

MICHIGAN RURAL TASK FORCE 1ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Thursday, March 30, 2017

Mt. Pleasant, MI – Comfort Inn

THE BASICS

- 22 Rural Task Forces
- 78 “rural counties”
 - Population under 400,000



MORE BASICS

- Representation
 - County road agency
 - Cities/Villages under 5K population
 - Rural transit providers
- Funding
 - Federal Surface Transportation Program
 - State TEDF Category D



STRENGTH IN NUMBERS



- Strategic direction
- Consistency in implementation, administration
- Facilitate training/education/communication

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- First year of implementing statewide guidelines & some lessons learned:
 - What to do when there is more money given to us at the end of the fiscal year?
 - Initiating pilot federal exchange program – Kent and Montcalm success

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Better integration and coordination of Regional Planning Agencies into Rural Task Force (RTF) Process



- Obligated over \$35 million in federal funds statewide

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Held statewide training across the state (Gaylord, Marquette, Flint and Lansing)



2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Recognized and selected by National Transportation Research Board (TRB) for Michigan planning process and presented at their annual conference (January 2017)



2017 - THE FISCAL YEAR SO FAR

- Statewide Board reviewed guidelines and bylaws refining their role & changed their name
- Working on new reporting tools including a new financial status report. MDOT will provide the information as a tool that individual RTFs can use to better track the financial status of projects
- Reviewing statewide guidelines and adding clarifying language
- Ensuring that transit agencies are considered equal partners at both the task force and the county level



2017 – THE FISCAL YEAR SO FAR

- Ensuring that RPAs continue to assist us in facilitating and coordinating the transportation planning process in non-metropolitan areas
- Requiring data sheets (MDOT forms 1797 and 1799) now be submitted with every new or changing project as a pre-requisite to being added to the RTF E-file
- Rural projects were successfully migrated to the new MDOT database – JobNet



2017 – THE FISCAL YEAR SO FAR

- Projects in the new JobNet system need to be updated to reflect state funding due to an auto-calculate issue
- Change requests take a little longer to process during this transition period, but will get better over time
- New Rural Coordinator will be hired



2017-THINGS TO COME

- Peer mentoring program for Regional Planning Agency (RPA) staff
- Bi-monthly teleconference with RPA, MDOT Region Planners and Statewide Planning Section staff to discuss issues and share information
- More direct involvement by Michigan Association of Regions (MAR) to support RPA staff

2017 – THINGS TO COME

- Statewide Safety Performance Measures and Targets
- Performance-Based Planning Products and Procedures
- Planning for Next Year's Conference (surveys, ideas, feedback)



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- Michigan Department of Transportation Local Agency Programs, Office of Passenger Transportation, Region Planners, Statewide Planning Section

Thanks

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