

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of April 13, 2022 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Susan Cronander, Carl Fedders, Kristine Parsons, Brian Sanada, Luke Walters 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, Pat Karr, and Andrew Tilma

Chair Fedders called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. in the Springfield City Hall Council Chambers, 601 Avenue A, Springfield MI.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Parsons, supported by Sanada, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
22-13**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Parsons, supported by Cronander, to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2022 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
22-14**

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- The second newsletter for the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) has been completed and printed. It is being posted and distributed this week. She provided copies of the newsletter to the members.

- Amendment #15 to the current TIP was approved by the federal funding sources in March.
- BCATS staff received MDOT participation financial figures for inclusion within the FY 2023 Unified Work Program (UWP). That participation is reflected in the draft UWP provided to the Technical Committee members.
- BCATS provided letters of support to the local agencies for the bridge and safety project applications being submitted this year after authorization by the BCATS Policy Committee. The local agencies confirmed that they submitted the applications by the early April deadline.
- BCATS has provided the listing of projects for the new FY 2023-2026 TIP to the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study for conducting the Interagency Work Group (IAWG) review of the TIP projects.
- BCATS received notification of a new discretionary funding program created by the IJJA/BIL which is called the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A). The information about this program was forwarded to the Technical Committee members at the end of March by BCATS staff. Fedders indicated that the City of Battle Creek does have interest in this new program relative to its update of a non-motorized plan.
- Karr asked about a recent meeting related to the Skyline Drive/Hill Brady Road plans for a roundabout in conjunction with the Air National Guard new entrance at that location. Fedders indicated that the meeting was with the employers in the Industrial Park. Plans are for the funding for the project to come from the military and the TIFA.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. **Draft FY 2023 Unified Work Program (UWP)**

Karr reviewed the draft of the FY 2023 Unified Work Program, as provided in the advance material. The draft is complete with the necessary financial tables which also include the information from MDOT about the Department's participation. She indicated that the draft had been provided to Jeff Franklin for his comments, which have been incorporated and that Franklin will be circulating the draft amongst the appropriate MDOT personnel for any additional comments in advance of a final document being presented to the BCATS Committees in May for action. Karr also noted the 2.5% requirement for safe and accessible transportation options within the planning process. The Asset Management Council has also updated its narrative for inclusion in the new UWP.

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

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

Tilma distributed a listing showing the FY 2022 and FY 2023 TIP projects as they are now reflected in the MDOT JobNet database. Each agency provided an update for its projects. There was discussion about the status of the projects and any changes that may need to be made within a May 2022 TIP amendment.

ii. Preview of FY 20-23 TIP Amendment #16 (May 2022)

Tilma handed out a sheet showing the items currently planned for inclusion in the May 2022 TIP Amendment. He explained the proposed amendment items. Based on the discussion under B.i., some additional changes will be added to the listing, including the changes to the two North Avenue projects.

iii. Unassigned Carbon Reduction Funds for new FY 2023-2026 TIP

Tilma referenced the FY 2023 project year of the new FY 2023-2026 TIP and indicated that there were some funds still unassigned in the Carbon Reduction Program category. However, it was determined that the Calhoun County Road Department would utilize the fund balance to fully fund the signal project planned for FY 2023. This addition for the County's signal project will also be included in the amendment.

All three of the Item B. agenda items were information/discussion items not requiring action at this time.

C. Draft FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project List and Status Report

Tilma provided the members with material relative to the projects being included in the new FY 2023-2026 TIP, in particular the FY 2024-2026 projects for the local road agencies. There was discussion about the County Road Department's air quality project priorities for FY 2026.

This was an information/discussion item not requiring action.

COMMENTS**A. Next Meeting**

Chair Fedders announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for May 11, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be in-person.

B. Committee Member Comments

Sanada updated the Committee as to staff changes at the Marshall Transportation Service Center. Corey Hackworth has left MDOT for a new position and the Ethan Block is now the new project and contract design engineer.

Parsons stated that the Emmett Township local road project has started again and that this is expected to be the last year of the local millage funded work. The F Drive North project will commence within the next two weeks. Other road work will be later this construction season.

Fedders reported that the City of Battle Creek is working internally at this point on a potential Beckley Road corridor engineering study. Local road projects will be getting started when the weather allows.

Wilkey announced that two culvert projects are planned for this year. In addition, Springfield will be re-paving Carl Avenue with the City of Battle Creek.

Avis indicated that Battle Creek Transit (BCT) is seeking a fare increase and that a public hearing will be held at the Battle Creek City Commission meeting on April 19, 2022. She also stated that the presentations about the prospects for county-wide public transit are ongoing with the various units of government in Calhoun County. BCT also will be applying again for a federal discretionary grant of about \$16.3 million to finance a new transit administration and maintenance facility. BCT will be seeking a letter of support for this application from BCATS.

Walters announced that Congress has now authorized for just over 90% of obligational authority for FY 2022 relative to transportation funding. This is important to completing the planned FY 2022 program of projects for all of the agencies.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.