

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of March 11, 2020 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Chris Dopp, Jeff Franklin, Brian Sanada, and Erin Cummings (for Kristine Parsons)
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: Terry Blaniar and Glenn Perian
Non-voting: Andy Pickard and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Terry Martin, 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). Introductions were completed for the benefit of all in attendance and to establish a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Avis, supported by Franklin, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
20-05**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Martin asked if there is a consultant that the MPO generally uses for planning. Karr indicated that BCATS does not utilize consultants.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Franklin offered as follow-up to the minutes that funds were able to be added to the Gorsline Road project, as was discussed at the January meeting.

It was moved by Franklin, supported by Avis, to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2020 meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
0-06**

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- Karr attended the web meeting for the county transit study at the County's Community Development office. The final report is still forthcoming from the consultant.
- The January amendment to the FY 2020-2023 TIP was approved in early February and as Franklin indicated, additional funding was added to the Gorsline Road project .
- Changes related to the updated local program allocations from MDOT for the STUL program have been made in JobNet.
- The City of Battle Creek's Infrastructure and Utility Services coordination meeting in January was very informative and there were many of the utility companies represented.
- Karr attended the region's infrastructure asset management summit on Friday, February 7th which was held at the Van Buren Conference Center in Lawrence, MI. Karr was the only person from Calhoun County in attendance.
- The Regional Prosperity Committee met on February 6, 2020 and voted to dissolve the organization in light of the deletion of funding for the initiative in the state budget under the new Governor. Projects which are still in progress will be completed and grants to implementing agencies monitored and closed out. There are no further meetings of this group scheduled.
- The pre-Unified Work Program meeting with MDOT and FHWA was held on Monday, February 24th in Lansing. FHWA, MDOT and BCATS staff attended and Avis participated via the call-in option. The current year's work activities were reviewed and discussion took place about work activity for next year's 2021 Unified Work Program.
- The day after the last Policy Committee meeting, BCATS was notified that state Category F funding was awarded for a portion of Morgan Road (M-37 to North Avenue). This project was originally in the current TIP with STP funding. The Category F funding will be added to the existing project.
- Karr attended the Office of Highway Safety Planning's annual Traffic Safety Summit March 10-11, 2020 in E. Lansing.
- A call has come from MDOT for FY 2023 local bridge projects. This information has been made available to the local units of government, with a request to let BCATS know if any bridge projects will be submitted for that call. All applications are to be submitted electronically by Friday, May 1st.
- The City of Battle Creek was successful in having local safety funding awarded for its potential round-about at the intersection of North Avenue and Emmett Street. MDOT awarded \$600,000 toward the total cost of the project.
- A new 2019-2022 Michigan Strategic Highway Safety Plan has been developed and was released by the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission at the end of January.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. MDOT 2020-2024 Five-Year Transportation Program

Tilma reviewed the changes to the MDOT program that have been announced for the current year and the next four years. He distributed a list of the Calhoun County projects associated with the Rebuilding Michigan bond program. There was also a map showing the location of projects within the BCATS area. There was discussion about the scope of the projects and the impacts they will have.

Sanada indicated that much of the information in JobNet is not complete and could change as the projects undergo further development. Franklin indicated that Amy Lipset at the MDOT Southwest Region office has requested local input during the development of these projects. Nothing has been designed yet for the major work showing up in the furthest years of the MDOT program. Franklin indicated that the I-94 segment from Helmer Road to 6 ½ Mile Road would have a similar treatment to the segment of I-94 that was completed in 2019 with a multi-layer asphalt overlay.

Sanada indicated that all of the bridges being reconstructed are being designed to accommodate three lanes to assist with crossover traffic during the bridge projects. Tilma questioned why the Helmer Road bridge was not included in the project. Franklin stated that bridges which are expected to remain in fair condition are not currently included in the scope of the project for multiple bridges and the Helmer Road bridge is one of those bridges. Tilma also brought up the width of the Capital Avenue bridge. Franklin indicated that this bridge is likely to be a design/build project. There are many upgrades associated with the anticipated work on this bridge. Tilma stated that non-motorized considerations are desired for both the Helmer Road and Capital Avenue bridges over I-94.

Tilma also noted the issue with the I-94 bridge over Beadle Lake Road and how the bridge structure currently precludes the ability to widen Beadle Lake Road. Sanada and Franklin provided the current information about the project for replacement of this bridge. Franklin added that bridges will also be replaced over 9 Mile Road and over the Kalamazoo River. There is some interest in seeing if the non-motorized route currently planned for the F Drive Bridge over I-94 to follow a path under I-94 in conjunction with either of these other bridges.

Karr asked that the median barrier be evaluated that is currently in place with the I-94 bridge over the Kalamazoo River as two vehicles have scaled that barrier easily in recent years and ended up in the river.

Tilma asked that MDOT staff keep the BCATS staff and Committees updated as the design of these projects proceeds. Karr stated that the City of Battle Creek and Springfield will be encouraged to provide input to MDOT about the M-37 project which is located in both of their jurisdictions.

This was an information/discussion item that has implications for item 7.B. below.

B. FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #5

Tilma provided information to the members about the projects listed for the proposed amendment to the current FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He reviewed the copy of the public notice listing the projects. In addition to the MDOT items discussed in Item 7.A, there are numerous other state and local road projects, rail crossing projects, and several transit projects offered for this amendment. Avis explained the year designation situation with two of the transit projects.

It was moved by Avis, supported by Franklin, to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee approve Amendment #5 to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program, as presented.

**Res.
20-07**

C. Draft BCATS Public Participation Plan

Karr indicated that the draft of this update to the BCATS Participation Plan was provided to the members in advance of the meeting. The Participation Plan was last updated in 2014. She requested that the members provide any comments and feedback to her as soon as possible about the Plan update. The update will need to have a 45-day public comment period before any action by the Policy Committee to adopt an updated Plan.

Franklin indicated that the FHWA wants to see freight involvement in the Participation Plans of MPOs. Karr stated that she is also working on a separate Consultation Plan. Franklin added that documentation of trying to involve freight interests is necessary.

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

D. Initial Issues & Outline for FY 2021 Unified Work Program (UWP)

Karr noted that this item also had a handout in the advance materials. Each year staff prepares this outline for the coming fiscal year's program. She indicated that it is anticipated to have a draft of the FY 2021 UWP for the April Committee meetings, with final approval in May. Final UWPs are required to be submitted to MDOT by June 1st.

This was an information/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 April 8, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. at the same location.

B. Committee Member Comments

Franklin stated that he will be working to develop MDOT's financial and staffing figures to be included in the FY 2021 UWP and will provide that information to staff.

Avis discussed the federal requirement for a Public Transit Safety Plan which is due in July. The Plan will include safety targets that FTA requires the MPO to adopt.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

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