

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Policy Committee
Minutes of May 24, 2017 Meeting

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Harry Burdett, Mark Dionise, Sally Shaw (for Adam Heikkila), Angela Kline, Rick Fowler (for John Lanum), Deb Owens, and Rich Werner

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: None

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Frisbie, Laveta Hardish, Tim Hill, Dave Morgan

NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Andy Pickard (FHWA) and SMPC

OTHERS PRESENT: Christopher Bolt, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Kline called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. in the Council Room of the Susan L. Anderson Municipal Building (Springfield City Hall), 601 Avenue A, Springfield, MI 49037.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present (see above for voting members present). Members introduced themselves for the benefit of all in attendance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Fowler, supported by Burdett, to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
17-20

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Werner, supported by Owens, to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2017 meeting, as presented, subject to any additions, corrections or changes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
17-21

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr reported the following items of communication:

- MDOT has announced a “call” for both the Local Safety Program and the High Risk Rural Road Program, with applications for both programs due August 7, 2017. Karr asked the local agencies to advise the staff office of any applications they plan to submit for these categories.

- BCATS has received a set of maps from MDOT with information about areas of higher than anticipated crash experience that can be used in identifying area for safety project applications. These maps have been forwarded to the Calhoun County Road Department and the City of Battle Creek public works department.
- The City of Battle Creek purchasing department has released a solicitation for a consultant to conduct the Transit Master Plan project. Proposals are due to the City by June 27, 2017 and are to be reviewed by an evaluation team in early July. The City's notice for proposals was in the *Battle Creek Enquirer* today.
- Michigan State Police/Office of Highway Safety Planning has released the final traffic fatality information for 2016. Copies of the news release were provided to the members.
- Michigan State Police/Office of Highway Safety Planning has also put out a news release about the "Click It or Ticket It" efforts underway in the state, especially over the upcoming holiday weekend.
- Calhoun County Road Department has submitted one application (Raymond Road over the Conrail tracks) for a bridge that is in the BCATS area to the 2020 bridge call. The City of Battle Creek submitted three (3) bridges for the call (Emmett Street over the CN Railway, Hamblin Avenue over the Kalamazoo River, and Michigan Avenue over the Battle Creek River).
- The Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC) at the state level has announced its anticipated funding schedule for 2018. The final TAMC work plan is included in the FY 2018 BCATS Unified Work Program (UWP) which is on today's agenda.
- The MPO coordination rule implemented during the last days of the previous federal administration has been repealed by Congress and signed into law by the President. That issue is no longer a concern at the present time.
- BCATS has received notification of the approval of the March, 2017 Amendment #3 to the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program by FHWA/FTA as of yesterday. The implementing agencies have been notified of the approval.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

A. **FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #4**

Tilma reviewed the items proposed for inclusion in Amendment #4 to the FY 2017-2020 TIP and distributed an updated table for the amendment information.

This included some projects needing adjustment in the CMAQ program due to the lack of direction from the state and federal agencies about funding diesel replacement vehicles yet this fiscal year. Alternate CMAQ projects are proposed for the current 2017 year. Other items included in the amendment are switching the years for selected City of Battle Creek projects in future years and changes to the MDOT program, including adding a major I-94 restore and rehabilitate project in 2018.

It was moved by Werner, supported by Owens, to approve Amendment #4 to the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
17-22**

B. FY 2018 Unified Work Program (UWP) Final

Karr presented the final FY 2018 Unified Work Program document, also made available to the members in advance of the meeting for their review. She discussed the material that had been changed since the April draft which was highlighted in yellow in the document provided for review. She noted that this document sets the BCATS' staff office budget for the new year, as well as the budgets for the other participating agencies.

It was moved by Werner, supported by Burdett, to approve the FY 2018 Unified Work Program, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
17-23**

C. Master Agreement with MDOT for FY 2018-2020

Karr reviewed the content of the Master Agreement document. She noted page 6 that was changed by MDOT following a request by Karr to extend the time for the last billing of a fiscal year to 90 days from 60 days. This new Master Agreement will cover the 2018, 2019, and 2020 fiscal years. The Agreement requires a resolution be adopted by the MPO to approve the agreement and authorize the MPO representative to sign the document. Such a resolution has been prepared and is presented for approval by the Policy Committee. The Master Agreement is a financial administration document.

It was moved by Fowler, supported by Werner, to adopt the resolution regarding the Master Agreement with MDOT for 2018-2020, and to authorize Kline to sign the document. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
17-24**

D. FY 2018 Local Share Resolution

Karr noted that this is the same format utilized each year for the financially participating agencies regarding the local share necessary to support the federal planning funds received for the BCATS' program. The three agencies contribute to cover the local share of the funding for the BCATS office, as well as the local share for their participation in the traffic count program. They also participate in the 100% state funded Asset Management program. The financially participating agencies each act on a version of the sample resolution specific to their organization.

It was moved by Owens, supported by Werner, to authorize distribution of the 2018 Local Share Resolution material to the financially participating local units of government for their individual actions. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
17-25**

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Chair Kline announced that the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 28, 2017, 1:30 p.m. in the City of Springfield Council Chambers.

B. Committee Member Comments

Kline commented that the County Road Department submitted a total of 5 bridge projects for the 2020 MDOT “call”, only one of which was within the BCATS area. She also indicated that an application for Category F funds has been submitted for Raymond Road from Golden Avenue to Michigan Avenue to bring that segment up to “all season” status.

Karr noted that the amount of agenda items, or lack thereof, could result in the June meeting being cancelled. She stated that the July meeting is a TIP amendment month, so she asked that everyone put that date on their calendar. The meeting is scheduled for July 19th, one week earlier than the normal fourth Wednesday of the month.

Karr offered comments provided by Charter Township of Bedford Supervisor Heikkila, who could not attend the meeting. He identified two road segments where he would like the curves in the road evaluated for improvement. There has been recent crash experience in these areas. Shaw added some comments about these road segments. Karr provided the specifics of the comments to Kline, as the segments are under County jurisdiction.

Owens noted the irony of the recently increased speed limits on some roadways in light of the increasing traffic fatalities. She invited the members to the ground breaking ceremony for the new City of Battle Creek police station. The event will be June 1st at 10:00 am.

Dionise noted that the Marshall Transportation Service Center will be overseeing skip-paving projects on sections of I-94 and M-66 which are being done with remaining maintenance funds made available due to the relatively mild winter.

Werner updated the Committee about two issues impacting Battle Creek Transit. The first issue is bus replacement and the lack of adequate capital funding to replace several buses that are all due to be replaced at the same time. The current strategy is to try to purchase used buses from the Grand Rapids transit operator which is changing its fleet to natural gas and then have those buses “refurbished.” Refurbished buses cost about half of the cost of a new bus and have about 85% new materials in them. The second issue is the lack of vehicle operators, a problem faced by many

transit operators. Battle Creek transit has an open posting for drivers at present. The City will train employees to gain their CDL license and the starting pay is over \$15 per hour. The coach operator posting is on the City's website for anyone who may be interested.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kline adjourned the meeting at 2:08 p.m.