

**BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

**Technical Committee**

**Minutes of May 11, 2022 Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Susan Cronander, Carl Fedders, Kristine Parsons, Brian Sanada, Luke Walters and Chaz Wilkey

Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: None

Non-voting: Andrew Sibold (FHWA) and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Charles Burnett, Brian Kernstock, Pat Karr, and Andrew Tilma

Chair Fedders called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. in the Springfield City Hall Council Chambers, 601 Avenue A, Springfield MI.

**ROLL CALL**

Fedders asked all 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 Parsons, supported by Cronander, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
22-15**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**It was moved by Parsons, supported by Wilkey, to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2022 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
22-16**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Karr shared the following communications:

- A public notice for the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the accompanying Transportation Conformity Determination Report for the LOMA area for air quality was published in the Battle Creek Enquirer on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

- Both the draft FY 2023-2026 TIP and the LOMA Report are available for review on the BCATS website and in hard copy at the BCATS office.
- A public notice for Amendment #16 to the FY 2020-2023 TIP was published in the Battle Creek Enquirer on May 6<sup>th</sup>.
- BCATS provided a letter of support to Battle Creek Transit for an upcoming funding application being submitted to the Federal Transit Administration for a new transit facility.
- Per the action of the Battle Creek City Commission, Jarret Geering is now the official alternate for Carl Fedders on the BCATS Technical Committee.
- BCATS received notification of a new option for trading federal transportation funding for state funding for some traditional federal-aid projects. The exchange rate is \$.90 on the \$1.00. A handout describing this process was distributed to the members. Karr added that she had already forwarded this information to the local agencies. The local road agencies indicated that this program is not something they plan to apply for at the present time for any currently programmed projects.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

### NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Draft FY 2023 Unified Work Program (UWP)

Karr indicated that there have been no changes to the draft FY 2023 UWP since it was provided at the April Technical Committee meeting. However, Avis has requested an addition to the language on the Transit Planning page to mention the countywide service that Battle Creek Transit is seeking continuing operation funds for at this time. The new FY 2023 UWP is to be submitted to MDOT by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**It was moved by Avis, supported by Cronander to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee approve the BCATS FY 2023 Unified Work Program, with the addition requested by Avis. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
22-17**

Karr indicated that she would make the change to the draft for consideration by the Policy Committee in two weeks.

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

Tilma reviewed the projects added to last month's proposed listing for amendment with this month's action. He noted that a public notice for the amendment was published in the Battle Creek Enquirer last Friday.

**It was moved by Parsons, supported by Sanada, to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee approve Amendment #16 to the FY 2020-2023 TIP, as presented.**

**Res.  
22-18**

**C. Draft FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)****i. Resolution of Approval of the FY 2023-2026 TIP**

The draft FY 2023-2026 TIP was available for review. Tilma discussed some of the sections of the draft document. It was noted that there may be slight changes to some of the project costs between now and the time the final FY 2023-2026 TIP document is submitted to MDOT. Action on the document is through a resolution of approval, as noted in the advance material.

**It was moved by Sanada, supported by Wilkey, to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee approve the FY 2023-2026 TIP through the Resolution of Approval, with any minor changes, as discussed above.**

There was discussion about the map of TIP projects that is included in the TIP and possibly updating the map with each amendment. Fedders asked that the map delineate the responsibly road agency for each project. Tilma noted that there is a new JobNet portal that provides a map with project information for TIP projects across the whole state. That portal provides project information as it is shown in JobNet.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
22-19**

**ii. Resolution of Accept the Transportation Conformity Determination Report for Air Quality**

Karr reviewed the process for addressing the air quality conformity requirements with the adoption of a new TIP and the need for the accepting resolution which was provided in the advance material.

**It was moved by Parsons, supported by Wilkey, to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee approve the Resolution of Approval for the Transportation Conformity Determination Report for the Kalamazoo-Battle Creek Limited Orphan Maintenance Area as it relates to the development of the new FY 2023-2026 TIP, as presented.**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.****Res.  
22-20****COMMENTS****A. Next Meeting**

Chair Fedders announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for June 8, 2022 at 1:30 p.m, if necessary.

**B. Committee Member Comments**

Avis reported that the Battle Creek City Commission approved the fare increase that Battle Creek Transit had requested. The fare changes go into effect as of July 1, 2022.

Cronander indicated that preliminary discussions have taken place regarding having a consultant update the City of Battle Creek's non-motorized plan. It is still uncertain if this will be a consultant project or in-house staff project.

Fedders stated that all of the City of Battle Creek's 2022 federal-aid projects have now been obligated and the last project, Clark Road, is scheduled for a July letting. Plans have also been submitted for the Union Street bridge project.

Parsons provided an update on the Calhoun County Road Department's projects. The Emmett Township local road work is underway and the contractor is trying to finish that ahead of schedule. Beadle Lake Road will commence in about three to four weeks. F Drive North is expected to be paved next week, depending upon the weather.

Sanada announced that a Southwest pedestrian and bicycle group meeting would be held on May 12<sup>th</sup> at the MDOT SW Region office. He invited everyone to attend. Representatives of the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) will be at the meeting. This is the first in-person meeting in about 2 years. In response to a question by Parsons, Sanada noted that, at present, Ethan Block is the contact person for MDOT at the Marshall Transportation Service Center for bridge issues and other items that would have been handled by Corey Hackworth, who is no longer working at MDOT.

Walters indicated that the level of obligation authority utilized to-date for the federal Urban local program is currently at 70.3%. However, since all of the BCATS area projects in this category have already been obligated, this is not a concern for the area.

In response to a question from Tilma, Fedders indicated that Amber Whitcomb is the person at the City's Public Work Department who will be working with the traffic count program provided by BCATS this year.

**C. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.