

**BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
**Policy Committee**  
**Minutes of May 25, 2022 Meeting**

VOTING MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Mallory Avis, Deb Belles, Harry Burdett, Jeff Franklin, Annjanette Kremer, Derek King, Kevin Leiter, Kristine Parsons (for John Midgley), and Kara Dougherty (for Bill Scutt)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: None

VOTING MEMBERS NOT PARTICIPATING: Carl Fedders and Laveta Hardish

NON-VOTING MEMBERS NOT PARTICIPATING: Andrew Sibold (FHWA) and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council

OTHERS PARTICIPATING: Charles Burnett, Vester Davis Jr., Brian Kernstock, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Burdett called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Council Room of the Susan L. Anderson Municipal Building (Springfield City Hall), 601 Avenue A, Springfield, MI 49037.

**ROLL CALL**

All in attendance introduced themselves and their affiliations. There was a quorum of voting members.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

Res.  
**22-25**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**It was moved by Parsons, supported by Kremer, to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2022 meeting, as presented, subject to any additions, corrections or changes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Res.  
**22-26**

## COMMUNICATIONS

Karr reported the following items of communication:

- A public notice for the FY 2023-2026 TIP and the Transportation Conformity Determination (TCD) Report was published in the Battle Creek Enquirer on May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Both the draft TIP and the TCD Report have been posted on the BCATS website for review. During the comment period, hard copies of both reports have been available at the BCATS staff office.
- A public notice was published for Amendment #16 to the current TIP, also earlier this month. This item will be addressed later on today's agenda.
- As authorized at the April Policy Committee meeting, a letter of support was provided to Battle Creek Transit for its application to the Federal Transit Administration for new facility funding.
- Per action of the Battle Creek City Commission, one of the permanent alternate representatives to the BCATS Policy Committee for the City of Battle Creek has been changed from Greg Rickmar to Carl Fedders. Fedders is the Public Works Director for the City. Fedders had a conflict for today's meeting date.
- MDOT is in the process of updating Performance Measure targets for a variety of categories and the Metropolitan Planning Organizations in Michigan are involved in ongoing meetings about these topics. The BCATS Committees will see new, updated targets for consideration in the future.
- Calendar year 2021 traffic crash statistics have been released from the federal government and the results are distressing. Fatalities for 2021 are up 10.5% over the 2020 total fatalities - which were already high. Fatalities increased in most categories for which statistics are kept.
- Karr is working on updating the Reference Guides for Policy Committee members. When members who have not had the information updated find their Guides, please contact Karr for the updated information.
- A bill was recently passed and signed by the Governor, requiring newspapers to post public notices online. BCATS was being charged for online listing previously and declined the service. This new requirement will be investigated to see how it will impact BCATS with the type of notice/ad BCATS utilizes.
- BCATS received one comment from MDOT about the draft FY 2023-2026 TIP.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **A. FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #16**

Tilma stated that May is a scheduled amendment month for the TIP. There are numerous changes being presented as part of Amendment #16 to the current TIP. This is the last amendment opportunity for changes to the FY 2023 projects since the current TIP projects for 2023 and the new TIP projects for 2023 need to match exactly before the new TIP is submitted for processing.

Tilma also indicated some items with changes to projects that were provided to BCATS recently are also being addressed with this amendment. He highlighted several project adjustments as well.

**It was moved by Kremer, supported by Parsons, to approve Amendment #16 to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
22-27**

**B. FY 2023 Unified Work Program (UWP) Final**

Karr indicated that a final draft of the FY 2023 Unified Work Program was provided in the advance material. The only change since the April draft is the addition of language in the Short Range Transit Planning item to include mention of the countywide transportation efforts of Battle Creek Transit (BCT). Adding this information will assist BCT in receiving funding for its efforts with those services. Karr noted that the UWP establishes the agency budget for BCATS for the next fiscal year.

**It was moved by King, supported by Belles, to approve the FY 2023 Unified Work Program, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
22-28**

**C. FY 2023 Local Share Resolution**

Karr stated that Schedule D in the new FY 2023 UWP lays out the process for assessing the local share needed to match the federal planning program for the new year. A sample resolution was provided to the members in the advance material. This resolution is the same format as prior years and has been updated to reflect the information for the 2023 BCATS fiscal year. If approved, resolutions specific to each of the three local funding agencies will be forwarded to them for their separate actions.

