

**BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

**Technical Committee**

**Minutes of February 13, 2019 Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Terry Blaniar, Chris Dopp, Amy Lipset, Kristine Parsons, Glenn Perian, and Rich Werner  
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: Jeff Franklin  
Non-voting: Andrea Dewey and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Corey Hackworth, Brian Kernstock, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Dopp called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. in the Council Room of Springfield City Hall, 601 Avenue A, Springfield, MI 49037.

**ROLL CALL**

A quorum was present (see above for voting members present).

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**It was moved by Perian, supported by Parsons, to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
19-04**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**It was moved by Parsons, supported by Perian, to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2019 meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
19-05**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Karr shared the following communications:

- The January BCATS TIP amendment was approved on February 4, 2019. Changes in that amendment can now move forward.

- BCATS received the air quality conformity information from MDOT requiring action by the BCATS' Committees. This item will be discussed later on the agenda.
- Karr has been asked to participate on the Calhoun County Transit Study Steering Team for a county-wide transit assessment. The first meeting of the group was Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Werner also participated in that meeting. The county has retained Foursquare ITP, the same consultant that completed the Transit Master Plan update for Battle Creek Transit. This is an on-going effort til next fall.
- Tilma attended a JobNet "testing" session last week related to the transition to a new TIP at the beginning of the next fiscal year.
- MDOT is asking for Michigan residents to complete a survey at [www.MichiganMobility.org](http://www.MichiganMobility.org) regarding development of the state's 2045 long range transportation plan, termed Michigan Mobility 2045. Karr noted that MDOT staff were at a meeting in Marshall Monday afternoon, also requesting public input for the 2045 plan.
- Karr distributed to the local road agencies and transit a copy of the document developed by MDOT to summarize the changes for TIP amendment processing, titled "Redesigned TIP Amendment Process." She noted that the document contains a page detailing what changes constitute a federally required amendment vs. an administrative modification.
- A flyer was distributed announcing the Transportation Asset Management Council's spring conference. Again, this year the Council will coordinate its event with the Michigan American Public Work's Association conference. The joint conference will be held May 21-23, 2019 at the Treetops Resort in Gaylord, Michigan.
- BCATS has received information from the MDOT SUTA staff related to socio-economic and employment data for the BCATS area, broken down by Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ). This information for the BCATS long range plan update process needs to be reviewed by BCATS within the next couple of months.
- Perian was asked about the recently announced Battle Creek City Commission workshop dealing with "Hotel/Motel Community Analysis" and what that entails. Perian indicated that he would research this and get back to BCATS staff.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

## NEW BUSINESS

- A. Draft FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Preliminary Project List**
- Tilma reviewed material he distributed at the meeting. This included a listing of 2019 and 2020 current year TIP projects that he has developed from the JobNet system. He also distributed a table of projects currently listed for 2020-2023 in JobNet. In addition, an updated list of STUL local projects was provided. These projects will soon be entered into the JobNet system and

assigned a job number. The job number is the best way to access information about any project. Tilma initiated a group discussion of the CMAQ program and the current issues in identifying projects for the years when the allocation for that program is reduced by 50%. This includes the years 2021-2023. There was discussion by the group on this topic. Tilma also noted that transit projects will be added to the list, which he can access through a transit project application database.

**It was moved by Parsons, supported by Perian, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the preliminary project list for the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
19-06**

**B. Air Quality Conformity Analysis Resolution**

Karr reviewed the issue of the air quality conformity analysis now required for the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek area as a result of a court case finding against the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) (the South Coast II decision). MDOT has conducted the required review of projects in the BCATS Transportation Improvement Program and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan to assess project impact on air quality. The resolution being considered has BCATS accepting the analysis that has been conducted.

**It was moved by Lipset, supported by Parsons, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the air quality conformity analysis resolution, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
19-07**

Karr noted that a public notice has been published regarding this issue in the local newspaper, the *Battle Creek Enquirer*, and the notice is posted on the BCATS website. The comment period is open until the date of the BCATS Policy Committee.

**C. Initial Issues and Outline for FY 2020 Unified Work Program (UWP)**

Karr reviewed the 1-page summary that was provided in the advance material. She stated that it is time to think about the FY 2020 UWP even though we are less than halfway through the current fiscal year. The annual pre-UWP meeting with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and MDOT is scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting the participants review the current year's UWP and plan for next year's program. Next year's work will include an emphasis of the development of a new long range plan. A draft FY 2020 UWP is expected to be presented to the BCATS Committees in April, with final approval scheduled for May.

This was an information and discussion item not requiring action at this time.

## COMMENTS

### A. Next Meeting

Chair Dopp announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for March 13, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. at the same location. Dopp indicated that he will not be able to attend the next meeting.

### B. Committee Member Comments

Tilma indicated that the next TIP amendment cycle is in March and that all information for the amendment needs to be to BCATS before the end of February. Karr added that the March amendment process will include a “narrative” section dealing with the performance-based planning and performance targets issue, similar to what was done in April, 2018. The TIP must meet federal requirements for this information to be reflected in the TIP by May 20, 2019. Both parts of the amendment will be announced in one public notice.

### C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.