

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Policy Committee
Minutes of February 23, 2022 Meeting

VOTING MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Mallory Avis, Jacob Schacht (for 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: Andrew Sibold (FHWA) and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council

OTHERS PARTICIPATING: Kara Dougherty, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Burdett called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Council Room of the Susan L. Anderson Municipal Building (Springfield City Hall), 601 Avenue A, Springfield, MI 49037.

ROLL CALL

All in attendance introduced themselves and their affiliations. There was a quorum of voting members.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Res.
22-07

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Franklin, supported by Scutt, to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2022 meeting, as presented, subject to any additions, corrections or changes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
22-08

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr reported the following items of communication:

- At the beginning of February, BCATS staff completed the final newsletter for the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and distributed it, both electronically and in hard copy to promote the Plan and the public comment period for the Plan.
- A public notice for the 2045 Plan and the Transportation Conformity Determination Report for the Kalamazoo-Battle Creek Limited Orphan Maintenance Area was published in the BC Enquirer, with the comment period running up until today's Policy Committee meeting.
- On February 3rd, BCATS has received information from MDOT about the IIJA funding levels and the dollar amounts were considerably less than anticipated for the BCATS area. Therefore, some re-working of projects for the current year and for the years of the new TIP has had to take place over the last couple of weeks.
- Amendment #14 to the current FY 2020-2023 TIP was approved federally as of February 8th.
- A public notice for the current TIP Amendment #15 was published in the BC Enquirer and posted to the BCATS website.
- The pre-Unified Work Program meeting mentioned last month between MDOT and BCATS will be held on March 1st, next Tuesday .
- A special newsletter about the development of the new FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) has been completed and is being distributed. Karr stated that some of the members had copies of the newsletter at their places to take back to make available to the public at their offices.
- BCATS received notification about calls for project applications from MDOT for both the local safety program and the local bridge program that are administered by MDOT. The local agencies have been notified of these potential funding programs. The BCATS Committees will have requests for letters of support for various project applications under these programs to consider at the March BCATS Committee meetings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #15

Tilma noted that this a special amendment in a month not usually scheduled for a TIP amendment opportunity. He discussed the list of items being considered for this February amendment. A total of eleven (11) items are recommended for changes and additions. There was discussion about some of the items included on the list.

Tilma noted that the Interagency Work Group (IAWG) request for air quality review of this proposed amendment will be distributed yet this afternoon.

It was moved by Kremer, supported by Avis, to approve Amendment #15 to the FY 2020-2023 TIP, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
22-09**

B. BCATS 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Karr indicated that a cover memo about the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan was provided in advance of the meeting, along with a draft of the MTP approving resolution. Copies of the Executive Summary and Chapter 13 of the Plan were distributed at the meeting. The full draft Plan itself is posted, by chapter, on the BCATS website for Committee members and the public to view. The MTP is updated every five years, with the next version due in 2027. This update of the MTP has had to incorporate all of the performance based planning requirements as well as a System Performance Report, which is a new requirement. The System Performance Report will now be required to be updated each year for the BCATS area.

Karr discussed the draft Chapter 13 that had been distributed. There was additional discussion about this chapter. Franklin indicated that a future formal amendment of the 2045 MTP is also possible, depending upon the nature of potential changes/updates.

Once approved, the 2045 MTP document will be finalized, including the noted resolutions and draft minutes of this Policy Committee meeting, in order to meet the submittal deadline to MDOT of February 28, 2022 for the updated Plan.

It was moved by Midgley, supported by Scutt, to adopt Resolution 22-10 approving the BCATS 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, with the provision that some administrative modification to the document may occur in the future. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
22-10**

C. Transportation Conformity Determination Report for Kalamazoo-Battle Creek Limited Orphan Maintenance Area (LOMA)

Karr stated that this joint determination report was initially prepared by the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) staff in September 2021 after a meeting of the Interagency Work Group for air quality in the LOMA. At that time, BCATS had a preliminary 2045 Plan project list that was reviewed by the IAWG for any air quality issues. With the finalization of the BCATS 2045 MTP, the project list changed and was resubmitted to the IAWG group for review. The results of that review are reported in the updated Determination Report. The revised BCATS project list was incorporated into the update of the KATS September Report that was completed by BCATS staff. This included changes to pertinent dates for approval of the 2045 MTP by BCATS. The updated Report was provided to the Committee members in the advance material and was available online to the public. This Report was included in the public comment period public notice from early February, along with the 2045 MTP. Karr stated that no public comments have been received regarding this document.

