

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of January 10, 2024 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Jarret Geering, Max Gierman, Josh Grab, Brian Kernstock,
Travis Sullivan, and Chaz Wilkey

Non-voting: None

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Heather Bowden, Jeff Franklin, and Andrew Tilma

Chair Geering called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Springfield City Hall Council Chambers, 601 Avenue A, Springfield MI.

ROLL CALL

Geering 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 Avis, supported by Wilkey, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
24-01**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Wilkey, supported by Kernstock, to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2023 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
24-02**

COMMUNICATIONS

Franklin shared the following communications:

- Franklin attended the Beckley Road Corridor Redevelopment Steering Committee meeting on January 9th. The consultant led the group in an exercise on “stroads”, and the Committee started to develop focus groups for the Corridor for future meetings.
- MDOT reports there will not be a Federal Aid Buyout Program for 2025. MDOT is unsure about the 2026 Program and beyond. The 2024 Program is unaffected. MDOT’s analysis for 2025 determined an inability to “match all federal aid including reapportionments, redistributions, or other awards of federal obligation authority” should a Local Fed Aid Buyout Program occur first.
- The BCATS’ Policy Committee actions on Safety and Transit performance measures were transmitted to MDOT, and marked received and compliant.
- On January 4th, Transportation Asset Management Council announced a one-time FY24 program to make available extra Asset Management funding specific for PASER rating of non-federal aid roads. There was discussion from members present about taking advantage of this one-time funding, over and above the typical BCATS regular appropriation of FY24 Asset Management funds.
- The Michigan Infrastructure Office, Technical Assistance Center (MIO TAC), has launched a new Technical Assistance opportunity (December 15th, 2023) which replaces the pilot program from February 2023. The MIO TAC is offering grant identification, grant writing, benefit cost analysis, and grant process management assistance, as various related federal notice of funding opportunities (NOFOs) are released. MPOs are asked to advertise these MIO TAC Technical Assistance opportunities as they align with NOFOs.
- Greenhouse Gas Performance Measures are forthcoming. MPOs will be required to individually establish their own targets for this Performance Measure. The target is required to be declining. The MPO will have 6 months after the State sets their own State target to establish an MPO target. The MPO methodology for establishing MPO individual target(s) has to be quantitative, and is allowed to be different than the State’s own methodology. FHWA indicated, minimally, the MPO could both copy the State methodology, and the State target(s), and report that to MDOT/FHWA as satisfying the MPO requirement.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. FY23-26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #8

Tilma reviewed the list of projects being proposed for Amendment #8 to the FY 2023-2026 TIP. Tilma commented that there would be some minor administrative changes to the TIP concerning transit jobs.

It was moved by Wilkey, supported by Kernstock, to recommend approval of the FY2023-2026 TIP Amendment #8 by the BCATS Policy Committee, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
24-03**

B. Status of FY24-26 Local Fed-aid Road Projects and Revised Funding Allocations for FY23-26 TIP

Tilma provided information to members at the meeting. Tilma discussed the TIP status of local projects for the current Fiscal Year 2024, given revised funding allocations recently provided by MDOT. Tilma also discussed the revised funding estimates for FY25-26.

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Chair Geering announced the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for February 14, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

B. Committee Member Comments

Avis reported that MDOT Office of Passenger Transportation announced roughly \$4.3 million of former Federal Highway Administration Carbon Reduction Program dollars had been transferred to Federal Transit Administration for use. Battle Creek Transit intends to apply for these funds for a vehicle replacement project.

Wilkey reported City of Springfield met with MDOT about the TEDF Category F project on Avenue A between Dickman and Helmer. Letting ought to be in December 2024, with construction in spring of 2025. City of Springfield also executed a contract for the construction of a new salt building, with groundbreaking for March 2024.

Geering reported on the Beckley Road traffic study. Geering also reported on a new salt barn for City of Battle Creek, with possible construction in 2024. The City 2024 road projects are in design.

Kernstock reported that County Road Department projects have all gone out for bid, and came in at or below engineers estimate. Kernstock shared that Kristine Parsons has been named Interim Managing Director, and Kori Albrecht is now Interim Deputy Managing Director for the Calhoun County Road Department. Kernstock reported tree removal is underway on Uldricks Road, and tree removal will start thereafter on S Wattles Road.

Bowden reported that Max Gierman is the new MDOT Statewide Planning Program Manager assigned to the Battle Creek MPO. Bowden also reported that a poll to determine the date of the BCATS FY25 Pre-Unified Work Program meeting has been sent out.

Grab reported on the vacant Southwest Region Planner position, and that many applicants were received by MDOT. Grab hopes to make a selection soon. Grab reported on the feedback received at the November public meeting of the ongoing I-194 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study. MDOT continues to seek feedback on the I-194 PEL, with a final report potentially expected in February.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m.