

Van Buren County RURAL TASK FORCE

Van Buren County Meeting Agenda

December 5th, 2019 9:00 AM

Van Buren County Road Commission, 325 W. James St. Lawrence, MI

1. Call to Order and Introductions
2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda
- Action Item 3. Approval of Minutes of the January 10, 2019 Meeting
4. Obligation Report from 2019
5. Status of 2020 Projects
- Action Item 6. Selection of projects for remaining 2020 balance
- Action Item 7. Proposed Changes to the All Season Road Network
8. Public Comment
9. Adjournment

Voting Members of the Van Buren County Rural Task Force:

Barry Attila., *Van Buren County Road Commission*

Tony Dacoba, *Van Buren County Transit*

Regina Hoover, *City of Bangor*

Staff:

Brandon Kovnat, *Southwest Michigan Planning Commission*

Kim Gallagher, *Southwest Michigan Planning Commission*

Van Buren County RURAL TASK FORCE

January 10, 2019, 1 PM

Van Buren County Road Commission office 319 W James St, Lawrence, MI 49064

Meeting Minutes

Attendance	Name	Representing
Voting Members:	Larry Hummel	Van Buren County Road Commission
	Regina Hoover	City of Bangor
Staff:	Brandon Kovnat	SWMPC
	Kim Gallagher	SWMPC
Others Present:	Steven Rogusta	Village of Breedsville
	Dan Faulkner	Village of Lawrence
	Steve Stepek	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
	Matthew Newton	Village of Decatur
	Aaron Neitting	Wightman
	Mike Presta	Prein & Newhoff
	Anna Horner	Wightman

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Van Buren County RTF chair, Larry Hummel called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

2. Overview of Purpose of the Meeting and RTF Program

Hummel explained that MDOT allocates federal surface transportation funds and state Transportation 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. Van Buren County is a part of Region four RTF which includes Cass, Berrien, and Van Buren Counties. At the Region Four meeting, they typically approve all decisions made at the county meetings.

3. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Selection of a Rural City/Village Representative to Serve on the Van Buren County RTF

Hummel explained that Arron Mitchel was the village representative but he has left his position at the Village of Decatur. Therefore, Van Buren RTF needs to select a new representative.

Faulkner nominated Regina Hoover as the Village/City representative for the Van Buren County Rural Task Force, and for Mathew Newton to serve as an alternate.

Hummel was the only voting member of the RTF present. He asked if there was a consensus from the village & cities on the decision. All village & city representatives expressed agreement.

5. Approval of Minutes of the 2018 Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the January 24, 2018 Van Buren County RTF meeting made by Larry Hummel, second by Regina Hoover. **Motion approved.**

6. Obligation Report from 2018

Faulkner said that the project on W. St. Joseph Street is 99% complete. He had an extension from MDOT to complete the final portions in the spring due to culvert work. He has an outstanding payment he needs to sign off on. All other projects from 2018 are complete.

7. Review of 2019 and 2020 Projects

Kovnat said Breedsville had requested to change their project from West Main Street to East Main Street. Because this is less than a 0.5 mile change, the request was made administratively.

Kovnat said that based on the previous meeting decisions The Village of Bloomingdale's W. Kalamazoo Street project was being programmed for 2019 & 2020. This project had been on the first position of the illustrative list and it was agreed upon at previous meetings that if funding became available the project would be programmed. Due to an increase in federal fund estimates for 2019 & 2020 it was possible to program the project in 2019 with the remaining funds being advance constructed in 2020.

Newton said that S. Williams Street will be 4 inches of HMA instead of 3 inches as indicated in the handout. They plan to use the 2019 funds but do the construction in 2020 (this is possible if the 2019 funds are obligated near the end of the fiscal year, since agencies have 1 year from obligation to begin spending funds).

Motion to affirm Van Buren County RTF projects for 2019. Made by Larry Hummel, second by Regina Hoover. **Motion approved.**

8. Selection of Projects for 2020-2023

Netting asked if projects in the illustrative list for 2017-2020 would automatically move forward to be considered for 2020-2023. He said that he noticed that the Village of Gobles had projects in the illustrative list for 2017-2020 but no applications for 2020-2023. Larry replied that to be considered for the 2020-2023 cycle the agency had to submit an application during the 2020-2023 call for projects.

There was a discussion on how to distribute funds. It was agreed that all villages and cities had a high need for road funding; therefore, a consensus was reached that each village would be awarded one project with the reaming funds to be used within townships. Hummel asked each village and city to list their top priority:
Hoover: Bangor's top priority is E. Arlington Avenue
Rogusta: Breedsville's top priority is Pine Street
Faulkner: Lawrence's top priority is East St. Joseph Street
Newton: Decatur's top priority is Prairie Ronde Street

Hummel explained that State D funds could be used as the match for federal funds allowing agencies to contribute less than 20% of local funds to a project. Hummel suggested that it was fairer for every agency, whether they were using State D funds or not, to contribute at least a 20% local match for their projects. All agencies agreed that they could contribute at least 20% local funds to their project.

Faulkner asked if there was any way that the Village Hall Parking Lot project could be funded. Hummel replied to the request by informing the group that the RTF policy states that the funds are only to be used on projects located on federal aid eligible roads.

Hummel said that all projects not chosen, other than the parking lot, would be placed on the illustrative list.

Motion to approve the 2020-2023 projects for the Van Buren County Rural Task Force. Made by Regina Hoover, second by Larry Hummel. **Motion approved.**

The following list of 2020-2023 projects was agreed upon:

	Agency	Project	Federal	State D	Local Match	Total
2020:	Van Buren County Road Commission	Red Arrow Highway	\$556,887	\$108,113	\$285,000	\$950,000
	Village of Bloomingdale	W. Kalamazoo St	\$269,005			
2021:	City of Bangor	E. Arlington Avenue	\$129,000	\$129,837	\$91,163	\$350,000
	Van Buren County Road Commission	CR 388	\$714,000	\$0	\$476,000	\$1,190,000
2022:	Village of Breedsville	Pine Street Rehabilitation	\$368,000		\$92,400	\$460,400
	Village of Lawrence	East St. Joseph Street	\$238,080	\$72,480	\$77,640	\$388,200
	Village of Decatur	Prairie Ronde	\$253,920	\$0	\$63,480	\$317,400
2023:	Van Buren County Road Commission	CR 388	\$877,000	\$126,820	\$786,180	\$1,790,000

Following the motion to approve the 2020-2023 projects, Rogusta said that he believed that the Village of Breedsville’s West Main Street project should have also been chosen. He also stated he was concerned that the village could not wait until 2022 to improve Pine Street.

9. Proposed Changes to the All Season Road Network

No changes were made. Hummel voiced concern about how up-to-date MDOT’s current All Season Network interactive map was. He identified several roads on the map that should have been labeled as All Season roads. These roads were recorded on a paper map to be sent to MDOT.

10. Public Comment

None.

11. Other New Business

None.

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Minutes Compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Planner