

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of January 13, 2021 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Terry Blaniar, Carl Fedders, Eric Feldt, Jeff Franklin, Kristine Parsons and Brian Sanada
Non-voting: None

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Vester Davis, Brian Kernstock, Daniela Khavajian, Chaz Wilkey, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Parsons called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. via a Zoom virtual meeting format and a call-in for public participation.

ROLL CALL

A roll call was conducted of members and any guests. Members indicated their presence for the purpose of establishing a quorum. It was noted that all members are participating virtually and each member participating virtually identified their physical location, which is included in the minutes. It has not been determined if an advisory committee like the Technical Committee needs to follow the same guidelines as decision-making bodies under the Michigan Open Meetings Act Amendment. However, since the Technical Committee bylaws indicate that the Technical Committee will observe the Open Meetings Act, the location information for members is being included in the minutes at this time.

Members participating remotely and location: Avis (City of Battle Creek MI), Blaniar (City of Springfield, MI), Fedders (Marshall Township, MI), Feldt (Comstock Township, MI), Franklin (Drummond Island Township, MI), Parsons (Richland Township, MI), and Sanada (Village of Mattawan, MI).

It was determined that a quorum of the voting members were participating.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Fedders, supported by Avis, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
21-01

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments. However, new member Feldt indicated that he is taking over the planning duties at the City of Battle Creek and asked if any official designation is needed from the City to add him to the Committee. Karr indicated that his position places him on the Committee and no further action is needed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Fedders supported by Blaniar, to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2020 meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
21-02**

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- A public notice was published in early December about the Participation Plan update for BCATS that is on the agenda this month. In addition, the draft Plan update was posted on the BCATS' website and a newsletter about the Plan update was distributed to BCATS e-list and provided on the website.
- A public notice was also published last week for this month's amendment to the TIP.
- The Transportation Asset Management Council has sent out guidelines for conducting the PASER road rating work this coming season. BCATS is still evaluating how this work may be done late this summer in our area and will be working with MDOT and the local agencies on this topic.
- Karr indicated that she has been forwarding important e-mails from MDOT to the local road agencies and transit.
- A comment on the BCATS draft Participation Plan was received from Jeff Franklin and Karr will discuss that under the New Business item about the Plan.
- The Obligated Projects Report for FY 2020, the federally required report each year, has been completed and posted to the BCATS website. A limited number of hard copies have also been printed and distributed.
- A listing of upcoming meeting dates for the BCATS Committees has been sent out to a list of private transportation providers, as is the practice each year.
- Tilma noted that there were a couple of heavy maintenance projects that did not show up on the search list within MDOT's JobNet when the listing was developed for the Obligated Projects Report. They are projects done with all state funding and do not have to be included on the list. Karr noted that the non-federally funded projects are included on BCATS' Report even though it is not required that those projects be included each year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 20-23 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Amendment #10

Tilma reviewed the five items presented in the public notice for Amendment #10. Two are transit items, two are Calhoun County Road Department safety projects and one is a MDOT project. Tilma acknowledged a funding split correction to one of the transit projects as it was listed. He also noted several administrative modifications that have been made to the TIP that do not require a formal amendment.

It was moved by Blaniar, supported by Fedders, to recommend approval of the FY 2020-2023 TIP Amendment #10 by the Policy Committee, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
21-03**

B. Future Socio-Economic Data for Travel Demand Forecast Model (TDFM) and 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Tilma reviewed the table of population, dwelling unit and employment data by governmental unit that he had provided in advance of the meeting. This data will be used to forecast future traffic congestion in the BCATS area for the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). He noted that if there are any changes that are significant in scope, for any of the data categories, that BCATS becomes aware of, that the data can be adjusted and another scenario run in the computer model to see what impact the change would have on future traffic levels.

Feldt asked about the source of the data. Khavajian indicated that the 2010 Census data is the base, with the American Community Survey providing subsequent data, along with the REMI model maintained by the University of Michigan. There was some continued discussion about the data utilized for the projections.

It was moved by Blaniar, supported by Fedders, to recommend adoption by the BCATS Policy Committee of the future socio-economic data for the TDFM, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
21-04**

C. Performance Measures - National Highway System Bridge Condition 4-Year Adjusted Targets

Karr reviewed the National Highway System Bridge Condition 4-Year Adjusted Targets resolution as provided in the advance material made available to the members. She noted that additional information about the process MDOT utilized in reviewing and adjusting the bridge targets was also made available to the members in advance of the meeting.

It was moved by Fedders, supported by Blaniar, to recommend adoption by the BCATS Policy Committee of the resolution supporting MDOT's NHS Bridge Condition 4-Year Adjusted Targets, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
21-05**

D. BCATS Participation Plan 2020 Update

Karr indicated that there is one grammatical correction being made within the document the Franklin brought to BCATS' attention. She also addressed the inclusion of language acknowledging use of virtual and electronic formats for public participation.

It was moved by Franklin, supported by Fedders, to recommend approval of the updated Participation Plan for BCATS, with the correction noted by Karr. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
21-06**

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Chair Parsons announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for February 10, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. (Due to the continuing impact of COVID-19, the format for the meeting will still be virtual since the State is allowing virtual meeting until at least the end of March 2021.

B. Committee Member Comments

Parsons reported that all four of the County's federal-aid projects were in the state letting last week. The Emmett Township Phase 2 project will start in the spring, with tree work beginning sooner for both the Emmett program and the federal-aid projects.

Blaniar announced that he will be retiring as of the 28th of January and that Chaz Wilkey will be assuming Blaniar's role at Springfield Public Works.

Feldt indicated that he is looking forward to participating with the Committee. He is now the only planning staff at the City of Battle Creek.

Franklin extended a welcome to the new Technical Committee members. He indicated that a new federal bill has some \$260 million, with another round of Highway Infrastructure Program funding coming to the MPOs.

Fedders said the two of the City's projects are expected to be in the April letting. Other projects are waiting for various approvals. The round-about project at North and Emmett is still being discussed with the City Commission. Fedders asked about the updated TIP list on the BCATS website. Tilma indicated that it is difficult to keep that list up-to-date since the JobNet output reports do not include all the data that should be on the list. He stated that confirming with himself or Franklin is the best source to make confirm project information. Fedders also congratulated Blaniar on his retirement.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Karr indicated that the February Technical Committee meeting is sometimes cancelled, so she stated that the members should watch for an indication of that possibility.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.