

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of March 13, 2024 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Jarret Geering, Max Gierman, Josh Grab, Brian Kernstock,
Travis Sullivan, and Chaz Wilkey
Non-voting: None

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Franklin and Andrew Tilma

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

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Geering proposed the addition of Item 7.C. 'TIP Changes for City of Battle Creek FY25/26 Projects' for discussion.

It was moved by Kernstock, supported by Avis, to approve the agenda, with the addition of Item 7.C. as amended. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
24-04**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Wilkey, supported by Grab, to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2024 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
24-05**

COMMUNICATIONS

Franklin shared the following communications:

- MDOT Local Agency Programs (LAP) has announced the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Local Bridge Program. Applications are due April 1st, 2024. BCATS has received information about local bridge applications from City of Battle Creek and Calhoun County Road Department (CCRD). This is an agenda item.
- MDOT LAP has announced the FY2026 Local Safety Program. Applications are due May 1, 2024. BCATS will provide a letter of support with Policy Committee approval for any applications. This is an agenda item.
- The FY2025 Pre-Unified Planning Work Program meeting was held by MDOT on March 4th. MDOT gathers subject matter experts together for BCATS staff benefit in developing the annual work program. BCATS staff has a draft prepared which ought to come to Committees in April for a comment period, with anticipated approval at May Committee meetings.
- MDOT, City of Battle Creek for Battle Creek Transit (BCT), and BCATS have fully executed the updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) contract. This MOU dictates how BCATS, BCT, and MDOT work together with regards to Federal and State planning requirements continued in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This MOU replaces the 2018 version of the same contract.
- As reported at January Committee meetings, the Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC) solicited an offer for extra Asset Management (AM) funding with proposals due in February, for the Pavement and Surface Evaluation Rating (PASER) work on Non-Federal Aid (NFA) roads. The CCRD submitted a proposal, which BCATS completed an application for. We learned this morning that we have been awarded this additional AM funding for the CCRD NFA PASER scope of work. Our existing BCATS AM contract will be amended to provide the additional funding, and BCATS staff will participate in NFA PASER data collection later this summer.
- This spring, BCATS will be kicking off the development of the FY2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program. The Michigan Transportation Planning Association will finalize a schedule for the overall Statewide Transportation Improvement Program development in May 2024, with MDOT/FHWA revenue estimates due to BCATS by July 2024, and our local Call For Projects (CFP) occurring from that July through September (Local CFP due back to BCATS October 1st to stay on the anticipated schedule).
- BCATS staff is considering a new website as part of FY2025 work. BCATS staff is looking for further feedback about the existing website and what members would want from a new website. Feedback can be sent via email to BCATS. BCATS staff has also altered the way of

sending out meeting notices. A combined meeting packet will be included in meeting notices going forward. Voting members will no longer have to logon to the BCATS website to retrieve the meeting handouts. Handouts will continue to be stored on the website for archival purposes, should members wish to still use the member logon area of the website.

- BCATS staff continues to participate in the Beckley Road Corridor Redevelopment Steering Committee. At the Steering Committee meeting in early March, the Steering Committee consultant mentioned the start of the Beckley Road Traffic Signal Study. BCATS staff inquired from members on status of this Traffic Signal Study and learned it has commenced, and the output of this separate Study would likely inform the Beckley Road Corridor Redevelopment Steering Committee before those meetings conclude.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. FY23-26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #9

Tilma reviewed the list of projects being proposed for Amendment #9 to the FY 2023-2026 TIP. Tilma commented that there could be some minor administrative changes to the TIP concerning transit jobs.

It was moved by Kernstock, supported by Wilkey, to recommend approval of the FY2023-2026 TIP Amendment #9 by the BCATS Policy Committee, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
24-06**

B. BCATS Letters of Support for FY27 Local Bridge and FY26 Local Safety Program(s) Applications

Franklin provided information to members on the FY27 Local Bridge Program and the FY26 Local Safety Program, including proposed bridge project applications by the City of Battle Creek, and proposed bridge and safety project applications by Calhoun County Road Department.

It was moved by Grab, supported by Avis, to recommend that BCATS provide letters of support for local agency applications to the FY27 Local Bridge Program and the FY26 Local Safety Program, with information as presented by the local agency applicant(s). MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
24-07**

C. TIP Changes for City of Battle Creek FY25/26 Projects

Geering inquired about the swap of City of Battle Creek current FY23-26 TIP projects programmed in years FY25 and FY26. The proposed changes were agreed to be likely administrative modifications to the TIP. The City of Battle Creek will make an official request to see the changes completed. **This was a discussion only item.**

COMMENTS**A. Next Meeting**

Chair Geering announced the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for April 10, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

B. Committee Member Comments

Avis reported on a Senator Peters earmark for \$1,500,000 for startup capital for the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County (TACC) through City of Battle Creek. TACC will work with FTA and BCATS to see this project added to the TIP.

Geering reported that the City of Battle Creek won an American Public Works Association award for the Union Street bridge project. Geering also reported moving forward with restaurant developments along Beckley Road.

Kernstock reported that Newton Township passed a millage for a local roads program. The N Wattles Road project is underway. Tree removal is underway along Verona Road. Calhoun County Road Department has applied for a Transportation Economic Development Funding grant for road improvements related to the Blue Oval Battery Park. Proposed improvements to Verona Road, 11 Mile Road, and 15 Mile Road could be funded.

Grab reported that the Southwest Region Planner position has been filled, however Grab expects to continue to be the BCATS voting member. Grab shared some possible MDOT road improvements related to the Blue Oval Battery Park.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.