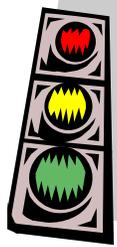
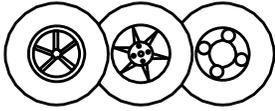


The Newsletter of  
the Battle Creek  
Area Transportation  
Study



# The Signal Summer, 2012

**BCATS**

August, 2012

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## *“Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) - New Federal Legislation*

After three years of short-term extensions, on July 6, 2012, a new two-year authorization bill (for FY 2013 and FY 2014) was signed into law to continue the federal transportation program. The compromise bill from Congress consolidated many of the federal transportation grant categories and eliminates some popular set-asides - such as the Enhancement and Safe Routes to School programs. It does not contain any “earmarks”, a major change from prior bills. Overall, funding under MAP-21 is expected to be similar to current levels. BCATS awaits the rulemaking from the U.S. Dept. of Transportation that will implement the changes in the new law. The Federal Highway Administration has set-up a website to follow the progress in implementing the new legislation. It can be found at: [www.fhwa.dot.gov/MAP21/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/MAP21/) for those who may be interested. The new law places a greater emphasis on performance measures in planning, as well as continuing the requirements for a long range plan with a 20-year horizon, and a shorter-term programming document listing the next 4 years of planned projects.

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](mailto:bcats@bcatsmpo.org) concerning issues in *The Signal* or other transportation matters.

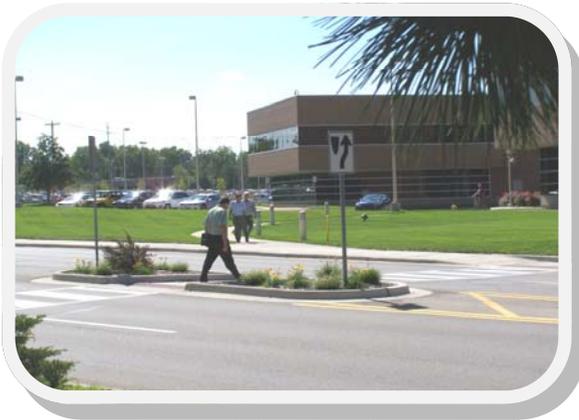
## **BCATS’ 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Gets Federal Sign-Off**

As of February 9, 2012, the BCATS 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan received federal approval for the air quality analysis portion of the document. This constituted the final federal approval of the Plan and the start of the four-year clock before an updated Plan is required to be approved again. **The Plan is available for viewing on the BCATS website at [www.bcatsmpo.org](http://www.bcatsmpo.org).** (see the left-hand column of the home page for a link to the Plan). The Plan document is also available on CD from the staff office.



## City of Battle Creek Completes Projects on Hamblin Ave.

The City of Battle Creek completed a pedestrian refuge island on Hamblin Avenue in downtown Battle Creek (see photo at left). The project was completed with federal funding and provides better crossing access of Hamblin Avenue for the many pedestrians crossing at that location. With additional federal funds, the City has also upgraded the signals, signage, and lane markings at the Capital Avenue/Hamblin Ave. intersection, along with installing detector cameras to enable advanced computer programming of the signal phases.



### ***FY 2013 Unified Work Program (UWP) Adopted***

At its meeting of May 30, 2012, the BCATS Policy Committee adopted the official Unified Work Program (UWP) (narrative and budget document) for BCATS for the upcoming 2013 fiscal year, which starts October 1, 2012. The final UWP document for FY 2013 now awaits federal approval. The UWP provides details of BCATS staff activities.

### **B DRIVE N INTERSECTIONS TO BE UPGRADED WITH CMAQ FUNDS**

The Calhoun County Road Commission is scheduled to receive funding under the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program to upgrade three B Drive N intersections to improve traffic flow, which will lessen vehicle emissions. The intersections are: at Harper Village Drive; at Beadle Lake Road; and at 9 Mile Road. The funds are expected to be obligated before September 30, 2012, with construction taking place in spring, 2013.

## 2012 Projects Completed and Underway



The City of Battle Creek has already completed approximately 1.8 miles of street resurfacing this summer on federal-aid eligible roadways in the City. A total of \$373,000 in federal funding contributed to the work on segments of Capital Avenue SW and Jackson/Stringham. The City expects to complete an additional 2.1 miles of resurfacing, which will also be funded with FY 2012 federal-aid (approx. \$448,000) identified through the BCATS process. In addition, the Calhoun County Road Commission will utilize FY 2012 federal-aid (\$640,000) to resurface B Drive N (from 8 1/2 Mile Road to 11 Mile Road) and Harper Village Drive (from B Drive N to 6 1/2 Mile Road). Construction of these projects will be in the spring of 2013.

**Photos: Above - completed resurfacing of W. Jackson/Stringham Road in the City of Battle Creek Right - work continues on the M-66 Bridge over the Wanondaga Creek in Pennfield Charter Township.**

MDOT has undertaken several transportation projects within the BCATS area this construction season. A project which has a significant detour involved is the reconstruction of the M-66 (Capital Avenue NE) bridge over the Wanondaga Creek in Pennfield Charter Township. The bridge is expected to be completed later this fall. Work is also underway to extend the westbound merge on-ramp at exit 104, as well as improvements to Michigan Avenue in the immediate vicinity of this interchange.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** - This document was financed through grants from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and with local funds provided by the Calhoun County Road Commission, the City of Battle Creek, and the City of Springfield.

