

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Policy Committee
Minutes of January 26, 2022 Meeting

VOTING MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Mallory Avis, Deb Belles, Harry Burdett, Annjanette Kremer, Jeff Franklin, Derek King, Kevin Leiter, John Midgley, Greg Rickmar, and Bill Scutt

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: None

VOTING MEMBERS NOT PARTICIPATING: Laveta Hardish

NON-VOTING MEMBERS NOT PARTICIPATING: Andy Pickard and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council

OTHERS PARTICIPATING: Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Burdett called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. in the Council Room of the Susan L. Anderson Municipal Building (Springfield City Hall), 601 Avenue A, Springfield, MI 49037.

ROLL CALL

Karr indicated that a quorum was present. Burdett asked that all in attendance introduce themselves. This was the first time this Committee had met in person since February of 2020. Introductions took place.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Rickmar, supported by Scutt, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY to approve the agenda.

Res.
22-01

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Kremer, supported by Avis, to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2021 meeting, as presented, subject to any additions, corrections or changes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
22-02

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr reported the following items of communication:

- BCATS received the FY 2021 audit documents from Remann Robson, the audit firm, and copies were mailed to the Policy Committee members in advance of the meeting.
- Funding information for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which was approved by Congress and signed by President Biden, still hasn't been finalized, but it is expected that the figures will be known soon. BCATS has been told by MDOT to work off of a 25% increase in the STP funding. The local agencies have been working diligently to reflect this change for the current TIP and the development of the FY 2023-2026 TIP. However, the authorization from Congress to spend federal transportation funds is being doled out a couple of months at a time at present and is based on 2021 levels of funding. This is not a very workable situation for the current year. Karr commended the work of the local agencies in trying to address the funding issues associated with the current fiscal year.
- BCATS has received approval from the federal funding sources for the reaffirmation of the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) that was acted upon by the BCATS Policy Committee in November 2021. The letter BCATS received is dated January 18, 2022. Without this approval, the current TIP amendment would not be able to proceed.
- BCATS staff completed the Obligated Projects Report for FY 2021 at the end of December. The Report was posted to the BCATS' website, sent out via e-mail and printed for additional distribution to local governmental offices and persons not on BCATS' e-mail list.
- The pre-Unified Work Program meeting has been set for BCATS by Franklin at MDOT. It will be March 7, 2022. This meeting reviews the progress on the current work program and the plans for the next Unified Work Program, which is for FY 2023 that will go into effect October 1, 2022.
- The MMRMA insurance association has again announced a net asset distribution for members for this year. The will result in a distribution to BCATS at the time that the liability and property insurance is renewed October 1, 2022.
- The Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC) has provided information about its new strategic work program for the next few years and some updates for the data collection program conducted using the PASER road rating system. This process was disrupted over the last two years due to the pandemic.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. October-December 2021 Quarterly Financial Report

Karr reviewed the two page report that had been provided to the members in the advance material. She indicated that at this point in the year there is a slight negative balance at the end of the quarter. The requested action on this report is for it to be "received and filed." There were no questions for Karr about the report.

It was moved by Scutt, supported by Avis, to receive and file the October-December 2021 Quarterly Financial Report, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
22-03**

B. FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #14

Tilma indicated that he had provided a copy of the listing of items included in Amendment #14 to the current TIP for the members at their places. He noted the information about the joint planner's review and the review by the interagency work group relative to air quality impacts of the proposed projects to be amended. The air quality process is a new requirement and this is the first amendment that BCATS has had to address this in the amendment process.

It was moved by Midgley, supported by Scutt, to approve Amendment #14 to the FY 2020-2023 TIP, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
22-04**

C. FY 2021 Audit

Karr discussed several sections of the audit document, which as noted under Communications, had been mailed to the Policy Committee members in advance of the meeting. She noted the fund balance and the amounts still due to MDOT for prior year reconciliations.

The requested action was stated to be to receive and file the audit which will then be forwarded to MDOT for processing.

It was moved by Midgley, supported by Kremer, to receive and file the FY 2021 Audit, as provided by Rehmann Robson. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
22-05**

D. BCT State of Good Repair Targets for 2022

Karr stated that Battle Creek Transit (BCT) provides the State of Good Repair (SGR) Targets to BCATS on an annual basis each year for the next calendar year. BCATS, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), addresses the targets within 180 days of receiving them. The action of BCATS for BCT's 2022 SGR targets is recommended to be support of the targets as they have been prepared by BCT. A resolution to this effect was provided to the members in the advance materials for consideration.

It was moved by Kremer, supported by Scutt, to approve Resolution 22-06 supporting BCT's 2022 State of Good Repair targets, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
22-06**

E. Update on 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Karr stated that a schedule for completion of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) was provided at the members places, along with a copy of the BCATS System Performance Report that has been prepared for inclusion in the 2045 MTP. This is a new requirement that was implemented with the Performance-Based Planning emphasis in the previous federal legislation. The last time BCATS updated its MTP was in 2016. At that time, the performance measures and new requirements of the 2015 federal legislation had not been finalized and available for inclusion in the MTP update. The current Plan update has to include all of these performance-based planning aspects for the first time.

Karr noted that there is also an Appendix to the 2045 MTP for the Transportation Conformity Determination Report for the 1997 Ozone NAAQS, which is also a new requirement in coordination with the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study since the Limited Orphan Maintenance Area (LOMA) for air quality includes the entire counties of Kalamazoo, Calhoun and Van Buren.

This was an information/discussion item not requiring action at this time. The 2045 MTP is expected to be an action item on the February Policy Committee agenda.

COMMENTS**A. Next Meeting**

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

B. Committee Member Comments

Kremer indicated that MDOT is getting ready to proceed with the proposal for the I-94 design/build project that will involve not only road work but the rebuilding of nine bridges along the subject segment of the interstate. She explained the design/build process and how it is different from the normal bid process. This will be a 3-year project (2023-2025) to be completed by the successful design/build firm.

Kremer also highlighted a road safety audit that was conducted for a portion of the M-96 (Columbia Avenue) corridor from I-194 to the intersection with E. Michigan Avenue. The road safety audit was conducted by a group that is not from the local area, thereby providing a fresh look at the area being audited. There is a project scheduled for bridge work on the bridge over I-194, but other potential projects will be evaluated from the recommendations produced by the safety audit. Avis asked about pedestrian access along the Columbia Avenue corridor. Kremer indicated that pedestrian access would need to be addressed by the township. Belles indicated that the township is working on establishing a DDA in the area, which may provide a funding possibility for those types of improvements. There was also discussion about the speed limit along the section of roadway in question. King asked about the Capital Avenue/I-94 interchange and how that is being planned for reconstruction. Kremer indicated that early discussion of reconfiguring that interchange did not result in any changes from the current footprint, so there are no plans for any changes to the current ramps or access.

Midgley indicated that the Calhoun County Road Department is currently busy with winter road maintenance.

Avis reported that there are continuing conversations with all the local units of government about countywide transit service.

Belles stated that the Emmett Township local road project has completed the work planned for the last construction season. The Township's road consultant has put into place a 20-year maintenance plan for the local roads so that the investment being made can be maintained. The Township will escrow funds toward the needed maintenance.

Franklin announced that the audit and financial discussion had reminded him that the MDOT Office of Commission Audit considers BCATS a best practice for submitting billings, audits, etc.

Karr noted that, unless something changes, the February meeting will also be in-person. She also stated that there will be numerous action items on next month's agenda, including a special TIP amendment, so she encouraged the members to put that February date on their calendars.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Burdett adjourned the meeting at 2:14 p.m.