



Regional Planning, Research & Advisory Services

MINUTES

REGION 2 RURAL TASK FORCE

Brooklyn Village Office
121 N. Main St.
Brooklyn, MI 49230

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Members Present: **Hillsdale County**
Bob Griffis, HCRC
Brooke Lewis-Stiverson, Key Opportunities

Jackson County
Charlie Briner, JCDOT
Hunter Causie, JATA
Matt Swartzlander, Village of Brooklyn

Lenawee County
Scott Merillat, LCRC (Chair)
Kate Daisher, LPTA
Jim Frayer, Village of Britton

Others Present: Brian Stark, MDOT – RTF Program Manager (Virtual)
Jim Cole, JCDOT
Brett Gatz, Region 2 Planning Commission
Katie Miller, Region 2 Planning Commission

ITEM 1 **CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Merillat called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. Introductions were done by the committee.

ITEM 2 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were received.

ITEM 3 **APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 19, 2024 FULL REGION 2 RURAL TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Swartzlander, supported by Ms. Daisher, to approve the Full Region 2 Rural Task Force meeting minutes of November 19, 2024 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 4 **RURAL TASK FORCE UPDATE FROM MDOT**

An update about the statewide Rural Task Force Program was given by Mr. Stark.

ITEM 5

REVIEW AND ADJUST BALANCE SHEET FOR FY 2026-2029 JATA PROJECTS

Projects for FY 2026 and FY 2028 were presented by JATA. The addition of these projects would require JCDOT to decrease the funding for their Various Roads projects for those fiscal years. JCDOT requested information from JATA about what this funding will go towards and how much ridership they get from these Reserve-a-Ride vans. Mr. Stark stated that not much can be done about these projects now, since the FY 2026-2029 STIP has already been developed and FY 2026 projects will be frozen until July 1. He suggested a local county meeting be done in the fall to discuss these project changes, to which the committee agreed. Therefore, no action was taken on these projects.

ITEM 6

CHANGES TO ALL-SEASON ROAD NETWORK

No changes to the all-season road network were presented.

ITEM 7

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was presented.

ITEM 8

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received.

ITEM 9

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Daisher, supported by Mr. Frayer, to adjourn the meeting at 1:36 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Brett Gatz, Recording Secretary
Region 2 Planning Commission