

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of March 9, 2016 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Carl Fedders (for Chris Dopp), Rich Werner, Terry Blaniar, Rick Fowler, Dharmesh Valsadia (for SW Region Planner), Kristine Parsons (for Angela Kline) and Christine Zuzga (for Glenn Perian)
Non-voting: Danielle Coles, FHWA

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: None
Non-voting: SMPC

OTHERS PRESENT: David Fairchild, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Vice-Chair Werner called the meeting to order at 1:36 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). Introductions were carried out for the sake of all in attendance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Werner noted a change to Item 7.A. on the agenda. This will be a "Discussion" item rather than an "Action" item. The change will be discussed further when that item is reached on the agenda.

It was moved by Fowler, supported by Fedders, to approve the agenda as amended. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
16-05

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Fowler, supported by Blaniar, to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2016 meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
16-06

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- BCATS has received an estimate of the STP funds that BCATS can expect from the new federal FAST Act. There is an increase from the previous estimates last fall, but for this year and next, there is not a real increase over what was originally programmed. There are minor real increases in the latter years of the bill.
- A TIP development newsletter for the public was mailed in late January, 2016. It was sent to BCATS' public involvement/consultation distribution list and posted to the BCATS' website.
- The deadline for submittal to the electronic E-STIP of projects for the new FY 2017-2020 TIP is next Tuesday, March 15th. Tilma has submitted the projects and will update the Committee about this process later in today's meeting.
- The CMAQ projects for FY 2017-2020 were submitted at the beginning of February and presumably have been reviewed by the CMAQ review committee. There has been no official word on the determination of eligibility for those projects from the review committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. **Current FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #12**

Tilma reviewed proposed minor changes to the current FY 2014-2017 TIP. He informed the Committee that, contrary to what was first thought, it will not take a formal amendment to make these administrative changes. The greatest cost change involved is below the 25% threshold established in the BCATS' policies. The majority of the administrative changes involve MDOT projects. Tilma distributed a listing of the FY 2015-2017 TIP projects and reviewed that table with the Committee members. He noted the "Administrative Action" label in the "Comments" section for the impacted projects.

Tilma reminded the members that the TIP projects listed for FY 2017 in the current TIP must match exactly with the FY 2017 projects shown in the new FY 2017-2020 TIP.

There has also been a change to the funding split for a transit bus in FY 2017. There will be local share required since the vehicle type was changed from a "medium-duty" to a "heavy-duty" bus that results in a higher cost.

Tilma commented on the status of the Bellevue Road project which is being funded with "Rural" funds. The "Rural" program has not finalized the funding amounts available for this project.

As a "Discussion" item no action was required at this time.

B. Draft FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Status Report

Karr provided the members with an update regarding the development of the new TIP for FY 2017-2020. She indicated that several portions of the document are near completion and that the target date for Committee review and approval will be the May Committee meetings. Yet to be completed are the financial, public involvement, environmental justice, and project list portions of the document. A template for the financial chapter is being updated and downsized by the state's MPOs working with MDOT, FHWA, and FTA. Hopefully, a working version of the chapter will be available next week to begin the process of completing that section of the TIP.

Tilma noted the submittal of TIP project information from the specialized service agencies, as well as Battle Creek Transit. Tilma provided an update for the members regarding the entering of the new TIP project information into the E-STIP system and the work yet to be accomplished on that project submission process.

This was a discussion item not requiring action at this time.

C. Draft FY 2017 Unified Work Program (UWP), Preliminary Focus Areas and Outline

Karr reviewed the FY 2017 UWP material made available in advance of the meeting. The "Systemwide" and "Specific" focus areas have been updated for the new fiscal year that begins October 1, 2016. The proposed work program tasks remain the same as FY 2016. BCATS staff will be reviewing the current year's work program and discussing the development of the FY 2017 program at the annual Unified Work Program meeting held with MDOT and FHWA officials at a meeting next Wednesday, March 16, 2016. Karr noted some of the items expected to be included as unique work activity for FY 2017. The schedule for development of the new work program is that a draft will come to the BCATS Committees in April, with final approval scheduled for May.

Coles indicated that the FY 2017 Planning Emphasis Areas for MDOT and FHWA will be presented by her at the Michigan Transportation Planning Association meeting next Tuesday.

This was a discussion item not requiring action at this time.

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Vice-Chair Werner announced that the next regular Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at the same location.

B. Committee Member Comments

Parsons provided Karr with paperwork from the Calhoun County Road Department related to the Asset Management program.

Werner asked about the on-going regional transit effort being overseen by MDOT on behalf of the Governor's office. Karr indicated that the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS), as the contract agency for the Southcentral Michigan Planning Council, has done most of the data gathering for this project. BCATS assisted with collecting data in the Battle Creek area. Overall, MDOT hired a consultant to conduct a transportation review in each Regional Prosperity area, with a particular emphasis on the transportation needs of senior citizens. Karr noted that there is a conference call coming up this on this topic as the consultant wraps up its work. Karr indicated that she would provide Werner with the details of this upcoming call opportunity.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Vice-Chair Werner at 2:13 p.m.