**It was moved by Parsons, supported by Kremer, to approve the proposed FY 2023 Local Share Resolution for distribution to the local funding agencies, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
22-29**

**D. FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program and Resolution**

Tilma indicated that he had a few copies of the draft document in case any of the members wanted to look at that at the meeting. Karr discussed that final FY 2023-2026 TIP document that was made available in the advance material for the meeting, including the various chapters that are included. The document has been out for comment for most of the month. Karr stated that the air quality requirements have been added with separate consideration of this topic under the next Agenda item as well. Franklin added that the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study also adopted its new TIP and air quality documentation at a meeting this morning. Tilma noted that there will be some changes to

the financial tables in the document after the current Amendment #16 is processed. Tilma will be working with Franklin over the next several weeks to finalize all of the necessary information for a truly final document to be submitted to MDOT as well as “freezing” the FY 2023 projects in the JobNet database at MDOT.

**It was moved by Parsons, supported by Kremer, to approve the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with Resolution #22-30, which is to be signed by the Policy Committee chairperson, subject to any necessary minor changes to the document before submittal to MDOT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
22-30**

**E. Transportation Conformity Determination Report for the Kalamazoo-Battle Creek Limited Orphan Maintenance Area (LOMA) Resolution**

Karr explained the need for this Resolution in conjunction with the development of the FY 2023-2026 TIP. BCATS does not need to do emissions modeling, but does have to go through this process to meet the air quality requirements. The approved Resolution will be provided to the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) for inclusion in the final Determination Report, which KATS drafted. The report includes the whole Limited Orphan Maintenance Area (LOMA) which is Kalamazoo, Calhoun and Van Buren counties. The public notice for the TIP also included a notice for comment on this Report. No comments were received.

**It was moved by Kremer, supported by Belles, to approve Resolution #22-31 to accept the Transportation Conformity Determination Report, which is to be signed by the Policy Committee chairperson, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
22-31**

**F. Staff Attendance at Annual Michigan Transportation Planning Association Conference**

Karr indicated that a memo about this request had been provided to the members. This is the first time since 2019 that this event has been held in-person, due to the pandemic. The conference will be held in Flint this year at the end of July. The registration period for the conference has recently opened.

**It was moved by King, supported by Avis, to approve staff attendance at the annual Michigan Transportation Planning Association conference July 26-29, 2022, as presented.**

**Res.  
22-32**

## COMMENTS

**A. Next Meeting**

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 22, 2022, 1:30 p.m. (Under Comments, Karr added that the June BCATS Committee meetings may be cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. The status will posted a week in advance of the scheduled meeting dates.)

**B. Committee Member Comments**

Kremer provided an update on MDOT projects. The M-37 project has been delayed but now looks to commence on June 6<sup>th</sup>. The work will start at the north terminus of the project at Creekview. The work on I-94 at I-69 is ongoing and is impacting traffic as the area of the interchange has been reduced to one-lane in each direction. The lane closures will be removed for the upcoming holiday weekend. I-94 will be completely closed down during the night on June 3, 2022 as portions of the 15 Mile Road bridge over I-94 are removed. The bridge is being totally replaced as part of the overall interchange upgrade. The total amount of days that there can be lane closures on I-94 under the road contract for the project is about 73 days. There was discussion about the work on I-94 and its duration. Kremer announced two new hires for the Marshall Transportation Service Center, an operations manager and a traffic and safety engineer.

Parsons updated the group about Calhoun County Road Department (CCRD) projects. Phase 3 of the Emmett Charter Township local road program is close to being finished. A bridge on 15 Mile Road just south of the CCRD office is also going to be closed soon for preventative maintenance work for approximately four to six weeks. Other work is expected soon on Beadle Lake Road and the Union City Road project. Work will also be done in Leroy Township later this summer. Parsons also noted issues with one of the tree contractors for the safety grant. This is being worked on to get the situation resolved.

Belles reported that Emmett Charter Township is almost done with lead pipe replacement in the Township and should be done by the end of the summer.

Dougherty informed the Committee that Supervisor Scutt is currently out-of-the-office and any questions about Bedford Charter Township issues can be addressed to her.

Avis' update was that Battle Creek Transit's request for a fare increase was approved by the Battle Creek City Commission and the changes go into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Leiter noted a recent water main break in Pennfield Charter Township that will be expensive to repair.

**C. Public Comments**

Charles Burnett asked a question about any multi-county plans for I-94, since so much work is going on in Jackson and Kalamazoo counties on this facility as well. Kremer indicated that the work is all independent with state bonding funds and additional federal funding available. Interstate routes are the highest priority for maintaining road condition.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Burdett adjourned the meeting at 2:34 p.m.