

# BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

## Technical Committee

### Minutes of April 14, 2021 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Carl Fedders, Eric Feldt, Jeff Franklin, Kristine Parsons, Brian Sanada and Chaz Wilkey  
Non-voting: None

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Corey Hackworth, Daniela Khavajian, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Parsons called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. via a Zoom virtual meeting format, including an optional call-in for public participation.

### ROLL CALL

A roll call was conducted of members and any guests. Members indicated their presence for the purpose of establishing a quorum. It was noted that all members are participating virtually and each member participating virtually identified their physical location, which is included in the minutes, below.

Members participating remotely and location: Avis (City of Battle Creek, MI), Wilkey (City of Springfield, MI), Fedders (City of Battle Creek, MI), Feldt (Comstock Township, MI), Franklin (Drummond Island Township, MI), Parsons (Richland Township, MI), and Sanada (Village of Mattawan, MI).

It was determined that a quorum of the voting members were participating.

### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

**Res.  
21-11**

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Fedders supported by Avis, to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2021 meeting, as presented. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.**  
**21-12**

## COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- BCATS has received requests for letters of support for local safety projects and TEDF projects being submitted by the local agencies to MDOT. This is an item on today's agenda.
- BCATS has received input to the draft FY 2022 Unified Work Program (UWP) from some MDOT departments. The input will be incorporated into the draft before it is provided to the Policy Committee.
- BCATS staff participated in a webinar about the proposed changes that the Census plans to make regarding determining "urban" areas with 2020 data.
- There is a meeting coming up in May about a follow-up to the I-94/Capital Avenue interchange project within the broader I-94 work.
- Corey Hackworth, MDOT Marshall Transportation Service Center, is coordinating an effort to coordinate with the local agencies for future work on I-194.
- MDOT is hosting a virtual public meeting regarding work on M-37 from Dickman Road to Creekview Drive next Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm. If anyone needs the link for this meeting, please contact BCATS staff.
- BCATS has received update information on current MDOT projects from MDOT staff, which will be discussed under Item 7.C. on the agenda.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

## NEW BUSINESS

### A. Draft FY 2022 Unified Work Program (UWP)

Karr reviewed the draft of the FY 2022 UWP that was provided to the members in advance. She indicated that she has received comments on the draft from several MDOT staff members and has incorporated the recommendations. She asked for any input on the draft from the Technical Committee members before the draft goes out to the BCATS Policy Committee. There were no comments offered by the members.

This was an information/discussion item at this time.

**B. Letters of Support for Local Safety Project and TEDF Project Submittals**

Fedders and Parsons reviewed their requests for letters of support for applications being prepared by their agencies for two discretionary programs administered by the state. The deadline for project applications for both programs is both May 3, 2021. It was determined that the City of Battle Creek TEDF application will be for TEDF category F, not TEDF category A, as originally thought. This will be updated on the memo that goes out to Policy Committee.

**It was moved by Fedders, supported by Avis, to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee authorize letters of support for the project applications being prepared by the Calhoun County Road Department and the City of Battle Creek for the local safety program and the Transportation Economic Development Fund program. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
21-13**

**C. FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Status of 2021 & 2022 Projects**

Tilma displayed the JobNet listing of 2021 and 2022 projects from the BCATS TIP and asked Fedders to review the City of Battle Creek projects and Parsons to review the CCRD projects. Both individuals provided updates about the status of their projects. Hackworth provided updates about MDOT projects from the two spreadsheets prepared by MDOT staff. Tilma shared these spreadsheets on the Zoom call with the members. There was discussion about several of the projects. The most significant discussion involved the impact of any delays in the City of Battle Creek's North Avenue at Emmett Street roundabout project. It was determined that there are several issues delaying that project and the CMAQ funding assigned to that project may need to be reallocated.

Avis reviewed the projects shown on the TIP listing for Battle Creek Transit and the other special services providers.

Tilma confirmed that, according to the BCATS 2021 TIP Amendment schedule, any changes going into the May TIP amendment will need to be submitted to BCATS by April 23<sup>rd</sup>. There may be some leeway in that submittal date until the end of April as long as BCATS staff can get the public notice prepared in time for early May publication.

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

**COMMENTS****A. Next Meeting**

Chair Parsons announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for May 12, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. Karr noted that the format for the meeting is going

to be virtual again, based on the continuing level of infection of the COVID-19 virus in Michigan and within Calhoun County.

#### **B. Committee Member Comments**

Parsons reported that the Road Department is continuing with Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the Emmett Township local road project this year. Tree trimming work for this year has been completed and won't be able to commence again until fall. Other projects are on schedule.

Avis asked about HIP-COVID funding and noted the deadline for flexing to transit of June 1, 2021 for any pending planned transfers to transit. She indicated that MDOT will match both CMAQ and HIP-COVID funding at this time. Fedders added that the City is being required to upgrade bus stop locations with road projects, so upgrading these facilities with transit funding rather than road funding would be preferable. Karr stated that a meeting of the BCATS TIP Subcommittee will need to be held to address outstanding funding balances for these categories of funds prior to development of the May TIP Amendment.

Feldt asked about incorporating non-motorized components into MDOT facility projects. He was referred to Sanada who coordinates the MDOT region's non-motorized efforts.

Franklin addressed the obligation authority issue and confirmed that the obligation authority for local categories of funding has almost been exhausted and that \$10 million in authority has been borrowed by that program from the state's level of obligation authority, but that has to be paid back to the state program at some point.

Fedders indicated that there is going to be a public engagement event for the North Avenue/Emmett Street roundabout project tomorrow at the location.

Sanada reported that the latest extension of "work from home" for MDOT staff is until July 12, 2021. It was also noted that the Governor has announced a continued "work from home" pronouncement for all workers for the next six months.

#### **C. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.