

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Policy Committee
Minutes of January 25, 2017 Meeting

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Harry Burdett, Rick Fowler (for John Lanum), Laveta Hardish, Adam Heikkila, Angela Kline, and Dharmesh Valsadia (for Mark Dionise)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: None

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Buller, Steve Frisbie, Dave Morgan, Deb Owens, and Rich Werner

NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Andy Pickard (FHWA) and SMPC

OTHERS PRESENT: Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Kline called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. in the Council Room at Springfield City Hall, 601 Avenue A, Springfield, MI 49037.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present (see above for voting members present) and introductions were conducted for the benefit of all in attendance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Fowler, supported by Valsadia, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
17-01

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Burdett, supported by Fowler, to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2016 meeting, as presented, subject to any additions, corrections or changes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
17-02

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr reported the following items of communication:

- Karr distributed copies of the Executive Summary for the BCATS 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The full Plan document is 184 pages. The full document is available on the BCATS website for viewing.

- The final FY 2016 BCATS audit will be on the agenda for the February Policy Committee meeting.
- The Calhoun County Board of Commissioners has reappointed Steve Frisbie as their representative to BCATS for a 2-year term, with Christopher Bolt remaining as his alternate.
- A former Emmett Township supervisor, and former member of BCATS from 1984 - 1992, Dr. Gordon Peckham, has died at the age of 91. Dr. Peckham served on BCATS during his term as supervisor for 8 years before Jim Demarest was elected as Emmett Township supervisor.
- Tilma received a forwarded request from County Commissioner Steve Frisbie about the traffic signal at Helmer Road and Columbia Avenue. Karr noted that the signal is being reviewed as part of a project Tilma will discuss later on the agenda.
- The Michigan State Police/Office of Highway Safety Planning's annual Traffic Safety Summit is coming up March 21-23 in E. Lansing, MI. Registration is now open for the event at \$85 (until 2/27) for the entire two and one-half day conference. Karr indicated that if anyone is interested in attending, they can get the details from her. Kline asked Karr to provide her with the specifics of the agenda topics offered as soon as they are available. Karr indicated she would follow-up on that request.
- Karr has been requested to speak at the Minges Brook/Riverside Neighborhood Planning Council meeting this evening (January 25th) about BCATS and its activities.
- Some issues have surfaced about transit performance measures and requirements, especially as these items impact metropolitan planning organizations like BCATS. Further updates will be provided as information becomes available.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Oct. - Dec. 2016 Quarterly Financial Report

Karr reviewed the first quarter financial report for the FY 2017 fiscal year. She stated that the expenses are on target. Kline asked the status of the County's local share payment. Karr indicated that the financial person at the Road Department is waiting for Calhoun County Administration to provide the adopted resolution approving the share before payment.

It was moved by Fowler, supported by Burdett, to receive and file the October - December, 2016 Quarterly Financial Report, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
17-03

B. FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #2

Tilma discussed the two changes proposed for this amendment to the current TIP. He handed out and discussed updated maps about the MDOT signal project that is scheduled for preliminary engineering in 2017 and construction in 2019. He stated that a public notice for the amendment was published in the Battle Creek Enquirer on January 6, 2017. The project is to be funded with Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funding utilized by MDOT. There was discussion about involving the local road agencies and governmental officials in the early design of the various intersection locations. Kline specifically mentioned the M-66 at Morgan Road intersection and Karr noted that the Pennfield Township supervisor has interest in the M-66 at Pennfield Road intersection.

Tilma asked Valsadia about the timing of the “flashing” operation of the Helmer Road at Avenue A signal. Apparently, the request to change the timing of that change to later in the evening has not been implemented. Valsadia indicated that he would look into this issue.

It was moved by Fowler, supported by Heikkila, to approve Amendment #2 to the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
17-04**

C. Requested Letters of Support**(1) Calhoun County 5304 Request for Rural Planning Funds**

Karr referenced the draft letter of support provided in the advance material and the sheet detailing “project highlights” provided by Calhoun County. Previously the Committee has discussed the fact that Battle Creek Transit is conducting a Master Plan update in the urban area in 2017. Karr noted that the category of funding being applied for is termed “Service Development and New Technology” (SDNT) by MDOT. Therefore, the support letter for this rural transit planning study references this program. There was discussion about the County’s efforts. Fowler asked how much funding is being requested. Karr stated that they are looking at about a \$175,000 total project with an 80/20 split. The request is for fiscal year 2018.

It was moved by Burdett, supported by Fowler, to authorize Karr to finalize and sign the letter of support for Calhoun County’s SDNT application, as proposed. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
17-05**

(2) City of Battle Creek Request for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding

Karr noted the draft letter of support for this effort as well, which was also provided in the advance material. She reviewed the history of the road closure in the area and the connections this project for a “shared-use path” would achieve.

It was moved by Burdett, supported by Fowler, to authorize Karr to finalize and sign the letter of support for the City of Battle Creek’s TAP project application, as proposed. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
17-06**

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Chair Kline announced that the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 1:30 p.m. in the City of Springfield Council Chambers.

B. Committee Member Comments

Kline announced that the engineering team at the Road Department is now fully staffed.

Karr noted that the BCATS 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan has been submitted to MDOT. She noted that the official approval date is the local approval date and not a state or federal review date as was the case when air quality issues were involved.

Valsadia provided more detail about the extent of the work at the M-96 (Columbia Avenue)/Riverside Drive intersection. The information had been electronically sent to him by MDOT staff as a result of his request based on prior discussion during today’s meeting.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kline adjourned the meeting at 2:13 p.m.