Michigan Local Rural Transportation Program
2017 Annual Conference
March 30, 2017

Jim Iwanicki, P.E.
Engineer-Manager
Marquette County Road Commission
Members of Advisory Board

MDOT
• Dave Wresinski, Chair, Director - Bureau of Transportation Planning
• Brad Wieferich, Director - Bureau of Hwy. Development
• Sharon Edgar, Administrator - Office of Passenger Transportation

Transit
• John Drury, Administrator – MASSTrans
• Clark Harder, Executive Director – Michigan Public Transit Association

MML
• Mike Cain, City Manager – Boyne City
• Adam Umbrasas, Village Manager – Three Oaks Village

CRA
• Wayne Schoonover, Manager/Director – Mason County Road Commission
• Jim Iwanicki, Vice Chair, Engineer – Manager – Marquette CRC
Educational Web Site:
michiganrtf.com
The Rural Task Force (RTF) Program has Changed!

In General:
• Year under belt.
• Name Change
• Oversight - Advisory
• MDOT is responsible for program
• The process will continue to be refined and modified as time goes on.
Points of Emphasis for the RTF Program

Michigan Local Rural Transportation Program

STATEWIDE GUIDELINES AND OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR RURAL FUNDING AND PLANNING COORDINATION AGREEMENTS
Funding and Distribution

• MDOT Distributes a “target” amount to each RTF based on statewide formula.

• Each County will get an annual county-level allocation “estimate”.

Obligation Authority

• Local Rural Transportation Program will have a separate pot of STP-Rural obligation authority.

• Any project submitting A “Complete Biddable Package” by August 1\textsuperscript{st} will be funded. Even if there is no remaining obligation authority for that fiscal year as long as it is part of the fiscally constrained STIP.

• Those submitted after August 1\textsuperscript{st} run the risk of not being funded. (Federal Redistribution or unused rural obligation authority.)
• MDOT will carry over up to 5% of any unused Rural obligation authority. Plus any Federal Redistribution amount assigned to the rural program.

• MDOT and the RTF Advisory Board will adjust the upcoming year’s target amounts based on the need to fund all “Complete Biddable Package” submitted by August 1st.

• Obligation Authority is also used for cost overruns and closing out projects.
Financial Constraints

• All RTFs must be financially constrained each year.
Borrowing and Lending Funds

• If it is between Task Forces a written agreement shall be used.

• If it is within a Task Force a handshake agreement is ok if all parties are comfortable with that method. Otherwise use a written agreement.
Regional Task Force Meetings

• RTF Advisory Board Recommends a minimum of 3 meetings per year.

• **November/December - Adjust Program**
  Adjust the Program, especially current year projects to align with adjusted “targets”.

• **March/April – Project Progression Check**
  Check to see that all task force projects for that year are on tract to be a “Complete Biddable Package” by August 1st.

• **June – Check For Unused Funds**
  Is the Task Force using all available funds.
Do’s and Don’ts

• **Do** get your “Complete Biddable Package” in by August 1\textsuperscript{st}. Use it, or you might lose it! The Program comes with a funding guarantee if you are on time!

• **Do** give MDOT time to review your “Complete Biddable Package” so if there is an issue it can be fixed by August 1\textsuperscript{st}.

• **Don’t** cry if you don’t get your “Complete Biddable Package” in by August 1\textsuperscript{st}.
Do’s and Don’ts (Continued)

- **Do** keep your promises.
  It is your responsibility to spend the money once you committed to the Task Force to spend the money.

- **Do** let your County Task Force Members and the other RTF members know early if you are having a problem spending the money prior to the August 1st “Complete Biddable Package” deadline.

- **Do** reach out to other RTFs for help if your Task Force members can’t help you keep your promise.
Do’s and Don’ts (Continued)

• **Do** make adjustments and corrections to the upcoming year’s program as soon as possible.

• **Don’t** make drastic changes for current year STIP. Limit current year program changes to minor adjustments in cost and minor changes to project limits.

• **Don’t** make wholesale changes to your program by removing and adding projects.
Do’s and Don’ts (Continued)

• **Don’t** wait to the last minute on your projects. Right of way, historical clearance, environmental permits, survey, design and MDOT’s letting process take time. Try to address these issues one fiscal year in advance.

• **Do** be a good Task Force Member. **Don’t** play games to beat the system.

• **Do** keep tract of your RTF projects. Bid savings, overruns, extras, and project closeout all count for and against your task force obligation authority.
What’s to Come

• MDOT is looking into some kind of “Cradle to Grave” Project Accounting to help with accountability.

• The process that was developed will not be the end all final product. The RTF Advisory Board knows that changes will happen and that this will be a living - breathing document. We have tried to imagine all the possibilities but things will come up and we will have to workout the kinks.
Final Words

- If you follow the rules, your project will be funded without affecting next year’s program.

- If there are issues please let an advisory member know.