

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of April 10, 2019 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Terry Blaniar, Carl Fedders (for Chris Dopp), Jeff Franklin, Brian Sanada (for Amy Lipset), Kristine Parsons, and Glenn Perian
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: Mallory Avis
Non-voting: Andrea Dewey, Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Vice-Chair Parsons called the meeting to order at 1:35 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 made for the benefit of all in attendance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Blaniar, supported by Fedders, to approve the agenda. Karr noted the addition of item 7.D. Letters of Support for 2022 Local Bridge Project Submittals. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY with the addition of item 7.D.**

Res.
19-12

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 13, 2019 meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
19-13

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- BCATS submitted the narrative amendment to the current TIP relative to performance-based planning after Policy Committee action to approve the amendment in March. MDOT is collecting these amendments from all of the MPOs in Michigan and is planning to submit them as a package to FHWA/FTA.
- The second newsletter associated with the development of the new FY 2020-2023 TIP has been completed and distributed. Members should have received the newsletter electronically.
- The local road agencies have provided BCATS with a listing of the local bridges that they plan to prepare funding applications for related to the MDOT “call” for local bridge projects for FY 2022. This will be discussed under the item added to the agenda today. The submittal deadline for the bridge projects is May 1, 2019.
- BCATS has provided information to MDOT’s air quality coordinator, Donna Wittl, to facilitate the air quality review needed for the new FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program. Ms. Wittl is also preparing a narrative section for air quality for the new TIP.
- MDOT has provided information regarding a data project, termed MIRE, and language the department wants included in the metropolitan transportation organization’s next Unified Work Programs (UWPs) dealing with this topic. This language will be incorporated in the draft of BCATS FY 2020 UWP before it is presented to the BCATS Policy Committee.
- BCATS’ MDOT program manager, Jeff Franklin, has provided the information for MDOT’s participation in the FY 2020 UWP for financial schedules A-C and this information will also be added to the draft UWP before it is considered by the Policy Committee.
- the City of Battle Creek has hired a new Transit Manager and her name is Mallory Avis. Ms. Avis previously worked at MDOT in the Office of Passenger Transportation. She started at Battle Creek Transit on April 8th. She will also be serving as the permanent alternate for Mayor Mark Behnke on the BCATS Policy Committee, as former transit manager Rich Werner did before her.
- The Calhoun County Transit Study is well-underway and a survey has been posted by the consultant seeking community input. A screen shot of the home page of the Study website was provided to the members. Karr indicated that the consultant is requesting assistance with promoting the survey and getting as many people as possible in the county to fill it out. It should take about 5-10 minutes to complete the survey. BCATS has posted a link to the survey on its homepage, along with a description of the Study being conducted by Calhoun County.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. Draft FY 2020 Unified Work Program (UWP)

Karr discussed the draft of the Unified Work Program for the next fiscal year, 2020, that begins October 1, 2019. A change from the outline presented previously is the deleting of the performance measures and targets work item as a stand-alone activity. Work in this area will be part of work done for under long range planning, the Transportation Improvement Program and data collection. She noted that MDOT's time on the financial tables will be added, as noted under "Communications." She also indicated the addition of the language regarding the MIRE data, also previously mentioned. A major work item next fiscal year will be work on the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The Plan needs to be completed by November, 2021. Tilma commented that future data collection activity for BCATS may reflect traffic count data collection needed for this MIRE data well in advance of the implementation year of 2026.

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

B. FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Status of 2019 & 2020 Projects

Tilma reviewed the spreadsheet of information about the FY 2019 & 2020 transportation projects included in the current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that he had distributed. Tilma indicated that changes for the May 2019 amendment are due to BCATS by the end of April. He stressed that any changes to 2020 projects, either state or local, should be addressed in the upcoming May amendment. There was discussion about the status of 2019 projects and some delay issues that are being worked out. Fedders indicated a change for the City of Battle Creek resurfacing project scheduled for 2020. He will provide Tilma with the change information for the May amendment. There was discussion about MDOT's signal project for multiple locations that has created an issue for the City of Battle Creek regarding how the street signs will be replaced within the context of these signal projects, specifically at the M-96 (Columbia Ave.) and Riverside Drive intersection. Tilma highlighted a new, recently received, 2019 MDOT project with state funds to resurface a portion of M-66 in Pennfield Township. Due to the dollar amount involved this meets BCATS "regionally significant" criteria and will be included in the May TIP amendment.

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

C. Draft FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Status Report

Tilma distributed a spreadsheet which includes all of the projects currently programmed for the new FY 2020-2023 TIP. The spreadsheet shows local, multi-modal (including transit), and MDOT projects. Tilma stated that 2021-2023 transit projects still need to be entered into the JobNet system. BCATS staff are working on the narrative sections of the TIP as well. Information and project lists are available for review on the BCATS' website.

MDOT has recently programmed in JobNet the awarded local bridge projects for FY 2021. These projects have been added to the BCATS FY 2020-2023 TIP listing. There was discussion about how the three awarded bridge projects for the City of Battle Creek, all under the same job number, will be addressed in the TIP and considered budget wise when the projects are implemented.

Tilma noted that there have been issues with what are required FHWA project naming criteria. He stressed checking job numbers if encountering an issue with project names and limits that may not be consistent.

The final draft of the new FY 2020-2023 TIP will be presented for action by the BCATS Committees in May.

Karr announced that once the new FY 2020-2023 TIP is approved by the Policy Committee and submitted to MDOT, the 2020 projects will in essence be “frozen” until the new TIP is approved by the federal funding sources. This will make the November, 2019 amendment the next opportunity after May for any changes to the 2020 projects. This a change from the development of prior TIPs, and is due to the implementation of the JobNet database system. This was an information item not requiring action at this time.

D. Letters of Support for FY 2022 Local Bridge Project Submittals

Karr indicated that a memo about this topic was provided to the members. She reviewed the three bridge projects in the BCATS area that the local agencies plan to submit for funding consideration for FY 2022. One of projects is for the Raymond Road bridge over the railroad. While this project has been submitted for total reconstruction previously, the submittal this time will be for rehabilitation of the existing bridge at a reduced cost from prior submittals.

It was moved by Fedders, supported by Perian, to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee authorize letters of support for the local bridge projects being submitted by the Calhoun County Road Department and the City of Battle Creek for FY 2022 funding through MDOT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
19-14**

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Vice-Chair Parsons announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for May 8, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. at the same location.

B. Committee Member Comments

Fedders asked if the dates for Asset Management field data collection are known yet. Tilma indicated that the work will be done in September.

Franklin announced that it is Work Zone Awareness time and that MDOT is promoting work zone awareness through, among other means, its changeable message signs along the freeways.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.