

# Region 2 Planning Commission

*Serving Hillsdale, Jackson and Lenawee Counties*

## MEETING MINUTES

### Region 2 Planning Commission - Full Commission

Jackson County Tower Bldg., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
120 W. Michigan Ave.  
Jackson, MI 49201

**Thursday, March 12, 2020**

I. **Call to Order** – Chair Terry called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

Attendance:

Acker	Cure	✓ Jancek (E)	Sessions
Adams	David	Jenkins	✓ Shotwell
Arno	DeBoe	✓ Jennings	✓ Sigers (E)
✓ Bair	✓ Dillon	Johnson	Spencer
Baker	✓ Drake	Jones	Spink
Bales	Driskill (E)	Karnaz	Stormont
Barnhart	Duckham (E)	Kastel	Swartzlander
Beach	✓ Elwell	Keck	✓ Terry (E)
Beckner	Emmons	✓ Knoblauch (E)	✓ Tillotson (E)
✓ Beeker (E)	✓ Frey	Koehn	VanValkenburg
Blythe	✓ Gaede (E)	✓ Kubish (E)	Votzke
Boggs	Gallagher	Lance	Wagner
Bolton	Gould, J.	Linnabary	Wardius
Bower	✓ Gould, L. (E)	Navarro	Webb
Burns	Grabert (E)	✓ O'Dowd	✓ Welsh (E)
Burruss	✓ Greene	✓ Overton (E)	Williams
Bush	Greenleaf	Palmer	Wilson
Cavasin	✓ Guetschow (E)	Poole (E)	Winter
Chamberlain	Hartsel	Richardson, C.	Witt
Collins	Hawley	✓ Richardson, R.	Wittenbach (E)
Cornish	Heath	Ries	Wymer
Cousino	Herlein	Schlecte	
Craig	Isley	Seegert	

**Key:** ✓ = present      (E) = Executive Committee member

Staff Present: Grant Bauman, Tanya DeOliveira, Steve Duke, and Jim Latham

Others Present: Mike Davis, MDOT

- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Those in attendance rose and joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **Approval of the Agenda** – Mr. Duke requested that approval of MDOT TIP amendments be added to the agenda. The motion was made by Comm. Tillotson, supported by Comm. Guetschow, to approve the March 12, 2020 agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.
- IV. **Public Comment** – Chair Terry requested public comment. No public comments were received.
- V. **Approval of the Full Commission Minutes for January 9, 2020** – The motion was made by Comm. Guetschow, supported by Comm. Knoblauch, to approve the January 9, 2020 Full Commission meeting minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.
- VI. **Approval of Action Taken at the February 13, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting** – The motion was made by Comm. Knoblauch, supported by Comm. Shotwell, to approve the Executive Committee meeting minutes of February 13, 2020 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.
- VII. **Receipt of Treasurer’s Report of February 29, 2020** – A motion was made by Comm. Drake, and supported by Comm. Guetschow, to receive the February 29, 2020 Treasurer’s Report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
- VIII. **Approval of March 12, 2020 Submitted Bills** – A motion was made by Comm. Tillotson, supported by Comm. Guetschow, to approve payment of the March 12, 2020 submitted bills. The motion carried unanimously.
- IX. **Staff Progress Report for February, 2020** – Mr. Duke explained that the staff progress report was included in the agenda packet and asked if the Commissioners had any questions. No comments were received.
- X. **R2PC FY 2019 Annual Audit Report** – Mr. Latham, R2PC Accountant, reviewed the recently completed FY 2019 Annual Audit Report prepared by Smith & Klaczkiewicz, PC. Mr. Latham reported that the auditors found no significant findings or deficiencies. The motion was made by Comm. Gould, supported by Comm. Beeker, to accept the R2PC FY 2019 audit and place a copy on file. The motion carried unanimously.
- XI. **Approval of MDOT Amendments to the JACTS FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program** – Mr. Davis reported that MDOT was requesting the following amendments to the JACTS FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

FY	Job no.	Phase	Project Name	Limits	Length	Project Description	Funds	Fund Source	Amendment Type
2020	208524	CON	I-94	I94/US-127 North West Avenue Interchange	2.794	Freeway Interchange Reconstruction	Federal - \$0 State - \$78,000,000	State – RBMP	Phase Add
2022	210047	CON	I-94	Jackson/Calhoun County Line to Michigan Avenue	4.905	Concrete inlay, concrete pavement repair, cable rail installation	Federal - \$28,800,000 State - \$3,200,000 Total - \$32,000,000	Federal - IM	Phase Add
2020	209934	CON	Ganson Street	Ganson Street over the Grand River	0	Bridge Replacement	Federal \$1,053,768 State - \$240,390 Total - \$1,317,210	Federal – HIPB	Phase Add
2022	127621	CON	I-94	Michigan Ave to M-60	7.583	Reconstruction (road) and Bridge CPM on 6 structures	Federal - \$2,212,430 State - \$86,523,082 Total - \$88,735,512	Federal – IM State – RBMP	CON phase now using RBMP funding for road items. Added 6 structures for proposed bridge CPM work. These items will be funded using IM
2020	129153	CON	I-94	At Elm Road	1.367	Reconstruct interchange	Federal - \$20,219,063 State - \$2,246,562 Total - \$22,465,625	Federal – IM	Adjusted CON phase budgets to get an increase in the CE budget that is 20% of the construction amount due to the Design/Build Requirement / Special Letting, Updated to October 30, 2020
2020	202121	CON	I-94 E	I-94 under Lansing Ave	0.464	Bridge replacement & freeway reconstruct	Federal - \$10,256,545 State - \$2,274,360 Total - \$12,530,905	Federal – IM	Adjusted CON phase budgets to get an increase in the CE budget that is 20% of the construction amount due to the Design/Build Requirement / Special Letting, Updated to October 30, 2020
2020	201001	CON	M-50	M-124 to Goose Creek	1.02	HMA Cold milling & single course overlay	Federal – \$777,902 State – \$172,498 Total – \$950,400		Due to ongoing STIP review & upcoming approval, letting date has been moved to April 3, 2020

