MICHIGAN RURAL TASK FORCE
1ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Thursday, March 30, 2017
Mt. Pleasant, MI – Comfort Inn
• 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)
• Special Thanks to Andy Brush, Clark Harder, Mark Harrison, Jim Iwanicki, Tracie Leix, Eric Mullen, Jana Nicol, Savannah Sodeman, Jim Sturdevant, Anna Swanson

• Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Michigan Public Transit Association, Michigan Rural Task Force Program Advisory Board

• Michigan Department of Transportation Local Agency Programs, Office of Passenger Transportation, Region Planners, Statewide Planning Section
Questions?
2017 MICHIGAN RTF 1ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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