

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of April 11, 2018 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Terry Blaniar, Chris Dopp, Rick Fowler, Skylar Cudney (for Kristine Parsons), Glenn Perian (for Christine Zuzga), Brian Sanada, and Rich Werner
Non-voting: None

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Franklin, Bill Greer, Alissa Hubbell, Daniela Khavajian, Nancy Macfarlane, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Dopp called the meeting to order at 1:33 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 conducted for the benefit of all in attendance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Dopp indicated that a new item 7.C. will be included on the agenda, moving the existing items 7.C. and 7.D. down on the agenda to items 7.D. and 7.E. **It was moved by Blaniar, supported by Werner, to approve the agenda, as amended. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Res.
18-08

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Perian, supported by Blaniar, to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2018 meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
18-09

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- BCATS received material from the Calhoun County Trail Alliance, which is on the agenda today.
- Karr reminded the members about the one-day spring Asset Management conference being conducted by the Michigan Asset Management Council. It is being held in Traverse City on May 22nd in conjunction with the American Public Works Association (APWA) spring meeting.
- April 9-13 is National Work Zone Awareness Week. A flyer about this observance was provided for the members.
- Michigan's "Adopt a Highway" first litter pick-up of the year starts April 14th and runs through May 6th. She noted the need to be extra cautious when these volunteers are out working along the interstate and state highways.
- Asset Management PASER training took place at the end of March and Tilma and several local agency representatives were in attendance at the Kalamazoo session.
- It was noted that, in addition to Angela Kline leaving the Calhoun County Road Department, Mark Dionise of the MDOT Marshall Transportation Service Center has retired as Manager of that office as of March 29th. A new Manager has not been selected yet. That person will be a member of BCATS' Policy Committee.
- Springfield will be getting a new City Manager. Interviews for the top candidates have been completed and may lead to a recommendation for City Council action. The former manager, Nate Henne, accepted a position with the City of Owosso, northeast of Lansing, his hometown.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation by Calhoun County Trailway Alliance (CCTA)

Karr introduced this topic by noting that the CCTA's focus area maps were provided to the members in advance of the meeting. Bill Greer indicated that the Calhoun County Trail Alliance is a non-profit organization helping Calhoun County build a trail across the county, east to west. He provided an overview of the Alliance's activities and its current efforts to connect Calhoun County's trails to the Falling Waters Trail in Concord, Michigan. Parts of the Calhoun County trail are included in several other larger trail efforts including the Lake to Lake Trail, Iron Belle Trail and North Country Trail. He then introduced Nancy Macfarlane, a consultant to the CCTA. She distributed brochures for the Great Lake to Lake Trail and about the Calhoun County Trail Alliance. She noted about 40-50 thousand uses of the existing Calhoun County trail. The CCTA received funds to conduct some preliminary engineering

for locating the trail extension across the rest of Calhoun County. Macfarlane reviewed the six focus area maps developed as part of that effort that had been provided to the members. She specifically noted the two focus areas that are within the BCATS area. These potential trail routes extend from the County Bridge Park (where the current trail ends) to F Drive North, north along 11 Mile Road and then east along Michigan Avenue to the boundary of the BCATS area at 12 Mile and beyond to the City of Marshall. Additional segments connect Marshall to Albion, Albion to Homer and Homer to Concord. The maps represent a preliminary routing proposal, on which the CCTA is seeking input and comment from all interested parties. She encouraged the Technical Committee members to provide comments to her.

Sanada asked for contact information for the CCTA so he can include the group on the mailing list for the Regional Pedestrian and Bike Committee that he coordinates. That group meets several times a year and its next meetings will be in June and September.

There were several questions about the proposed alignments and type of facilities proposed, especially for the first two focus areas.

Hubbell indicated that MDOT prefers pedestrians to be accommodated with off-road facilities along state roadways. She also noted the need for maintenance agreements with local jurisdictions for any facilities of this type.

