



To: Rural Transportation Task Force Members
From: Lauryn Blake, Planner, WMSRDC
RE: Review and approval of Task Force minutes

Commission staff is requesting review and approval of the attached minutes from the February 24, 2026 meeting.

REGIONAL RURAL TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE 14 MEETING

WMSRDC Conference Room 316 Morris Ave, Suite 340

Muskegon, MI 49440

MEETING MINUTES

February 24, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Wawsczyk called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. A quorum was present.

II. ATTENDANCE

A. Members Present

Derek Wawsczyk, Newaygo County Road Commission (Vice Chairperson)
Brad Hinken, Newaygo County Agency on Aging
Paul Keson, Ludington Mass Transit Authority
Leroy Williams, Lake County Road Commission
Paul Bouman, Muskegon County Road Commission
Howard Perry, Yates Township Dial a Ride
Tyler Kent, MDOT Grand Region
Lisa Nagel, Oceana County Council on Aging
Steve Wessels, Mason County Road Commission
Theresa Lamb, Village of Baldwin
Cole Shafer, Oceana County Road Commission (Alternate)

B. Members Absent

Kasey Jernberg, Newaygo County Village/City Representative
Eric Nelson, Mason County Road Commission
Clarence Goodlein, City of Scottville
Geoff Nelson, Village of Ravenna
Jim Koens, Muskegon Area Transit System

C. Others Present

Brian Stark, MDOT (Virtual)

D. Staff Present

Joel Fitzpatrick, WMSRDC

Lauryn Blake, WMSRDC

Jack Grice, WMSRDC

Erin Kuhn, WMSRDC

Amanda Snyder, WMSRDC

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – No members of the public spoke.

IV. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Minutes were reviewed from the last meeting, held April 22, 2025. A motion was made and supported to approve the minutes. Motion carried. ***M/S Bouman/Jernberg***

V. FY2026 – 2029 AMENDMENTS

Newaygo County

FY2026 – JN 214617 had a scope change to cover various chip seal projects along 11 Mile Rd/Dickinson Rd/13 Mile Rd/18 Mile Rd to M-37/18 Mile Rd/Warner Ave/Dickinson Rd – totaling to \$1,411,250.

Additionally, Newaygo County Road Commission is participating in the 2027 Federal Aid Buyout Program.

Oceana County

Ms. Lisa Nagel presented on a new project beginning in FY2027 with awarded 5339(b) funding. This project includes the purchase of miscellaneous air tools, hoses, etc., as well as storage for parts and supplies for vehicle maintenance at a total cost of \$9,000.

Mr. Cole Shafer presented some projects near Polk Rd for the illustrative list on behalf of the Oceana County Road Commission. Engineering estimates total \$255,176.

A motion was made and supported to approve amendments to the FY2026-2029 project list shown above. Motion approved. ***M/S Lamb/Williams***

Lake County

Mr. Howard Perry discussed a new FY2026 job to replace a security system for the Yates Dial-A-Ride bus garage and upgraded tablets with cases for their buses, totaling \$31,500.

A motion was made and supported to approve amendments to the FY2026-2029 project shown above. Motion approved. ***M/S Wessels/Williams***

VI. GIS INITIATIVE DISCUSSION

Ms. Erin Kuhn discussed upcoming efforts to study the feasibility of establishing a regionwide GIS that allows for improved coordination between the region, local agencies, and the state. This will begin with a survey that will identify current GIS practices and local need for a regional GIS. The overall goal of this system is to inventory infrastructure assets like water lines, sewage, capital improvement plans, etc. which will allow for better coordination across asset owners and the region.

VII. NEAR-MISS SURVEY PRESENTATION

Mr. Jack Grice shared a presentation regarding the Near-MISS survey initiative in the MPO. This survey is designed to crowdsource information on locations of concern and witnessed near-miss incidents. He provided an overview of the survey and how it works, emphasizing that it is data to supplement ongoing planning efforts and to better understand the traffic safety network in the region. He is asking the committee to participate in a formal launch of the survey to inform the communities. Discussion regarding the survey ensued.

VIII. UPDATE FROM MDOT

Mr. Tyler Kent informed the task force that MDOT has a new 5-year program that he will share with the group. He also mentioned that processing amendments are lagging but being worked on.

Mr. Brian Stark added to the lagging amendments, stating that the jobs lagging is mainly

transit jobs. Mr. Stark moved on to discuss the Federal Aid Buyout program, stating there is enough funding to go to all the projects that applied, and they will be announced in the beginning of March.

Mr. Stark requested that any federal to local funding changes be submitted to him promptly, clarifying that there is no submission process necessary for TEDF-D funding changes.

Mr. Stark stated that if any federal funding is to be used on local roads or minor arterials, it is necessary to include that in the 1799 forms that are submitted.

Mr. Stark informed the task force that funding was 8% less than what was originally estimated. He added that August redistribution funding can be utilized if there is carryover available, which there is. This process will be discussed more thoroughly at the RTF training in the fall in Kalamazoo. There will also be RTF 101 training on February 27.

IX. RURAL TRANSPORTATION ROUNDTABLE

Mr. Joel Fitzpatrick mentioned to the task force that road ratings will begin in the springtime. Muskegon County is getting a headstart on their ratings and plan to start the week of April 21. Additionally, he mentioned that the task force will need to meet again in April to approve any transit jobs as those need to be programmed by May.

X. NEW BUSINESS – No new business was discussed.

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No unfinished business was discussed.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT – No members of the public spoke.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.