

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of May 12, 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: Fred Featherly, 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 (Marshall Township, MI), and Sanada (Antwerp Township, 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.
21-14**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Franklin supported by Fedders, to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2021 meeting, with the addition of a word noted under Committee Comments as provided by Franklin. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
21-15**

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- After BCATS Policy Committee action in April, BCATS staff provided letters of support for the local safety program and TEDF program applications being submitted by the City of Battle Creek and Calhoun County Road Department to MDOT.
- Amendment #11 to the current TIP was approved in April.
- MDOT and the local agencies reviewed options for the Capital Avenue/I-94 interchange at a virtual meeting on May 3, 2021. BCATS has been provided the PowerPoint presentation from that discussion. No decisions have been made on this project yet.
- The City of Battle Creek, the Calhoun County Road Department and MDOT have met to discuss signal optimization and traffic flow along the Beckley Road/B Drive N corridor. This effort will be continuing.
- BCATS has been informed that the FY 2020 Asset Management funding is going to be allowed to be carried over for use until September 30, 2021, rather than the June 30, 2021 deadline originally set.
- The public notice for this month's TIP amendment was published last week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 20-23 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #12

Tilma reviewed the projects proposed for changes in Amendment #12 to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Changes included the abandonment of the North Avenue/Emmett Street round-about and the reallocation of CMAQ funds associated with that project to a transit project.

It was moved by Fedders, supported by Avis, to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee approve Amendment #12 to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
21-16**

B. FY 2022 Unified Work Program (UWP)

Karr noted the draft document was posted for the members in advance. She stated that comments from various MDOT staff persons have been incorporated into the draft already.

Fedders asked if there is a schedule for when traffic counting locations for this year will be provided by BCATS to the City. Tilma indicated that he would try to have that information to the City and the County by the end of this week.

It was moved by Fedders, supported by Wilkey, to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee approve the FY 2022 Unified Work Program, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
21-17**

C. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) - Future Year(s) Travel Demand Forecast Model (TDFM) Traffic Volumes & Preliminary Capacity Deficiencies

Daniela Khavajian, of MDOT's Statewide Urban Travel Analysis (SUTA) unit, presented a PowerPoint about the results of the travel demand forecast model for the BCATS area. The model results indicate where there are likely to be capacity deficiencies on area roadways. She displayed maps showing traffic volumes for current and future years, broken down for am peak, midday, and pm peak time periods. The I-94 corridor is the most noticeable as an area with increasing congestion. There was discussion about the level of truck traffic on I-94, as shown on a table Khavajian presented. She will be preparing a summary report of the model results for inclusion in BCATS long range plan update document.

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 June 9, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. Karr noted that the format for the meeting will likely be virtual again, but will be announced approximately one week in advance. June is generally a month when the Committee meetings may be cancelled due to a lack of agenda items.

B. Committee Member Comments

Parsons reported that the Road Department is continuing with the Emmett Township local road project and that its federal-aid projects will be starting shortly as well.

It was noted that the new public works facility being constructed for the City of Springfield is coming along nicely.

Franklin announced that the Planning Unit will have an intern for the summer. Katie Stewart will likely be participating in BCATS' meetings with him.

Fedders stated that the City's 2021 construction projects are also moving ahead.

Sanada indicated that the MDOT Region office will also have an intern this summer.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.