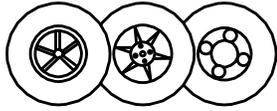
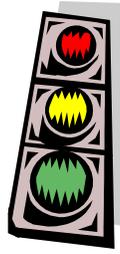


Newsletter of the
Battle Creek Area
Transportation Study



BCATS

January, 2016



“The Signal” 2017-2020 TIP

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Remember: All BCATS Committee meetings are open to the public. Contact the staff office for details.

BCATS Is Developing New FY 2017-2020 TIP

The Battle Creek Area Transportation Study (BCATS) has started the process of developing a new four-year document for the programming and implementation of transportation projects in the greater Battle Creek area. The document is called the **Transportation Improvement Program**, or **TIP** for short. In order for any of the state or local agencies, including transit, to receive Federal funding for a transportation project, it must be included in this TIP document.

The projects considered for the document are first drawn from existing transportation plans prepared by BCATS. These plans list proposed improvements to the major transportation infrastructure of the area for the next twenty to twenty-five years. In addition, general road, safety, maintenance, transit and non-motorized projects are all considered.

Representatives of all of the implementing agencies for potential projects meet to discuss possible projects and their relationship to each other. Opportunities for collaborating, combining, or complementing each other's projects are explored as well. The funding for future improvements is very limited, so coordination is important. Some of the road projects currently being **proposed** in the BCATS area for the 2017-2020 TIP are listed below (note - transit operating and capital funds will also be included in each year's program, as well as these road-related projects). MDOT is expected to add additional projects to this list before it is finalized. **Please provide comments to the staff office about this listing.**

This listing is subject to change as development of the TIP continues.

- 2017 - **B Drive S and Capital Ave. SW**, various sections on and around B Drive S (resurface)
Wattles Rd. at Verona Rd. Intersection (add turning lanes)
Goguaq St., from Capital Ave. SW west to Carl Ave. (resurface)
Mary St., from Mary St. south to the Battle Creek city limits and from M-66 south to Hamblin Ave. (resurface)
Propane Conversion of 18 Light-Duty Vehicles (convert vehicles to propane fuel use)
BC Areawide Roadway Preventative Maintenance (chip seal type projects) (local agencies)
M-66, from south of D Drive S north to north of Glenn Cross Rd. (resurface)
Wrong-Way Crash Reduction Project at Interchange Ramps on I-94, various exits (upgrades)
- 2018 - **East Ave.**, from Roosevelt Ave. north to Morgan Rd. (resurface)
McAllister Rd., from Verona Rd. north to N Drive N (resurface)
Double-Axle Dump Truck Replacement (1) (vehicle replacement)
Helmer Rd., from Gethings Rd. north to Columbia Ave. (resurface)
Capital Ave. SW at Jackson St. Intersection (signal and intersection improvement)
McCamy St., from VanBuren St north to North Ave. (resurface)
Roosevelt Ave., from East Ave. west to Garrison Ave. (resurface)
M-66, from Capital Ave. NE/Division Street north to Frey Dr. (restore and rehabilitate)
- 2019 - **North Ave.**, from Roosevelt Ave. north to the Calhoun/Barry county line (resurface)
Elm St., from Mary St. north to Michigan Ave. (resurface)
Glenn Cross Rd., from Capital Ave. SW east to M-66 (resurface)
Capital Ave SW at Michigan Ave. Intersection (signal and intersection improvement)
M-311 (11 Mile Rd.), from Calhoun/Branch county line north to I-94BL (Michigan Ave.) (restore and rehabilitate)
- 2020 - **N Drive N**, from Bellevue Rd. east to 12 Mile Rd. (resurface)
Waubascon Rd., from Morgan Rd. north to Halbert Rd. (resurface)
Capital Ave. NE at VanBuren St. Intersection, (signal and intersection improvement)
Capital Ave. SW, from Beckley Road south to Battle Creek city limits (resurface)
Kendall St., from Dickman Rd. north to Michigan Ave (resurface).
Union St., Michigan Ave. north to VanBuren St. (resurface)
Single-Axle Dump Truck Replacement (1) (vehicle replacement)



Public input is welcomed at each phase in the development of the new TIP document. Please contact the BCATS office for further details, or speak directly to the responsible road agency personnel in your area.

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

Schedule for the Development of the 2017-2020 TIP

Dec.
2015

The process for developing a new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) extends over many months. After preparing a preliminary project list for the four-year program, BCATS requests public comment on the proposed list.

At the present time, the list of projects will not have to undergo an assessment related to air quality impacts for ozone. The Kalamazoo and Battle Creek areas are currently considered in attainment for air quality issues. However, this is expected to change for future TIPs as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) implements regulations surrounding its recently announced lower trigger points for ozone. The financial soundness of the total TIP is also required to be evaluated.

In addition, BCATS reviews the project list to see if there will be any disproportionate impacts on areas of the community which are designated as “environmental justice” areas. These are areas where there are higher than average percentages of persons who are considered low income or traditionally underserved, such as: minority communities. Once all of the reviews are complete, an updated final project list and all supplemental materials are compiled into a draft final TIP document. In April, 2016, this document will be available for public review and comment.

In May, 2016, it is expected that the BCATS Committees (the Technical and the Policy Committees) will formally act on adopting a finalized new Transportation Improvement Program for 2017 to 2020. As noted above, comments are solicited throughout the process and there will be an opportunity at the May 25, 2016 Policy Committee meeting for final comments on the TIP before action is taken by the BCATS Policy Committee.

Following action by the BCATS’ Policy Committee at the end of May, the new TIP will be submitted to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the federal funding agencies for their review and approval. This process takes several months. Once approved, the FY 2017-2020 TIP is scheduled to be effective as of October 1, 2016 (which is the start of the 2017 fiscal year).

May
2016

Maintaining the 2017-2020 TIP After It is Adopted

The process for maintaining the new Transportation Improvement Program is ongoing. The document is fully updated every two to three years, but changes occur between updates. Projects can change, be removed and/or new projects added. Certain categories of federal funding are awarded on an annual basis. In order for the funds to be spent, the projects selected for those funds need to be added to the existing TIP. All of these types of changes are done through an “amendment” process. The amendment process requires a re-evaluation of financial soundness (called fiscal constraint), a double check of environmental justice issues, and a review of air quality impacts (if required, and depending upon the type of project). The amendment process incorporates public involvement as well. Amendment details are published in the local newspaper and posted to the BCATS website as they occur.

Follow the development of the TIP, as well as changes to the program over time, on the BCATS website at www.bcatsmpo.org

Reminder: Public input is welcomed at each phase in the development of the new TIP document. Please contact the BCATS office for further details.

