQ funding is granted if an area is designated as non-attainment or maintenance for ozone levels under the Clean Air Act. Van Buren County was not designated as non-attainment for the 2015 ozone standard, and remains in the maintenance category for the 1997 ozone standard. Counties that were not designated non-attainment for the 2015 ozone standard will receive less funding in 2021-2023 while those designated non-attainment will see their CMAQ funds increase.

3. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Review of the 2020-2023 Projects

Hummel suggested that in light of the FHWA waver issues the group consider programing trucks along with an alternative project(s) for each truck purchase. He suggested setting a deadline of November 1ST of each Fiscal year between 2020 and 2023 for receiving a Buy America waiver for truck purchases. If the waiver is not approved by that date, the alternative project(s) would move forward.

There was a question from Smeltzer about whether the City of Hartford included a map and emissions form with their application for the 60th Street Sidewalk project. Brandon said that they did not include all the required material for the application.

Dacoba noted that a bus purchase would be the closest cost to the City of Hartford's truck. It was agreed that a bus purchase would be the alternative if truck replacements were still impossible in 2020.

5. Selection of Fiscally Constrained Projects for 2020-2023

Hummel said that he had applied for three truck replacements just in case there was no other applicants, but he was willing to have only one truck purchase for the Van Buren County Road Commission approved.

Dopp requested that the Phoenix Street Non-motorized Path Extension be approved for 2021. Gallagher requested that the funding for the path be reduced by \$10,000 to fund the SWMPC rideshare program. It was agreed that the Rideshare program would be funded in 2021, 2022, and 2023.

For 2022, Hummel said he wanted Van Buren County Road Commission's truck replacement to be the top priority. Dopp requested that the Aylsworth Path be the Alternative in case trucks replacements were still not being approved.

For 2023, it was decided that if the truck was not funded in 2022 it would be the top priority for 2023. Dacoba requested that the alternative be a bus purchase and electric charging stations.

Kovnat clarified that if the truck was purchased in 2022, then the Aylsworth path would not be programed at all. If the truck was purchased in 2023, then the bus and the electric charging stations would not be programed. This creates three possible scenarios: truck purchase in 2022, truck purchase in 2023, or no truck purchase (see page 3-4).

There was a discussion on what to do with the remaining funds in 2022 and 2023. It was agreed that due to the uncertainty of truck purchases, no decision on remaining funds would be made until it is known if/when the truck purchase will occur.

Motion to approve the 2020-2023 List of CMAQ projects, which will include alternative projects in case truck purchases cannot be funded through the CMAQ program. Made by Tony Dacoba, second by Mike Dopp. **Motion approved.** *The list of approved projects can be found on the following two pages.*

6. Public Comment

None.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM

Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Planner on February 20, 2019

*As of February 20, 2019 SWMPC was informed by MDOT that all projects requiring a Buy America Waiver from FHWA have been suspended until further notice. Because of this SWMPC staff was instructed to program all of the truck purchase projects and alternative projects. **SWMPC will provide an update by November 1st of each fiscal year (2020-2023) on the status of the suspended truck replacement projects.**

CMAQ Projects for 2020:

Agency	Project Name	Federal Funding
2020	Allocation	\$289,239
Village of Paw Paw	Traffic Signal Replacement for North & Hazen	\$200,000
City of Hartford	Replacement Plow Truck*	\$77,239
SWMPC	Rideshare	\$12,000
2020 remaining Balance		\$0

Alternative CMAQ Project for 2020 (if buy America Waivers are not approved for trucks purchases)

Van Buren Public transit	Bus Replacement	\$77,239
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CMAQ Projects for 2021

Agency	Project Name	Federal Funding
2021	Allocation	\$144,783
SWMPC	Rideshare	10,000
City of South Haven	Phoenix Street Multi-use Path	\$134,783
2021 remaining Balance		\$0

The following tables are three scenarios for 2022 and 2023 depending on if/when Van Buren county Road Commission's truck replacement is approved

Preferred Scenario – Truck purchased in 2022

2022		
Agency	Project Name	Federal Funding
2022 Allocation		\$144,783
SWMPC	Rideshare	\$10,000
Van Buren CRC	Truck Replacement*	\$115,920
2022 Total Requested to Use		\$125,920
2022 Remaining Balance		\$18,863

2023		
2023 Allocation		\$144,783
SWMPC	Rideshare	\$10,000
Van Buren Transit	Replace one Bus	\$83,360
South Haven	Electric charging Stations	\$32,000
2023 Total Requested to Use		\$125,360
2023 Remaining Balance		\$19,423

Alternative #1 – Truck is deferred to 2023

2022		
Agency	Project Name	Federal Funding
2022 Allocation		\$144,783
SWMPC	Rideshare	\$10,000
South Haven	Aylsworth Path	\$134,783
2022 Total Requested to Use		\$144,783
2022 Remaining Balance		\$0

2023		
2023 Allocation		\$144,783
SWMPC	Rideshare	\$10,000
Van Buren CRC	Truck Replacement *	\$121,716
2023 Total Requested to Use		\$131,716
2023 Remaining Balance		\$13,067

Alternative #2 – FHWA does not issue Buy America waivers in 2022 or 2023 - No truck replacement

2022		
Agency	Project Name	Federal Funding
2022 Allocation		\$144,783
SWMPC	Rideshare	\$10,000
South Haven	Aylsworth Path	\$134,783
2022 Total Requested to Use		\$144,783
2022 Remaining Balance		\$0

2023		
2023 Allocation		\$144,783
SWMPC	Rideshare	\$10,000
Van Buren Transit	Replace one Bus	\$83,360
South Haven	Electric charging Stations	\$32,000
2023 Total Requested to Use		\$125,360
2023 Remaining Balance		\$19,423