

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Policy Committee

Minutes of April 23, 2025 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Harry Burdett, Max Gierman (for Richard Bayus), Derek King,
Annjanette Kremer, Kristine Parsons, and Steve Skalski
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Barry Beamish, Laveta Hardish, Kevin Leiter, Tracy Myers,
and Erick Stewart
Non-voting: Jenny Staroska and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council
(SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Franklin and Jarret Geering

Chair Burdett called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. in the Council Room of the Susan L. Anderson Municipal Building (Springfield City Hall), 601 Avenue A, Springfield MI 49037.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Skalski, supported by Kremer, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
25-21**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jarret Geering introduced himself from OHM Advisors.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Kremer, supported by Skalski, to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2025 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
25-22**

COMMUNICATIONS

Franklin shared the following communications:

- FHWA Michigan Division in Lansing, and FTA Region V in Chicago, offices have shared with all MPOs statewide that many FHWA/FTA staff persons have resigned their positions effective Friday, April 18th. BCATS staff anticipates that plan/program approvals could be delayed, however we are advised by MDOT to continue our annual MPO schedule of activities.
- In lieu of a new RFP for auditing service, the City of Battle Creek has opted to take advantage of a two-year extension with auditing firm Rehmann. As an affiliated agency with the City's Finance Department, BCATS will also take advantage of this two-year extension with Rehmann for BCATS' separate audit. BCATS would work with City Finance on any new RFP in the future (BCATS receives a discounted rate as an affiliated agency).
- Progressive Companies, the consultant the City of Battle Creek contracted with on the City's Lakeview District plan (formerly referred to as the Beckley Road Corridor Plan), has asked BCATS for a letter of support for their application for a statewide planning award regarding the Lakeview District plan. BCATS staff fully participated in the steering committee and walking audit, and the final Plan calls out BCATS as a federal aid planning partner for the community.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. FY2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UWP) Administrative Modification

Franklin administratively modified the current FY25 UWP, making more specific the details of a Congressionally Directed Spending grant received by Battle Creek Transit on behalf of the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County, stemming from feedback from Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Franklin conducted an email survey of Policy Committee voting members on 4/2/25, with a majority (10 out of 12) responded approving the modification to the UWP. This was an informational item only.

B. "The Signal" Spring 2025 Newsletter

Franklin announced the latest edition of the BCATS newsletter, "The Signal" is available on the BCATS website, and has been sent to the various consultation lists. This edition announces the completion of the draft TIP document, as well as commences the minimum 45-day period to update the draft BCATS' Public Participation Plan.

C. BCATS' Public Participation Plan (PPP) draft

Franklin announced the draft PPP is available on the BCATS website, and was mentioned in the BCATS newsletter "The Signal" and is out for public comment. A minimum 45-day period for public feedback is required to update and adopt a PPP. Franklin anticipates asking for Policy Committee approval at the May meeting.

D. FY2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) draft

Franklin announced the draft FY26-29 TIP is available on the BCATS website, and is out for public comment. Franklin anticipates asking for Policy Committee approval at the May meeting.

E. FY2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UWP) draft

Franklin announced the draft FY26 UWP is available on the BCATS website. Franklin anticipates asking for Policy Committee approval at the May meeting.

F. January - March 2025 Quarterly Financial Report

Franklin reviewed the January – March 2025 Quarterly Financial Report, made available to members at the meeting. Franklin answered questions on the report.

It was moved by Parsons, supported by King, to accept and file the January – March 2025 Quarterly Financial Report, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
25-23**

G. BCATS Finance Director - Update

Franklin reported that Brandy Standler has accepted the position of BCATS Finance Director and that her start date with BCATS would be April 28, 2025. The Policy Committee had previously approved this appointment at their March meeting.

COMMENTS**A. Next Meeting**

Chair Burdett announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Policy Committee is scheduled for May 28, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

B. Committee Member Comments

Kremer reported that this week is National Work Zone Awareness Week, to recognize and champion safer construction work zones statewide/nationwide. Kremer mentioned a nighttime road closure on 4/26/25 of I-194 at Columbia Avenue to facilitate bridge removal work. The Marshall Modernization project is in full swing with bridge demolition forthcoming (M-96 over I-69 in Marshall).

Parsons reported that pulverization on various Newton Township roads is ongoing, with gravel addition to various Newton Township roads forthcoming. A segment of 6.5 Mile Road is closed currently (B Drive S to township line) for contractor tree removal work. B Drive North resurfacing between 6.5 Mile Road and Beadle Lake Road will commence in June after school lets out. Pothole patching is ongoing countywide.

Burdett reported that Aaron Edlefson has been selected for City Manager for City of Springfield.

Skalski reported that the City of Battle Creek is reworking its search for their next City Manager. Watkins Road resurfacing is expected completed before July. The bridge project on 20th Street over the Kalamazoo River should commence in July.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Burdett adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m.