

# REGION FOUR RURAL TASK FORCE

April 9, 2024 10 AM

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

Meeting Minutes

Attendance	Name	Representing
Voting Members <i>In-person</i>	Kevin Stack	Berrien County Road Department
	Dan Faulkner	Village of Three Oaks
	Dennis Schuh	Berrien Bus
	Barry Anttila	Van Buren County Road Commission
	Steve Rogusta	Village of Breedsville
Staff <i>In-person</i>	Kim Gallagher	Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
	Brandon Kovnat	Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
Others Present <i>In Person</i>	Aaron Neitling	Whightman and Associates
	Nicol Brown	City of Hartford
	Linnea Rader	Van Buren County Road Commission
	David Clift	Van Buren County Road Commission
	Adrian Stroupe	MDOT , Southwest Region
	Katie Vanderhulst	Abonmarche
	Christopher Tapper	Village of Decatur
Virtually Attendees via Zoom	Joe Bellina	Cass County Road Commission
	Ben Anderson	Village of Cassopolis

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Kevin Stack called the meeting to order at 10 AM and led introductions.

2. Overview of the Meeting Purpose

Stack explained that the purpose of the meeting was to vote on two proposed amendments.

3. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the November 29, 2023, Region 4 RTF Meeting

**Motion** to approve the minutes from the Region Four RTF meeting held on November 29, 2023. Introduced by Dan Faulkner, and seconded by Steve Rogusta. **Motion approved.**

5. Amendments to RTF Projects

*Details on amendments were included in the meeting packet*

**Berrien County RTF:** Stack explained that the Berrien County Road Department's FY 2024 Red Arrow Highway project encompasses both road resurfacing and a non-motorized path. The Road Department secured a TAP grant for the non-motorized path, resulting in the non-motorized costs being separated from the RTF project and allocated to a separate TAP-funded job. The federal RTF funding and State D funding for the project will remain unchanged. Furthermore, the final combined estimate for the road work and path remains nearly identical to the original programming.

**Motion** to approve the amendments to Berrien County RTF projects as presented. Introduced by Dan Faulkner and seconded by Barry Antilla. **Motion approved.**

**Van Buren RTF:** Kovnat presented the proposal to move the Van Buren County Road Commission CR388 project from 2026 to 2025 to balance the Fy2025 budget.

Vanderhulst presented a request to allocate additional funding to Decatur's N. Phelps Street project in FY 2026, citing higher costs. Kovnat suggested that if Decatur were to receive more funding, it would be appropriate to also consider additional funding for other village projects in 2025 and 2026, given the likelihood of increased costs for every project compared to the initial estimates. He mentioned that the 2024 projects for both Lawrence and Gobles had received a 15% increase in federal funds above the initially programmed amount. The committee agreed to postpone voting on any changes to Van Buren projects until the fall. This decision will allow the Bloomingdale and Breedsville to identify their latest estimates for their projects and allow for a more extensive discussion at the next Van Buren RTF meeting.

6. Discussion about the 2027-2029 Call for Projects

Gallagher presented a timeline for the 2027-2029 call for projects with the Call being released in June-July 2024, and selection occurring at Fall 2024-Early Winter 2025 meetings. Projects programmed for 2026 will be not kept, but agencies will need to submit new application with updated cost estimates.

7. Public Comment or Privilege of the Floor

Brian Stark gave several updates on the RTF program. He encouraged all agencies to sign up for the MDOT email newsletter to receive the latest RTF news.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.

*Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Transportation Planner*