

# BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

## Technical Committee

### Minutes of March 9, 2022 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Susan Cronander, Carl Fedders, Skyler Cudney (for Kristine Parsons), Brian Sanada, Luke Walters and Chaz Wilkey  
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: None  
Non-voting: Andrew Sibold (FHWA) and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Terry Martin and Andrew Tilma

As all voting members were represented, Chair Fedders called the meeting to order at 1:29 p.m. in the Springfield City Hall Council Chambers, 601 Avenue A, Springfield MI.

### ROLL CALL

Fedders asked all in attendance to introduce themselves. It was determined that a quorum of the voting members were present.

### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

**Res.  
22-09**

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

**It was moved by Wilkey, supported by Walters, to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2022 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
22-10**

### COMMUNICATIONS

Tilma shared the following communications:

- The first newsletter for the FY 2023-2026 TIP was completed, printed and posted, and distributed at the end of February.

- Amendment #15 to the current TIP, approved in February by the BCATS Committees, is being submitted to MDOT.
- BCATS received the City of Battle Creek's public notice for the gateway design for the Capital Avenue bridge over I-94 that is to be replaced as part of the larger MDOT I-94 bridge and road project. A public hearing will be held to take comments on the bridge design at next Tuesday's Battle Creek City Commission meeting.
- The 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the air quality Conformity Determination Report related to the MTP were approved by the Policy Committee in February and submitted to MDOT.
- Roger Belknap has left his position as staff person at MDOT for the Transportation Asset Management Council's Asset Management work. A replacement has yet to be named. Robert Green, Program Manager for that area, is serving as the current contact for the Asset Management program.
- BCATS staff participated in the annual pre-Unified Work Program (UWP) meeting with MDOT and federal agency staff to review the current year's Work Program and discuss the next year's program. Next year's (FY 2023) UWP will be discussed on today's agenda.
- BCATS received requests for letters of support for several local bridge projects and one local safety project anticipated to be submitted to MDOT by the local road agencies. These topics are also on today's agenda.
- BCATS has received a request from the Calhoun County Road Department for consideration of a change to the National Functional Classification status of 6 Mile Road from B Drive N to B Drive S. Information about the process to follow for such a change has been provided to the County.
- There was discussion about Battle Creek Transit's plans to apply for a facility study grant through MDOT and how this will be handled in BCATS' Unified Work Program for FY 2022, and possibly for FY 2023 as well.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

## NEW BUSINESS

### A. Initial Issues and Outline for the FY 2023 Unified work Program (UWP)

Tilma reviewed the one page sheet that had been provided to the members in advance of the meeting. He noted the new federal requirement for 2.5% of the federal highway planning (PL) funds to be utilized for safe and accessible transportation options. This will be specifically noted in the new UWP. BCATS proposes to do that work under the Safety Conscious Planning work item in the UWP. He also noted probable work with the 2020 Census data relative to urban area boundaries and an overall review of the National

Functional Classification system, more traffic count work in conjunction with MDOT, and new economic developments that may necessitate some planning work.

Fedders indicated that any development at the Marshall area mega-site, although not within the BCATS area, would potentially impact the BCATS area as well.

Tilma stated that it is expected that a draft of the new FY 2023 UWP will be presented to the BCATS Committees in April, with final approval in May. This will meet the MDOT deadline for development of the new UWP.

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

**B. Letters of support for local agency Bridge project submittals for FY 2025**

Fedders referenced the list of bridge project applications expected to be submitted by the local road agencies for MDOT's FY 2025 call for this project category for which letters of support have been requested.

**It was moved by Cronander, supported by Avis, to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee authorize letters of support for the bridge projects identified in the memo. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
22-11**

**C. Letters of support for local agency Safety project submittals for FY 2024**

Fedders noted the one local safety project expected to be submitted for the current MDOT call for FY 2024 for this category of projects.

**It was moved by Wilkey, supported by Avis, to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee authorize a letter of support for the safety project identified in the memo. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
22-12**

## COMMENTS

**A. Next Meeting**

Chair Fedders announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for April 13, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be in-person.

**B. Committee Member Comments**

Wilkey announced that consultant Hunter Prell will be starting on a waterline replacement project for lead pipes within the public water system for Springfield.

Sanada reported that the SW Michigan pedestrian/bicycle group meeting has been changed to May 12, 2022 at 1:30pm at the MDOT SW Region office. MDOT employees will be back at their offices as of May 1, 2022.

Fedders had several items to report. There has been a meeting of state and local officials to pursue a study of the Beckley Road/B Drive corridor in Battle Creek and Emmett Township. A signal study is the main focus, but all aspects of the corridor area, including the potential for a Glenn Cross Road Extension, will be included. This study is expected to cost approximately \$250,000. The City of Battle Creek will have a change to some of the alternates for BCATS' Technical and Policy Committees. The changes will go to the City Commission in April. Jarret Geering, Battle Creek City Engineer, is to be assigned as Fedders alternate for Technical Committee and Fedders will replace Greg Rickmar as a City alternate on the Policy Committee. The public meeting mentioned under Communications regarding the decorative design on the Capital Avenue bridge over I-94 is being conducted by the City since MDOT needed to delay its public involvement activities for the greater overall I-94 project. A similar decorative treatment is planned for the Columbia Avenue bridge over I-194 and a comparable public comment process will be followed for that project.

Fedders asked if MDOT representatives will be able to attend local in-person meetings going forward to provide updates and input. Sanada indicated that this is likely to be the case as MDOT employees transition back to the office.

### **C. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m.