

# BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

## Technical Committee

### Minutes of January 9, 2019 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Terry Blaniar, Chris Dopp, Jeff Franklin, Amy Lipset, Kristine Parsons, Glenn Perian, and Rich Werner  
Non-voting: Andrea Dewey

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: None  
Non-voting: Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Corey Hackworth, Brian Kernstock, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Dopp called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. in the Council Room of Springfield City Hall, 601 Avenue A, Springfield, MI 49037.

### ROLL CALL

A quorum was present (see above for voting members present). Introductions were made for the benefit of all in attendance.

### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**It was moved by Perian, supported by Parsons, to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Res.  
**19-01**

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

**It was moved by Blaniar, supported by Perian, to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2018 meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Res.  
**19-02**

### COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- A request has come from the MDOT SW Region office asking for any locations to include in a non-motorized count program for 2019. This would include locations with high pedestrian or bicycle counts that are located in areas of future projects or areas where there are specific

accommodations for these modes of travel. The Region staff have requested recommendations for count locations to be provided to them by January 17<sup>th</sup>. The count work will be conducted by MDOT during this coming spring, summer, and fall. Karr provided a copy of the MDOT request to the members.

- The MDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) staff have provided a schedule for project review and submission for this grant program for the next few quarters. Karr encouraged the members to consider applying for TAP grants. A copy of the TAP schedule was provided to the members, with upcoming deadline dates highlighted.
- The BCATS November TIP Amendment was approved by the federal partners on December 18, 2018. Changes in that amendment may now proceed.
- BCATS' pre-Unified Work Program (UWP) meeting has been scheduled with FHWA and MDOT for February 28, 2019 in Lansing. BCATS staff, transit staff, and several MDOT staff, along with Federal Highway Division staff attend that meeting to review the current UWP and plan for the 2020 UWP.
- Karr noted that everyone who needs to be signed up for the Asset Management classroom training should be doing that as soon as possible.
- A public notice for the current TIP amendment was published in the *Battle Creek Enquirer* on January 3, 2019.
- BCATS staff participated remotely in a "Go to Meeting" format for an Interagency Work Group meeting with MDOT on December 17, 2018. It was determined that projects in the BCATS' Metropolitan Transportation Plan and TIP, as well as other projects in Calhoun County, are all "exempt" relative to computer modeling for air quality conformity.
- BCATS has received updated revenue estimates from MDOT for the federal STUL funding program and these figures have been incorporated into the material that Tilma will review later on the agenda.
- The Regional Prosperity Committee has received most of the funding requested for 2019 from the state. A total of \$306,810 was awarded by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB) on December 26, 2018. The work of the Prosperity Committee during 2019 will involve subcommittees identifying projects to meet the goals of the Committee.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to come before the Committee at this time.

## NEW BUSINESS

### A. FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #B14/J5

Tilma reviewed the advance material and additional material he distributed at the meeting. He discussed each of the changes contained in this proposed amendment to the current TIP.

The changes involve City of Battle Creek, Calhoun County Road Department, and MDOT projects. All five (5) of the MDOT projects in the amendment are rail crossing related.

Tilma also noted that some other items are changing which are not required to be included in the formal amendment. This includes work MDOT is planning for the rest area on I-94 west of Capital Avenue SW. Rest areas throughout the state are being upgraded to address ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessibility. This project is being completed with 100% state funds. Tilma also noted that a "suspended" project still exists in JobNet that would have totally reconstructed that same rest area.

**It was moved by Parsons, supported by Perian, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve Amendment #B14/J5 to the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
19-03**

### B. Development of FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Status Report

Tilma gave an update on the status of the current project list for the new FY 2020-2023 TIP development and discussed the status of transit projects that will be included in the new TIP. He noted that the 5310 human service agencies will be providing BCATS with transit capital projects to add to the new TIP.

BCATS staff is still working to finalize a group of CMAQ projects for 2021-2023, as the 2020 projects have been identified. After 2020, the amount of CMAQ funding allocated to BCATS is being reduced by 50%. This makes identifying viable projects more difficult with a drastically lower amount of funding available. After the projects are submitted into JobNet, many other aspects of TIP development will be conducted. It is anticipated that the final TIP will be acted upon in May or June, 2019.

Karr noted that a preliminary list of projects has been formatted into a public information piece to be distributed to the general public and the list of "consultation" agencies on file with BCATS. Any input BCATS receives as a result of the information piece will be considered in preparing a final list of 2020-2023 TIP projects for Committee review in February. All 2020-2023 projects are to be entered into the JobNet system by March 1, 2019. Karr indicated that the performance measures and targets section of the TIP document will be updated as well as the air quality pages.

Dewey provided an update about the requirements related to air quality and that some changes have occurred since the original court ruling that may make conformity determination not as difficult a task for developing the new TIP. She stated that BCATS is one of many “orphan” areas in the country that are impacted by that court ruling. These are areas that have no longer been considered as non-attainment and have not been required to complete conformity determinations. She also stated that the “orphan” MPOs are not being required by FHWA to change their existing TIPs or Metropolitan Transportation Plans to update the air quality language. Karr asked for the local agencies to work on smaller scale projects that fit the CMAQ requirements for the years where there is still funding available and submit the information as soon as possible.

This was an information and discussion item not requiring action at this time.

## COMMENTS

### A. Next Meeting

Chair Dopp announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for February 13, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. at the same location.

### B. Committee Member Comments

Dewey indicated that there have been questions about obligation authority with the current federal government shut-down. There is also an issue with a JobNet “freeze” for 2020 projects that will occur from the time the new TIP is approved locally until federal approval of the new TIP. This is expected to be from about June to October 1, 2019 and will impact only the 2020 projects of the current TIP.

The Federal Highway Administration is utilizing the authorization within the FAST-Act itself to continue to fund the Administration until the shut-down has ended. Right now there is no immediate concern about 2019 obligation authority for projects. Karr noted however that it is still prudent to submit local projects as early in the fiscal year as possible. Dewey stated that the existence of the Highway Trust Fund has allowed FHWA employees to be working. However, Federal Transit Administration and Environmental Protection Agency staff are not working.

### C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.