

CASS COUNTY RURAL TASK FORCE

November 27, 2023

Cass County Road Commission Office
Meeting minutes

	Name	Representing
Cass RTF Committee	Joe Bellina	Cass County Road Commission
	Ben Anderson	Village of Cassopolis
	Gerry Bundle	Cass Transit
Others Present in Person	Zane Aldrich	SWMPC
	Brandon Kovnat	SWMPC
	Emily LaGrow	Village of Cassopolis
	Dennis Erwin	Village of Marcellus
	Jaqueline Tarro	Village of Marcellus
	Jamie Anderson	Cass County Public Transit
Attending Virtually	Brian Stark	MDOT, RTF program manager

Joe Bellina called the meeting to Order at 1PM and led introductions.

Bellina stated that the purpose of the meeting was to balance the FY2024 Cass RTF budget. The RTF funding allocation for 2024 was recalculated by MDOT using data from the 2020 Census. Due to this Cass RTF's federal funds are overprogrammed in FY 2024 by \$24,351. The State D balance available to program in FY 2024 is \$386,205.

Bellina proposed to reduce federal funding for Cassopolis and Cass CRC by an equal percentage. They would then add an equal amount of State D funding to keep the combined federal & State D the same for each agency.

Gerry Bundle inquired about RTF funding for Transit and presented two projects: A digital radio system estimated at \$25,000, and Shop tools, estimated at \$37,500. There was a discussion on which project was a greater priority. Jamie mentioned using personal tools and the need for radio funding.

Financial State of Cass Transit. Jamie Anderson said that he was using his own personal tools, and could hold out for another year, but the funding for the radios would have to come out of the agency operating budget if not funded now.

There was further discussion about the financial state of Cass County Public Transit. Gerry said a millage was on the February ballot. If that fails, they will try again in the August election and would need the county to authorize funding until then. He felt very confident that they would get funding to continue operations.

Ben Anderson said that Cassopolis could swap \$20,000 in federal funds on their State Street project for State D funds, allowing the federal funding to be used by Cass Transit for Radios.

Motion: To approve the reductions in federal funding and increases in State D funding for the Cass County Road Commission and the Village of Cassopolis FY 2024 projects, as discussed. Additionally allocate \$20,000 in federal funding for Cass County Transit to sue for Radios. The motion was made by Ben and seconded by Joe Bellina. **Motion approved.**

Jaqueline Tarro proposed a future project for Marcellus on Center Street from Main St to Reed St, with an estimated cost of \$182,986. She Proposed funding it with 80% State D funds (\$146,388) and a 20% local match (\$36,598). She asked to add this to the illustrative list, and hopefully get it funded in FY 2026.

Motion: To add the Center Street project in the Village of Marcellus to an Illustrative list. The motion was made by Ben Anderson and seconded by Gerry Bundle. **Motion approved.**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM

Minutes taken by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Transportation Planner