The motion was made by Comm. Guetschow, supported by Comm. Bair, to approve the posed MDOT amendments to the JACTS FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**XII. Jackson City+County Non-Motorized Plan** – Ms. DeOliveira presented a broad overview of the *Jackson City + County Non-Motorized Plan* as well as its development methodology. She revealed that the proposed priority regional/countywide network is comprised of various trails, gravel road routes, and paved shoulder routes. The priority trails include 9 proposed routes that will complete the network of trails which already have regional/countywide significance. Ms. DeOliveira announced that the draft document includes subarea plans for the following areas: The villages of Brooklyn, Concord, Grass Lake, Hanover, Parma, and Springport; the unincorporated Village of Spring Arbor; and the City of Jackson, Blackman Township, and Summit Township (which comprise the Jackson Urbanized Area). She also mentioned that the plan contains a section regarding recommended policies, programs, and metrics that will aid in its implementation. Ms. DeOliveira concluded by inviting Commissioners to review and comment on the plan—which will be posted on <https://walkbike.info/jackson/plan/>—once it is released for public comment.

**XIII. Appointment of the R2PC Personnel & Finance Committee** – Mr. Duke explained that per the R2PC Bylaws, the Board annually appoints the representatives to the Personnel & Finance Committee at the March Full Commission meeting. The 2019 members of the Committee included Chair Tillotson, Treasurer Wittenbach, and Comms. Burtch, Gaede, Jancek, and Terry.

The motion was made by Comm. Drake, supported by Comm. Shotwell, to close nominations and cast a unanimous vote for the following slate of candidates for the 2020 P & F Committee: Chair Terry, Treasurer Beeker, and Comms. Gaede, Jancek, Tillotson, and Bair. The motion carried unanimously.

**XIV. Region 2 Area – Existing Land Use Patterns & Major Community Facilities** – Staff presented the results of the existing land use patterns and major community facilities study recently completed for Jackson County, the entire Region 2 Area, and Hillsdale and Lenawee Counties. Approximately 46% of Jackson County's assessed acreage is used agriculturally, compared to 63% region-wide (and 72% in the other counties). Approximately 40% of Jackson County's assessed acreage is used agriculturally, compared to 29% region-wide (and 24% in Hillsdale County and 22% in Lenawee County). Approximately 5% of Jackson County's assessed acreage is used commercially and industrially, compared to 3% region-wide (and 3% in Lenawee County and 1.5% in Hillsdale County). Approximately 8% of Jackson County's assessed acreage is exempt, compared to 5% region-wide (and 4% in Lenawee County and 2% in Hillsdale County). Major community facilities found throughout Jackson County and the entire Region 2 Area can be organized in the following categories: municipal & county parks, state parks & private nature preserves, private recreation facilities, regional trails & scenic railroads, hospital campuses, jails & prisons, college & university campuses, airports, and landfills & transfer facilities. The full reports for the region and each of the counties can be viewed/downloaded from the [Economic Development](#) webpage on [www.region2planning.com](http://www.region2planning.com). Staff concluded by stating that the resources will be of great value as the Planning Commission develops the master plan's goals and objectives and its future land use element.

**XV. PASER Ratings for Hillsdale, Jackson, and Lenawee Counties** – Ms. DeOliveira briefly reviewed the results of the FY 2018/2019 PASER ratings for all the federal-aid roadway pavement surfaces in all three counties. Overall, the trend has been a continuing deterioration in surface conditions. Detailed maps of individual jurisdictions are available by contacting Ms. DeOliveira.

**XVI. Other Business** – Mr. Duke reported that per the Michigan Enabling Act, R2PC was notified by the City of Tecumseh that they plan to create a corridor plan for the Russell Road Corridor.

Blackman Township is submitting a MNRTF grant application for \$45,000, with \$45,000 local funds to construct a parking area and ramp on Canary Lane.

MDOT will be hosting a public meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup> at Blackman Township Hall to discuss upcoming I-94 projects including the reconstruction of the US-127/West Avenue interchange, Lansing Road bridge, and the Elm Road interchange.

No other business was brought before the Commission.

**XVII. Public Comment / Commissioners' Comments** – Chair Terry wished all the Commissioners stay safe during the Coronavirus pandemic.

**XVIII. Adjournment** – There being no further business, Chair Terry adjourned the meeting at 3:23 PM.

Chris Wittenbach  
Secretary