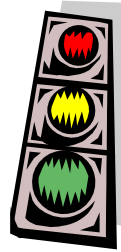
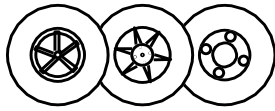


The Newsletter of
the Battle Creek
Area Transportation
Study



The Signal Summer, 2011

BCATS

August, 2011

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2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Completed

The Battle Creek Area Transportation Study Policy Committee approved the adoption of the 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan at its meeting of June 22, 2011. The 2035 Plan is a minor update of the 2030 Plan that was adopted in 2007. The update process reviewed current traffic counts and socio-economic data to develop projections of future traffic on the major roadways in the BCATS area. In addition, the update addressed safety and security, coordination with state plans, financial feasibility and impacts on the built and natural environment. A listing of transportation projects, both for roads and for transit, is included as part of the Plan document.

The Plan is available for viewing on the BCATS website at www.bcatsmpo.org. The Plan document is also available on CD from the staff office.

FY 2012 Unified Work Program Adopted

At its meeting of May 25th, the BCATS Policy Committee adopted the official Unified Work Program (UWP) (narrative and budget document) for the upcoming 2012 fiscal year, which starts October 1, 2011. Minor changes to the budget for FY 2012 were adopted in July by the Policy Committee. The final UWP document for FY 2012 now awaits state and federal approval. In the upcoming year, BCATS has work scheduled in the areas of: data collection, assessment of roadway conditions, safety conscious planning, air quality planning, transportation and safety education, monitoring the 2035 Transportation Plan, and other short and long range planning studies.



The purpose of this newsletter is to provide the public with information regarding the activities of the Battle Creek Area Transportation Study (BCATS). The newsletter also includes other local, regional, state, and national news affecting transportation in the Battle Creek area. The public is encouraged to contact BCATS at the above address or telephone (269) 963-1158, fax (269) 963-4951 or by e-mail: bcats@bcatsmpo.org concerning issues in *The Signal* or other transportation matters.



Cities Take Delivery of Replacement Dump Trucks and Street Sweeper

The Cities of Battle Creek and Springfield have taken delivery of new clean diesel dump trucks which are largely funded with federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) monies. The City of Springfield's truck (see photo to the left) arrived in time to clear Springfield's streets of snow and ice before the end of last winter. Battle Creek has since received its two dump trucks, as well as one clean diesel street sweeper, which was also purchased using mostly federal CMAQ funding.

DISTRACTED DRIVING

Distracted driving continues to be an important safety issue on our roadways. More communities are passing local laws prohibiting the use of hand-held electronic devices. Studies conducted by the U.S. Department of Transportation show that when a driver looks away from the road to send a text or e-mail message, it takes their attention away from the roadway for 4.6 out of every 6 seconds. When travelling at 55 miles per hour, that is like driving the length of a football field while blindfolded.

HAVE YOU WONDERED WHAT THOSE NEW MASSIVE SIGN POSTS ARE FOR ALONG I-94 and I-69?

The Michigan Department of Transportation is in the process of installing the structures needed to support high tech digital information signs along I-94 and I-69 in Calhoun County that will inform motorists of traffic crashes, construction delays, weather conditions, or weather incidents.

20th Street Bridge Work to be Completed This Year

Approximately \$444,000 in federal funding is being used in a \$611,000 project to rehabilitate the 20th Street Bridge over the Kalamazoo River in Battle Creek this summer. Work is ongoing on the project (see photo below) which will complement the resurfacing of 20th Street south of the bridge that was accomplished last summer by the City of Springfield. The City of Battle Creek is also scheduled to resurface 20th Street from Goguac Street south to M-96 (Columbia Avenue) this year.

Right - *Workers on the 20th Street bridge over the Kalamazoo River just south of the 20th Street/Jackson Street intersection in July. The detour route is west on Jackson to Helmer, south on Helmer to Lafayette and east on Lafayette back to 20th Street.*

