

# Van Buren County *RURAL TASK FORCE*

December 8, 2021 1:00 PM

Hartford Public Library, 12 Church St, Hartford, MI 49057

## Meeting Minutes

Attendance in Person	Name	Representing
Staff	Kim Gallagher Brandon Kovnat	Southwest Michigan Planning Commission Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
Others attending in Person	Thomas Baker Joel Hoort Whitney Pizzala Jeff Wingard Mickey Bittner Rich Vreeland Tony McGhee	Village of Bloomingdale Van Buren County Road Commission AR Engineering on behalf of the Village of Lawrence Fleis & Vandenbrink on behalf of Village of Bloomingdale Wightman & Associates City of Gobles Abonmarche
Attendance Virtual	Name	Representing
Voting Members	Barry Anttila Laurie Schlipp Steve Rogusta	Van Buren County Road Commission Van Buren County Public Transit Village of Breedsville
Others attending virtually	Tommy Simpson Linda Norton Aaron Neetling Josh Grab Jim Sturdevant	City of Bangor Village of Breedsville Wightman & Associates MDOT, RTF Program Manager MDOT Statewide Planning

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Barry Anttila called the meeting was called to order at 1 PM

2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

None

3. Election of a City/Village Representative for the Rural Task Force Committee

Gallagher said that the previous village representative, Matt Newton from the Village of Decatur, had accepted a new position in Cass County. This leaves an opening on the Van Buren County RTF Committee. Linda Norton nominated Steve Rogusta from the Village of Breedsville.

**Motion** to elect Steve Rogusta to be the City/Village representative for the Van Buren County Rural Task Force and the Region Four Rural Task Force. Made by Lina Norton and seconded by Tommy Simpson. **Motion approved.**

4. Approval of Minutes from the January 22, 2020 Van Buren RTF Meeting

**Motion** to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2020 Van Buren RTF meeting. Made by Laurie Schlipp and seconded by Barry Anttila. **Motion approved.**

5. Review of 2022 Projects

The status of the three Van Buren County RTF projects was shown in the meeting PowerPoint. The agencies all said that they did not have any additional details to add.

6. Selection of Projects for 2024-2026

Kovnat presented the local match required if each agency would receive their top project. Anttila said that while the Red Arrow project was needed, he didn't feel that it was fair for this to be the only funding the road commission received. There was also concern raised about the high cost for the City of Gobles East Van Buren Street project.

Several attendees said they wanted CR 388 to be repaired. The poor condition of CR 388 was discussed. Also mentioned was that CR 388 is being used more frequently as a shortcut to South Haven from the Kalamazoo area, going through Gobles and Bloomingdale. The Road Commission said that they would accept a list that included funding their Red Arrow Project and the CR 388 project.

The City of Gobles said that they could reduce the limits of their project and accept partial funding. All applicants also agreed to contribute a 20% local match. With this agreement to the total amount of federal and State D funds programmed would equal the total amount available.

There was then a discussion of moving projects between years to balance each year. After rearranging projects between years, there was still a shortfall of \$243,360 for FY 2024. There was an agreement to use an advanced construct to balance 2024. The balance of the 2024 amount will be split evenly with each agency using an advance of \$81,120 to be repaid in 2025.

The following list of projects was presented:

FY 2024

Agency	Project	Limits	Federal STP	State D	Local
<b>Allocation</b>			<b>\$879,000</b>	<b>\$16,946</b>	
City of Bangor	Center Street	E. Monroe St. to North city Limit	\$155,159	\$16,946	\$63,306
City of Gobles	East Van Buren Street	State St. (M-40) to 32nd St.	\$501,692	\$54,792	TBD
Village of Lawrence	Paw Paw Street	Front St. to South village Limits	\$222,149	\$24,262	\$81,883
<b>Balance</b>			<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	

FY 2025

Agency	Project	Limits	Federal STP	State D	Local
<b>Allocation</b>			<b>\$896,000</b>	<b>\$99,000</b>	
Village of Bloomingdale	North Van Buren Street	Pine St. to north Village Limits	\$497,578	\$22,262	\$129,960
Van Buren Road Commission	Red Arrow Highway	59.5 St to CR 681	\$155,062	\$6,938	\$40,500
City of Bangor	Center Street - <b>ACC</b>	E. Monroe St. to North city Limit	\$81,120	NA	NA
City of Gobles	East Van Buren Street - <b>ACC</b>	State St. (M-40) to 32nd St.	\$81,120	NA	NA
Village of Lawrence	Paw Paw Street - <b>ACC</b>	Front St. to South village Limits	\$81,120	NA	NA
<b>Balance</b>			<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$68,800</b>	

FY 2026

Agency	Project	Limits	Federal STP	State D	Local
<b>Allocation</b>			<b>\$896,000</b>	<b>\$167,800 (incl. carryover)</b>	
Village of Breedsville	West Main Street	West Village limits to Pine St.	\$400,000	\$0	\$100,000
Village of Decatur	North Phelps Street	Cedar St. to North Village Limits	\$186,874	\$61,126	\$62,000
Van Buren Road Commission	CR 388	Bloomingdale Village limits (41 <sup>st</sup> St) to CR 380	\$326,126	\$106,674	\$108,200
<b>Balance</b>			<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	

The City of Gobles agreed to present updated limits and local match amounts before the Region 4 RTF meeting.

**Motion** to approve the projects for 2024-2026 as presented. Made by Steve Rogusta and seconded by Laurie Schlipp. **Motion approved.**

7. Public Comment or Privilege of the Floor

None

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:28 PM.

*Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC associate planner*