

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of March 8, 2017 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Terry Blaniar, Carl Fedders (for Chris Dopp), Rick Fowler, Donna Hutchison (for Rich Werner), Angela Kline, and Glenn Perian (for Christine Zuzga)
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: Jason Latham
Non-voting: Andy Pickard (FHWA) and SMPC

OTHERS PRESENT: Dan Lewis, Denise Smith, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Vice-Chair Kline called the meeting to order at 1:35 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 conducted for the benefit of all in attendance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

**Res.
17-04**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Perian, supported by Blaniar, to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2017 meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
17-05**

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- Karr noted that at the Michigan Transportation Planning Association meeting last month a new policy was adopted for project cost changes that trigger a TIP amendment. She stated that Tilma will address this in detail under the TIP Amendment item later on the agenda.
- The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) has released its “2017-2018 State of Michigan Strategic Highway Safety Plan” which is only available on-line, not as a printed document.
- Karr is working with a statewide group to develop, with MDOT, state safety targets to meet federal requirements by August, 2017. Once the state sets its targets, MPOs have 180 days to either support the state target or develop their own targets.
- The City of Battle Creek has been awarded a Category F project for reconstruction of Lafayette Street in 2018.
- The BCATS’ Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is available for viewing on the BCATS website.
- The updated brochure, “Guide to Citizen Involvement with BCATS” was distributed to the members. The document is also available on the BCATS website.
- MDOT has issued a call for local bridge projects for 2020. The deadline for applications is May, 1, 2017.
- A planning charrette is being held in Marshall tonight regarding selecting an alignment for a non-motorized trail through the Marshall area.
- A meeting of the Southwest Region Pedestrian/Bicycle group is scheduled for March 16, 2017 from 1:30-3:00 pm at the MDOT SW Region office in Kalamazoo.
- PASER training is coming up at the end of March, on the 29th in Kalamazoo. This is the year that the federal-aid eligible roads in the BCATS area will be rated for their condition.
- Karr will be attending the OHSP Traffic Safety Summit in two weeks in E. Lansing.
- MDOT has released its construction map for this construction season. It is only available on-line, not as a printed document. Karr provided the members with a printout of the on-line pdf posted by MDOT.
- A summary report has been received from MDOT regarding the Transportation Alternatives Program’s (TAP) 2016 accomplishments. Copies of the one page report were provided to the Technical Committee members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #3

Tilma reviewed the sheet which outlined the changes Karr noted under “Communications” regarding TIP amendments. The change standardizes for all of the metropolitan planning organizations in Michigan what the percent change for project costs is that triggers an amendment. The percent has been set at 25% (either an increase or a decrease in project cost) and will be in effect for a one year trial period as of February 21st. The standard percent applies to highway and transit projects. BCATS already uses a 25% rate for highway projects, but will lower its 30% rate used for transit projects to comply with the rate set for the trial period.

Tilma discussed the proposed amendment to the current TIP. The amendment was noticed in the *Battle Creek Enquirer* on March 2, 2017. The projects highlighted in yellow on the table are ones being amended. Other minor changes are noted as “administrative actions” that were not required to be included in the public notice.

It was moved by Perian, supported by Fedders, to acknowledge utilizing the 25% cost change amendment threshold and to recommend approval by the Policy Committee of Amendment #3 to the FY 2017-2020 TIP, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
17-06**

B. Preliminary Issues and Outline for FY 2018 Unified Work Program (UWP)

Karr reviewed the sheet with the information regarding preparations for the FY 2018 Unified Work Program (UWP) which will start as of October 1, 2017. This initial look at potential items for next year’s program will likely be modified after BCATS’ staff meet with MDOT and FHWA staff next week at the annual pre-UWP meeting to discuss the status of this year’s program and the direction of next year’s program. She noted that it is anticipated that Battle Creek Transit’s project for an updated master plan is expected to carry forward to FY 2018. Karr added that it is anticipated that a draft of the FY 2018 UWP will come the Committees in April, with final approval set for May. MDOT’s deadline for submittal of the documents is June 1st.

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

C. 2011, 2013 & 2015 PASER Ratings of BCATS area Federal-Aid Roadways

Tilma distributed maps and tables depicting the PASER condition data collected under the Asset Management program for the 2011, 2013 and 2015 fiscal years. He discussed the trends and the comparison of the BCATS' data to statewide data. There was additional discussion by the Committee about the information presented. Kline asked why rural minor collectors are no longer rated as part of the process. It is confusing as to why this was decided upon, when a portion of those roadways can still be eligible to use federal-aid. Since data is collected on only 50% of Calhoun County's federal-aid roadways each year, the BCATS area, as a subset of the whole county, is rated every other year. This year, 2017, is a collection year for the BCATS area. Tilma will be coordinating that process later this summer. The first step is for persons who may be involved in the rating process to attend the PASER training this month.

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

COMMENTS**A. Next Meeting**

Vice-Chair Kline announced that the next regular Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. at the same location.

B. Committee Member Comments

Fedders reported on the anticipated letting schedule for the City of Battle Creek's 2017 projects in the TIP. There was discussion about the Area-wide multi-agency project and the adjusted budget for that item under Amendment #2 to the TIP. He added that the City was also successful with a safety grant application for 2018 for an overhead beacon at Clark Road and River Road. Karr indicated that BCATS would add that project to the list of items to amend into the TIP for the May amendment.

Kline indicated that the Custer Drive project will be bid in April or May and is a locally bid project.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Vice-Chair Kline at 2:17 p.m.