

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of May 13, 2020 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Chris Dopp, Jeff Franklin, Brian Sanada, Christine Zuzga, and Terry Blaniar
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: Kristine Parsons
Non-voting: Andy Pickard and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Carl Fedders, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Dopp called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. via a Zoom virtual meeting format and an audio call-in for public participation.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present (see above for voting members participating). Karr confirmed the existence of a quorum.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Karr noted an addition to the agenda of Item 7.F. Resolution of Appreciation for Chris Dopp. **It was moved by Zuzga, supported by Blaniar, to approve the agenda with the addition noted by Karr. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Res.
20-08

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public participants in the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Franklin offered one correction to the minutes under the Committee member comments. Karr noted the correction that will be made before the minutes are finalized.

It was moved by Blaniar supported by Franklin, to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2020 meeting, as corrected. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
20-09

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- BCATS has received information about the state calls for projects in the bridge and safety categories. These project types will be discussed later on the agenda.
- The March amendment to the FY 2020-2023 TIP was approved in April.
- BCATS received a request from Battle Creek Transit for a letter of support for the federal BUILD grant program. This request is also on today's agenda.
- BCATS has received a positive determination from Jeff Franklin, MDOT, relative to the amount of federal planning funds to be requested in the Unified Work Program for FY 2021.
- The spring Asset Management conference has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The annual Michigan Transportation Planning Association conference, scheduled for July, has also been cancelled.
- Asset Management data collection can be accomplished with persons who had training in prior years, however, the safety of such data collection activities for the individuals involved has yet to be determined. Fortunately, this is not the year that federal-aid roads are to be rated within the BCATS area. The Calhoun County Road Department is supposed to be rating out-county roads with the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study this year.
- The City of Springfield is bringing its staff back to City Hall. Blaniar indicated that the Springfield staff will be back in the building on Monday, May 18th. Karr indicated that BCATS will be evaluating the feasibility of having BCATS staff back at Springfield City hall possibly sometime in June. The public will not be back in the building for some time yet.
- An ad was placed with the Battle Creek Enquirer for this month's Transportation Improvement Program amendment.
- The I-194 resurfacing project, delayed from last year, has started.
- M-66 resurfacing is also underway in Pennfield Township.
- BCATS has received information from MDOT's air quality staff about updates related to air quality information to be submitted with the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and TIP Amendments in BCATS' status as a limited orphan air quality area.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS**A. FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #6**

Tilma shared the screen with the list of changes to the projects that have been announced for this amendment to the current Transportation Improvement Program. Of note is the addition of \$600,000 in local safety funding for FY 2021 awarded to the City of Battle Creek. Safety projects are also being added for 2021 for the Calhoun County Road Department.

It was moved by Zuzga, supported by Avis, to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee approve Amendment #6 to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
20-10**

B. FY 2021 Unified Work Program

Karr referenced the draft of the FY 2021 Unified Work Program that was provided in the advance materials for the meeting. She indicated that the budgets may be revised slightly related to finalization of costs for BCATS' audit, based on current bidding of those services. In response to a question from Franklin, Karr indicated that the costs may be slightly reduced, but not increased, due to this issue.

It was moved by Zuzga, supported by Sanada, to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee approve the FY 2021 Unified Work Program with any slight changes to the overall budget figures, as noted. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
20-11**

C. Letters of Support for Upcoming Local Safety Project Applications for FY 2022 Projects

Karr indicated that the Calhoun County Road Department has submitted a listing of several projects that will be developed for submittal to MDOT for the FY 2022 call for local safety projects. The listing of project locations and scope of work was reviewed. The projects fall into the HSIP and HRRR categories. The local agencies have to submit these applications by July 1, 2020.

It was moved by Blaniar, supported by Avis, to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee authorize letters of support for the proposed local safety projects to be submitted by the Calhoun County Road Department to MDOT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
20-12**

D. Letters of Support for Upcoming Local Bridge Project Applications for FY 2023 Projects

Karr referenced the memo sent out to the Technical Committee members which outlines the projects proposed for MDOT's call for FY 2023 local bridge projects as provided to BCATS by the City of Battle Creek and the Calhoun County Road Department. Karr noted the June 1, 2020 deadline for submittal of these applications.

It was moved by Franklin, supported by Zuzga, to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee authorize letters of support for the proposed local bridge projects to be submitted by the City of Battle Creek and the Calhoun County Road Department to MDOT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
20-13**

E. Letter of Support for Battle Creek Transit's 2020 Application for USDOT Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant

Karr indicated that Battle Creek Transit (BCT) has requested a letter of support for an upcoming grant application to the Federal Transit Administration. BCT is requesting funding to support construction of a new facility. Avis indicated that the application is for slightly over \$13 million. The applications for this program are due prior to the next Policy Committee meeting. Karr indicated that, if supported by the Technical Committee, she will poll the Policy Committee members about this support letter prior to having BCT utilize it within its application.

It was moved by Blaniar, supported by Sanada, to recommend that a letter of support be provided to BCT to support this application. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
20-14**

F. Resolution of Appreciation for Chris Dopp

Karr read into the record a Resolution of Appreciation for Chris Dopp, Public Works Director for the City of Battle Creek, who is retiring as of this Friday, May 15, 2020. Dopp has been chair of the BCATS Technical Committee for the past five years and has been on the Committee for 20 years.

Dopp offered comments of appreciation to the BCATS staff for all of their help and assistance over the years, both involving the City of Battle Creek and the other local units.

It was moved by Avis, supported by Zuzga, to adopt the Resolution of Appreciation for Chris Dopp, as read by Karr. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
20-15**

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Chair Dopp announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for June 10, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. Due to the continuing impact of COVID-19, the format for the meeting will be determined closer to the meeting date. Karr commended Tilma for setting up and executing the zoom meeting format for this meeting.

B. Committee Member Comments

Blaniar congratulated Dopp on his retirement.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.