

# Region Four RURAL TASK FORCE

May 27, 2021, 1:30 PM  
Virtual Meeting- Via Zoom

## Meeting Minutes

Attendance	Name	Representing
Voting Members:	Ben Anderson	Village of Cassopolis
	Barry Anttila	Van Buren County Road Commission
	Joe Bellina (chair)	Cass County Road Commission
	Tony Dacoba	Van Buren Public Transit
	Matt Newton	Village of Decatur
	Dennis Schu	Cass County Public Transit
	Kevin Stack	Berrien County Road Department
Staff:	Kim Gallagher	SWMPC
	Brandon Kovnat	SWMPC
Others Present:	Dan Faulkner	Village of Lawrence
	Josh Grab	MDOT, RTF program manager
	Aaron Neitling	Wightman & Associates
	Steve Rogusta	Village of Breedsville
	Jeff Wingard	Fleis Vandenbrink, on behalf of the Village of Bloomingdale
	Emily Sarratore	Village Cassopolis
	Jaqueline Terrill	Village of Marcellus
	Tom Barczak	Village of Bloomingdale
	Jim Sturdevant	MDOT, Office Transportation Planning

### 1. Call to Order and Introductions

Barry Antilla called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM.

### 2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

None

### 3. Approval of Minutes of the December 8, 2020 Meeting

**Motion** to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2020 Region Four RTF meeting. Made by Kevin Stack and seconded by Dennis Schu. **Motion approved.**

### 4. Fiscal Year 2021 Project Updates

**Berrien County:** Stack said the Red Arrow project was set to let on June 4<sup>th</sup>

**Van Buren County:** Antilla said CR 388 was let. The construction start date will be in July. Barczak added that the Village of Bloomingdale's projection on Kalamazoo Street will connect to the County's project.

Netting said the Arlington street project in Bangor was let and construction would begin in June. There was bid savings.

Kovnat mentioned that most projects were coming in low this year. The bid saving for 2021 were used to cover increases in the cost for the Red Arrow Highway project. Additional bid savings will go into carryover.

The carryover can then be used in the future to cover additional costs after obligation of up to 10% above the programmed amount.

#### **5. Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) Projects**

Gallagher explained that Congress had authorized additional transportation funding for COVID Relief under the Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP). She reminded everyone that the RTF policy for programming additional funding is to first check existing projects if they can use additional federal funds and then the illustrative list before sending out a call for new projects. Gallagher said that uses for HIP funding had been decided by each county RTF already. She added that the project details were contained the meeting packet.

- Berrien County RTF decided to add a project from the illustrative list. This is Lemon-Creek Road in the village of Baroda.
- Cass County decided to divide the HIP funds evenly between the two projects already programmed for FY 2022, since both project were already overmatched
- Van Buren County chose to add a project from the illustrative list. This is a Van Buren county Road Commission Project on CR 687.

**Motion** to accept the HIP funded projects as presented. Made by Matt Newton and seconded by Tony Dacoba. **Motion Approved.**

#### **6. Region 4 RTF Bylaws Update**

There was a discussion about the Bylaws. Several changes were agreed upon, and staff will send out the bylaws with those changes to be voted on at the next RTF region meeting.

#### **7. 2023-2026 Call for RTF Projects Timeline**

Gallagher explained that the call for projects would be sent out in June. She said that the PASER ratings (required for applications) will be available in August. Applications will be due in September or October.

#### **8. Public Comment or Privilege of the Floor**

Grab said that bid saving from HIP funds can carry over until 2024. He advised RTF to track HIP so the funds could be reprogrammed if needed.

#### **9. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

*Minutes Compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Transportation Planner*