

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of March 13, 2019 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Terry Blaniar, Carl Fedders (for Chris Dopp), Jeff Franklin, Amy Lipset, Skylar Cudney (for Kristine Parsons), Glenn Perian, and Rich Werner
Non-voting: None

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Terry Martin, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Vice-Chair Werner 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). Introductions were made for the benefit of all in attendance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Werner noted the addition of item 7.D. Election of Replacement Vice-Chair for Technical Committee. **It was moved by Fedders, supported by Lipset, to approve the agenda as amended. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Res.
19-08

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Perian, supported by Franklin, to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2019 meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
19-09

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- BCATS submitted the approved air quality conformity resolution to MDOT following Policy Committee approval last month.
- The Calhoun County Transit study is hosting a focus group meeting next Thursday afternoon as a kick-off to the county-wide transit study.
- The BCATS Policy Committee also approved the draft list of TIP projects for the new FY 2020-2023 TIP. There have been no public comments on the draft list of projects to-date.
- MDOT has issued a “call” for local bridge projects for 2022. The deadline for submittal of project applications is May 1, 2019. If any of the local agencies in the BCATS area are planning to submit applications for 2022 bridge funding, BCATS would appreciate being informed of that intention.
- MDOT announced selected FY 2020 local safety projects in February. Projects selected in the BCATS area will be noted when discussing this month’s TIP amendment on today’s agenda.
- A new state Economic Development Fund category has been established for funding of transportation projects in cities and villages with less than 10,000 population. The City of Springfield is submitting a project under this category.
- BCATS staff attended the annual pre-Unified Work Program meeting with MDOT and FHWA staff in Lansing on February 28th. A draft of the FY 2020 Unified Work Program will be presented to the BCATS Technical and Policy Committees in April.
- New housing developments have recently been announced in both the City of Battle Creek and in Emmett Township.
- Governor Whitmer has announced a proposal to increase fuel taxes to fund road repairs and improvements. The plan has been summarized by the State Budget Office and copies of that summary were provided to the 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 (TIP) Amendment #B15/J6

Karr discussed the narrative amendment to the performance-based planning chapter of the current TIP. The updates are related to the final performance measure methodology and target setting carried out in 2018 in conjunction with MDOT. The narrative provides an indication of projects in the BCATS’ TIP which address the various performance target categories (a similar chapter is being developed for the new FY 2020-2023 TIP with updates to the tables

showing projects by performance target category based on the new project list discussed in item 7.B).

Regarding the project portion of the TIP amendment, Tilma noted the public notice listing the items in this month's amendment. He distributed a table that lists all of the FY 2019 and 2020 projects in the current TIP. He explained how the table is organized and what the various colored indications on the table reference. He indicated the difference between amended items and those having administrative modifications that are not included in the amendment.

There was general discussion about some of the MDOT projects relative to scope and coordination.

It was moved by Perian, supported by Blaniar, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve Amendment #B15/J6 to the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
19-10**

B. Draft FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project list and Status Report

Tilma reviewed an updated project list for the FY 2020-2023 TIP which is currently under development. There was discussion about projects included in the listing, both local and MDOT projects. Three 2021 bridge projects, which the City of Battle Creek is expected to receive funding for, will not be programmed into the TIP by MDOT bridge staff until summer 2019, according to Franklin. Therefore, those projects will have to be amended into the TIP after the new TIP is approved initially. Tilma indicated that there are still "out year" projects to be added to the list for transit and this will be done soon.

Lipset asked for input from the Committee relative to the "routine maintenance" projects which currently show up for inclusion in the TIP. These projects involve annual sign upgrades and rolling updating of pavement markings over a one-to-three year cycle. The question is whether these projects, and all the phases associated with them, need to be included in the TIP listing. Fedders indicated that as long as MDOT communicates this type of work to the local governmental unit involved that there should be no issue with excluding these from the TIP. The overall feedback from the Committee was that, as long as the projects are of this nature and purely "routine maintenance," that it would be advisable to code them such that they do not appear in the TIP and are not subject to future amendment requirements. The projects could still be tracked in JobNet based on a job number, or "maintenance" job type, if desired.

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

C. Election of Replacement Vice-Chair for Technical Committee

Karr stated that the Technical Committee bylaws allow for the Committee to fill a vacant officer position at a regular meeting with a majority vote of those present. Since Werner is retiring from the City of Battle Creek, his position as Vice-Chair of the Technical Committee will need to be filled until elections are held again next December. This meeting is his last with BCATS.

It was moved by Fedders, supported by Lipset, to elect Kristine Parsons as the new Vice-Chair for the Technical Committee to fill out the term vacated by Werner. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
19-11**

COMMENTS**A. Next Meeting**

Vice-Chair Werner announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for April 10, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. at the same location.

B. Committee Member Comments

Fedders provided updates on the City of Battle Creek's 2019 TIP projects, including some delays due to unanticipated approvals needed.

Karr indicated well-wishes for Werner on the occasion of his imminent retirement. Werner acknowledged his time on the BCATS Committees.

Franklin commended the City of Springfield on its pending application for TEDF Category B funding to take advantage of this new funding opportunity from the state.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m.