

**BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

**Technical Committee**

**Minutes of January 8, 2025 Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Skylar Cudney (for Brian Kernstock), Max Gierman, Steve Skalski, Adrian Stroupe (for Josh Grab), Travis Sullivan and Chaz Wilkey  
Non-voting: None

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Franklin

Vice Chair Wilkey called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. in the Springfield City Hall Council Chambers, 601 Avenue A, Springfield MI.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Res.  
25-01**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**It was moved by Skalski, supported by Avis, to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2024 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
25-02**

## COMMUNICATIONS

Franklin shared the following communications:

- After 35+ years with BCATS', Principal Planner Andy Tilma has retired effective December 31, 2024.
- Franklin has applied to be on the City of Battle Creek/Battle Creek Transit Local Coordinating Committee (LCC), as a replacement member for Tilma. Franklin has been attending the transit LCC and LAC meetings since November, and coordinating with the planning area specialized service agencies (Community Action; Community Inclusive Recreation; Marian Burch Adult Day Care) to ensure their federal-aid projects are appropriately reflected on the BCATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC) has issued a quick one-time call for additional funding allocation to planning agencies should their local agencies be committed to collecting culvert inventory and condition data within fiscal year 2025.
- MDOT anticipates, once again, a large August redistribution in August 2025.
- The BCATS Policy Committee has revised their Policy Committee Bylaws (approval on December 18, 2024) to add the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County as an official, financially participating member. The next step for BCATS Technical Committee is to revise the Technical Committee Bylaws, last performed in March, 2008, to add TACC as a voting member of the Technical Committee.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

## NEW BUSINESS

### A. Resolution of Support for updated STIP Air Quality Conformity Report

Franklin reviewed the draft update to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Air Quality Conformity Report, currently out for statewide public involvement. BCATS has been asked by MDOT to provide a resolution of support for this latest STIP Air Quality Conformity Report, as it includes the state funded Marshall Modernization projects, which partially fall within the BCATS planning area (proposed improvements at M-311 and I-94, and M-311 and M-96).

**It was moved by Skalski, supported by Avis, to recommend approval of a Resolution of Support for the updated STIP Air Quality Conformity Report by the BCATS Policy Committee, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
25-03**

**B. FY2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #14**

Franklin discussed the proposed Amendment #14 to the BCATS' current FY2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

**It was moved by Avis, supported by Skalski, to recommend approval of the FY2023-2026 TIP Amendment #14 by the BCATS Policy Committee, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
25-04**

**C. "Pro-Rata" Obligation Policy**

Franklin reviewed the MDOT provided information on the statewide MPO determined status of federal fund obligation (authorization to spend) policy. BCATS currently uses what MDOT calls a "pro-rata" obligation policy, in which BCATS allows an administratively modifiable overage (no more than 25%) of the BCATS' TIP budgeted amount on any highway/bridge project at the time of MDOT obligation. This policy allows BCATS' member agencies to most efficiently use federal funds intended for the Battle Creek urbanized area. Franklin advised that this policy continue, as balances of BCATS' federal funds are regularly monitored, and Franklin would advise differently when necessary. Franklin answered questions of members.

**COMMENTS****A. Next Meeting**

Vice Chair Wilkey announced the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for February 12, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

**B. Committee Member Comments**

Wilkey reported that MDOT has sent the City of Springfield a contract for the TEDF Category F grant for resurfacing Avenue A. Lakeland Asphalt was the winning bidder for the project.

Stroupe reported that the Marshall area Michigan Ave road diet public meeting is being held on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Marshall Public Services building in Marshall. MDOT will be presenting several viable alternatives for Michigan Ave in Marshall for public feedback.

**C. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.