

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of March 8, 2023 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Donna Hutchison (for Mallory Avis), Heather Bowden, Susan Cronander, Jarret Geering, Josh Grab, Kristine Parsons, and Chaz Wilkey
Non-voting: None

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Kernstock, Steve Skalski, and Pat Karr

Chair Parsons called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Springfield City Hall Council Chambers, 601 Avenue A, Springfield MI.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

**Res.
23-06**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Wilkey, supported by Geering, to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2023 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-07**

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- BCATS staff completed the update of the System Performance Report, a federally required annual report for MPO's. The report is posted on the BCATS website.

- BCATS received updated Battle Creek Transit (BCT) transit safety targets. This item is on the agenda today.
- The public notice for this month's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment was published in the Battle Creek Enquirer today and it was posted on the BCATS website at the end of last week.
- BCATS staff participated in the annual Pre-Unified Work Program (UWP) meeting with MDOT, FHWA, and FTA staff on Monday, March 6th to review the current work program and discuss the FY 2024 UWP.
- MDOT has put out the call for projects for both the local safety program (FY 2025) and the local bridge program (FY 2026) with deadlines of May 1st for safety projects and April 3rd for bridge projects. No planned bridge project submittals have been reported to BCATS.
- A meeting of the local focus group for the I-194 PEL study was held in February. Josh Grab from the MDOT SW Region is the MDOT coordinator for this project which is being conducted by a consultant. Grab provided an update about the study and that public meeting will be coming up within the next few months.
- Amendment #3 to the FY 2023-2026 TIP was approved by the federal funding sources.
- The City of Battle Creek has announced two new staff persons who may be participating at BCATS. They are Darcy Schmitt, Planning Supervisor and Steve Skalski, Public Works Director. Since Skalski was in attendance, he was welcomed to Battle Creek.
- BCATS will be working with staff from the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study again this summer to complete the PASER road rating work for the BCATS area. It has been announced that MDOT staff will not be participating in the rating teams again this year.
- MDOT is funding a new round of regional transit coordination plans. A focus group virtual meeting for the region is set for March 14th. Information about this meeting was provided to the BCATS Technical and Policy Committee members by BCATS staff.
- Adjusted Census Urban Boundary (ACUB) work with MDOT will be forthcoming soon. This will involve all of the local jurisdictions and BCATS. This effort is done to smooth the U.S. Census defined urbanized boundary for the purposes of defining urban vs. rural roads. It does not impact funding levels, which are still based on the Census defined boundaries.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Amendment #4

Karr indicated that the information for this item was posted in advance of the meeting by Tilma and a supplemental e-mail was also sent out. She did make available at the meeting

the amendment project list and summary sheet for the members. There was discussion about the items listed on the provided material.

It was moved by Geering, supported by Wilkey, to recommend BCATS' Policy Committee approval of Amendment #4 to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-08**

B. Transit Safety Performance Measures - Targets for Battle Creek Transit

The transit safety performance targets provided by Battle Creek Transit (BCT) are related to the transit safety plan that BCT completed in 2020. Updated targets for this measure are presented in the draft resolution provided in advance of the meeting

It was moved by Cronander, supported by Wilkey, to recommend BCATS' Policy Committee approval of the Resolution to Support Battle Creek Transit Public Transportation Agency Safety Performance Targets, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-09**

C. Preliminary Outline for FY 2024 Unified Work Program (UWP)

Karr stated that this outline is presented each year at this time in advance of the development of the Unified Work Program for BCATS for the upcoming fiscal year. The outline has been updated relative to new developments happening in the greater area, ie; the Ford battery plant west of Marshall. A draft of the FY 2024 Unified Work Program is expected to be presented to the BCATS Committees next month. Final FY 2024 UWP documents are to be submitted to MDOT by June 1st.

This was an information/discussion item not requiring action.

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Chair Parsons announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for April 12, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

B. Committee Member Comments

Wilkey announced that Springfield as finalized a contract for construction of a new salt barn for the Public Works Department.

Cronander indicated that comments provided about the City of Battle Creek's non-motorized plan have been forwarded to the consultant working on the project.

Parsons reported that Raymond Road is going to be closed for up to four months for work being done on the bridge over the rail tracks. The substructure needs more rehabilitation than was originally anticipated. There are detour routes available. Work in Emmett Township on the local roads is completed except for a few "punch list" items. This year's project on Morgan Road east of North Avenue is proceeding. There will also be work at the Morgan/North intersection. Parsons asked about any information being available for the road agencies which need to update their Asset Management Plans by October 1st. Karr indicated that she would research this for the county.

Geering stated that a contract for the traffic study of Beckley Road/B Drive N has been developed. The roundabout proposed for the intersection of Skyline Drive and Hill Brady Road, in cooperation with the military, has been approved locally.

Grab stated that he is looking to fill the transportation planner position at the MDOT Southwest Region that was vacated by Brian Sanada. There have been numerous applicants, so he is hopeful that the position will be filled soon. Transportation projects are being developed to address the Ford Blue Oval battery plant location in Marshall Township. There are also several solar panel site developments going on in Calhoun County.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.