

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of January 11, 2023 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Heather Bowden, Susan Cronander, Jarret Geering, Kristine Parsons, and Chaz Wilkey
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: Josh Grab
Non-voting: Andrew Sibold (FHWA) and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Parsons called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. in the Springfield City Hall Council Chambers, 601 Avenue A, Springfield MI.

ROLL CALL

Chair Parsons asked all in attendance to introduce themselves. It was determined that a quorum of the voting members was present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Wilkey, supported by Cronander, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-01**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Avis, supported by Wilkey, to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2022 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-02**

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- BCATS staff completed the FY 2022 Obligated Projects Report. It has been posted to the BCATS website and distributed in hard copy.

- The U.S. Census has finally released the listing of “urbanized areas” based on the 2020 U.S. Census. The Battle Creek area is still an area over 50,000 population, therefore is still a MPO. However, Traverse City has been added as a new MPO area in Michigan.
- All of the projects in the December amendment have been given job numbers in the MDOT JobNet database so that project information can be submitted to MDOT by the local agencies.
- The BCATS Policy Committee approved the 2023 transit state of good repair target resolution and the executed resolution was submitted to MDOT.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. **Transportation Performance Measures - PAVEMENT Targets for 2022-25 Performance Period**

Karr indicated that the information for this item was posted in advance of the meeting. This is one of several performance measure targets that MDOT has updated to the new performance period of 2022-2025. The pavement targets are for National Highway System (NHS) roadways, both interstate and non-interstate NHS facilities. The provided resolution supports the state pavement targets, as has been done in the past.

It was moved by Wilkey, supported by Geering, to recommend BCATS’ Policy Committee approval of the Resolution to Support MDOT’s State Targets for Pavement Performance Measures, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-03**

B. **Transportation Performance Measures - BRIDGE Targets for 2022-25 Performance Period**

The bridge targets also are related to the National Highway System and are stated in bridge deck area square footage in good condition and in poor condition. MDOT’s July report on bridge condition (provided in the advance material) has some specific data for bridges in the BCATS area.

It was moved by Cronander, supported by Geering, to recommend BCATS’ Policy Committee approval of the Resolution to Support MDOT’s Bridge Performance Measure Condition Targets, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-04**

C. Transportation Performance Measures - TRAVEL TIME RELIABILITY Targets for 2022-2025 Performance Period

Karr stated that this a performance measure category that is less straightforward and is more difficult to understand. There was a powerpoint about this target provided in the advance material. There was discussion by the Committee members about what this performance target entails.

It was moved by Wilkey, supported by Geering, to recommend BCATS' Policy Committee approval of the Resolution to Support MDOT's Targets for Travel Time Reliability, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-05**

D. BCATS FY 23-26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Updated Local Fed STP-funded Project List

Tilma reviewed the current project list as it has evolved since the original approval of the FY 2023-2026 TIP. Some project changes/additions were made with the TIP Amendment that was presented in December 2022. BCATS will be monitoring the cost information associated with the 2023 projects as they move ahead to determine if any excess funding will remain available in 2023.

Karr noted that with the release of the 2020 Census figures, there will be changes in the amount of funding allocated to the BCATS area for the 2024-2026 project years. BCATS will not know these impacts until updated funds amounts are released by MDOT.

This was an information/discussion item not requiring action.

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Chair Parsons announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for February 8, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

B. Committee Member Comments

Avis indicated that Battle Creek Transit (BCT) is dealing with a major staffing shortage. Only 12 of 26 transit operator positions are filled. BCT has reduced its service due to these staffing issues. There are also openings in the transit maintenance department and administrative offices.

Wilkey stated that Springfield is working on the Harmonia Road project plans with a consultant. Springfield is also building a new salt barn to replace the existing salt barn at its main maintenance garage site.

Parsons reported that the Morgan Road work, which includes three projects, has been let and came in just slightly over the original budget. Tree removal is underway on county roads at present until the end of March when tree work needs to cease for environmental reasons. The upgrade of the signal at 6 ½ Mile Road and Harper Village Drive is still being worked on by the contractor. Work of the Raymond Road bridge, which was delayed from 2022 due to permit issues, will commence in April.

Geering noted that the Union Street bridge project was under budget. There was general discussion about the closure of Capital Avenue at the Capital Avenue bridge over I-94 and the impact that is going to have on the local traffic and transit. There was concern that the MDOT designated detour route of using I-94 would not be followed by most local travelers.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m.