Karr and Tilma highlighted how non-motorized facilities are represented in the BCATS planning process, especially in the 20-year long range plan.

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

B. Draft 2019 Unified Work Program (UWP)

Karr reviewed the draft UWP document which had been made available to the members in the advance material. She noted the addition of one new work activity for performance measures and targets, along with the removal of the Transit Master Plan item that will be completed this fiscal year. The document contains the proposed budget for the FY 2019 year displayed by accounts and by work activities. She indicated that this draft can be amended before final action by the Committees in May and requested that any comments on the document be provided to her as soon as possible.

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

C. Transit “State of Good Repair” Targets

Karr discussed the memo and proposed resolution regarding the transit “State of Good Repair” targets that was sent out to the members in advance of the meeting. The recommendation is to “support” the Battle Creek Transit provided targets for 2018.

It was moved by Perian, supported by Fowler, to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee adopt the resolution for BCATS to “support” Battle Creek Transit’s “State of Good Repair” targets, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
18-10**

D. Amendment to FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Document for Performance Measures Language

Karr discussed this item and the background surrounding the need to amend the language in the current TIP document to meet federal regulations by a May 27, 2018 deadline. The material for this item was also provided to the members in advance of the meeting. She reported that the current TIP will not be able to be amended if the document does not meet the requirements for performance based planning as set forth by federal regulations. The proposed updated chapter for the TIP is designed to satisfy the requirements.

It was moved by Perian, supported by Werner, to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee approve amending the FY 2017-2020 TIP to replace Section 3 - Performance-Based Planning with the new chapter of the same name, subject to adding information to the transit discussion in order to meet the requirements of the Federal Transit Administration. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
18-11**

E. FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Status of 2018 and 2019 Projects

Tilma introduced this item and requested an update from each of the implementing agencies relative to their 2018 and 2019 TIP projects. Copies of the TIP project list for 2018 and 2019 were provided so members had information readily available for reference during the updates by the agency representatives.

Cudney gave the update for the Calhoun County Road Department indicating the status of each County project on the list. The projects for 2018 are on schedule for completion. Design work for the 2019 projects is being scheduled.

Dopp stated that the major resurfacing project is set for the July, 2018 letting. Other work is well along with lettings or work to be done on time. He noted that the utility relocation is already taking place by the private companies for the Hill Brady Road non-motorized project, even though that project is not scheduled for construction until 2019.

Tilma asked that all of the 2019 project cost estimates for local agency projects be double-checked as there is an additional \$150,000 in STUL funds to be utilized for that year according to the estimates provided to BCATS by MDOT for that funding program.

Hubbell provided an update for MDOT projects in the BCATS area. She also noted the status of two projects outside of the BCATS area - the brick paver project in Albion and the I-94 project east of Marshall. The I-194 project will be let in 2018 with construction in 2019. She noted the work on Capital Avenue NE from Division to Frey Drive which will start next month. One change Hubbell noted was the removal of the road resurfacing project for M-311 in 2019. The M-311 bridge reconstruction project will go forward and will be let in late FY 2019 and done in the 2020 construction season.

Tilma noted that the JobNet program does indicate the locations of all the signals in MDOT's multi-signal projects, which is helpful.

Werner updated the Committee about the projects for Battle Creek Transit. Tilma indicated that no updates have been pursued at this time for the 5310 social service agencies.

This was an information 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 May 9, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. at the same location.

B. Committee Member Comments

Sanada requested that anyone interested in the Regional Pedestrian and Bike Committee coordinated by the MDOT SW Region to contact him so they can be put on the distribution list for future meeting notices. Tilma noted the need for a Kalamazoo-Battle Creek trail connection along Dickman Road.

Cudney thanked the agencies for their patience during the staffing changes at the Calhoun County Road Department.

Guest Daniela Khavajian introduced herself as the new staff person in the Statewide Urban Travel Analysis section at MDOT. She will be working with BCATS on the urban travel demand model. The model is utilized in the development and update of the long range plan.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Dopp at 2:45 p.m.