It was moved by Scutt, supported by Midgley, to adopt Resolution 22-11 approving the updated Transportation Conformity Determination Report for the Kalamazoo-Battle Creek LOMA, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
22-11**

D. Draft FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project List

Tilma indicated that, after the presumed final funding figures for the federal funding programs for which BCATS selects projects were given to BCATS, a reworking of the list of projects for future years was required, as Karr noted under Communications. He provided copies of the proposed project list to the members. The list was also provided in the advance meeting materials.

The local agencies worked with BCATS' staff to develop a final list that will still meet the requirements for financial constraint for the FY 2023-2026 time period of the next TIP. Karr commended the work of the local agencies for the hard work they did in revising the project list many times. She indicated that a first informational newsletter has been prepared for the development of the new TIP and it is being distributed. Karr noted that the TIP is more than just the project list and that the process of finalizing a new TIP includes review by the IAWG of the project list, consideration of performance-based planning, and financial constraint, as examples. It is anticipated that a final draft FY 2023-2026 TIP document will be presented to the BCATS Committees for approval in May 2022.

BCATS staff will need to make sure that all of the projects are entered into the MDOT JobNet database system as the new TIP development moves forward. It is very important that the last year of the current TIP, which overlaps into the first year of the new TIP, match in all ways as the process proceeds. Once the new TIP is approved locally and submitted to MDOT, the overlapping year is, in effect, frozen until the new TIP is approved for use by the federal funding agencies. This is usually late September for an October 1st effective date.

Tilma stated that the MDOT projects on the 4-year list are drawn from the projects listed in the MDOT JobNet database. Some of the items are for the preliminary engineering phase, indicating that construction projects may be planned for years beyond 2026. He also highlighted the transit jobs currently entered on the list.

It was moved by King, supported by Avis, to approve moving ahead with the draft project list for the FY 2023-2026 TIP, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
22-12**

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

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

B. Committee Member Comments

Kremer reported from MDOT that work on the multi-year I-69 project starts again as of next Monday, February 28th. The southbound lane of I-69, from the end of last year's work in Eaton County down to I-94, will be reconstructed this construction season. The northbound lane of I-69 along the same section will be reconstructed in 2023. There will be bridge work at 15 Mile Road and at the I-69/I-94 interchange this current year as well. She also indicated that a follow-up virtual meeting with local businesses will be held on March 10th regarding the I-94/Capital Avenue interchange to close the communications loop for this aspect of the larger I-94 project. The alignment at that interchange will remain as is. The MDOT Transportation Service Center (TSC) in Marshall is implementing a new phone system and will now have only one phone number (269-789-0592). Employees can be reached through that number or through their cell phones.

Midgley announced that spring weight restrictions on County roads will go into effect on March 1, 2022. It is expected that MDOT will make a similar announcement shortly about weight restrictions.

Avis indicated that she and Doug Ferrell from Calhoun County will be making presentations around the county to various units of government in March and April about a countywide transit initiative.

Franklin stated that the federal government has re-branded the latest infrastructure legislation and wants it referred to as BIL (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) rather than by the IIA acronym for the Act's name (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act).

Scutt asked about a delay in planned work on Meachem Road from Collier to M-37 in Bedford Charter Township. King indicated that he thinks it may be a culvert issue. Midgley concurred with this assessment.

Karr reported that one comment was received about the 2045 Plan and that it came from the state's Department of Fisheries. She also stated that she is open to input from the Committee members about when to return to a normal room set-up within the context of the status of the pandemic. MDOT won't return fully to in-office for another few months. King expressed that some of the changes that were made are more inclusive for the public. This will be considered on a month to month basis.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Burdett adjourned the meeting at 2:28 p.m.