

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of May 10, 2023 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Heather Bowden, Susan Cronander, Jarret Geering, Josh Grab, Kristine Parsons, and Chaz Wilkey
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: None
Non-voting: Andrew Sibold (FHWA) and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Kernstock, John Midgley, Madee Thorburn, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

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

ROLL CALL

Chair Parsons asked all in attendance to introduce themselves. It was determined that a quorum of the voting members was present. Grab introduced the new Transportation Planner at the MDOT Southwest Region Office in Kalamazoo, Ms. Madee Thorburn.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Wilkey, supported by Avis, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-13**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Avis, supported by Wilkey, to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2023 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-14**

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- BCATS is working with the Southcentral Michigan Planning Council and the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study on a project from the Michigan Infrastructure Office (MIO)

about funding that the state wants to make available by planning region for pursuing more federal grants under the many BIL/IIJA federal programs.

- BCATS received comments from MDOT about the FY 2024 Unified Work Program draft document. The comments were incorporated into the final draft which is on the agenda today.
- BCATS staff participated in a second meeting of a local advisory group for the I-194 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study currently underway by MDOT with a consultant. The meeting was on May 4th. Karr asked Grab to provide an update from that meeting since he is the project manager. Grab reviewed the presentation made by the consultant at that meeting and the issues that have been identified with some of the possible treatments for the corridor in question.
- An email has gone out from David Fairchild at MDOT to a list of involved parties about the upcoming effort regarding the Adjusted Census Urban Boundary (ACUB). Local road and transit personnel will be providing input as to how the Census defined urbanized area boundary should be “smoothed” for the purpose of determining urban and rural roadway designations. A meeting for this activity will be held from 2-4pm on May 22nd here in the Springfield City Hall Council room.
- The public notice for Amendment #5 to the current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which is on the agenda today, was published in the *Battle Creek Enquirer* on Monday, May 8th.
- Letters of support were authorized by the BCATS Policy Committee and provided to the Calhoun County Road Department for the local safety applications that were to be submitted by the County to MDOT for 2025 projects within the BCATS area. Parsons confirmed that the applications were submitted by the May 1, 2023 deadline.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. Draft FY 2024 Unified Work Program (UWP)

Karr indicated that the document for this item was posted in advance of the meeting and is very similar to the draft presented to the Committee last month. She noted that some minor changes to the April draft were made based on input from MDOT departments and transit. Karr stated that the overall budget attributed to the staff office is increased for FY 2024 due to a small increase in federal funding and anticipated overlap in staffing as Karr works with her replacement for a few months prior to her retirement at the end of December this year.

It was moved by Avis, supported by Grab, to recommend approval of the FY 2024 Unified Work Program by the BCATS Policy Committee, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-15**

B. FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #5

Tilma reviewed the list of projects being proposed for Amendment #5 to the FY 2023-2026 TIP. Most of the projects had been on the advance list reviewed at the April meeting. There was discussion about the projects, including the pedestrian crossing project on state trunklines that will be conducted in Kalamazoo and Battle Creek.

Tilma indicated that there are also some changes to projects that will be made as technical corrections/administrative adjustments that do not need to be included in the amendment process.

It was moved by Wilkey, supported by Geering, to recommend approval of Amendment #5 to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program by the BCATS Policy Committee, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-16**

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Chair Parsons announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for June 14, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

B. Committee Member Comments

Avis provided an update about the countywide transportation efforts that are on pause at the moment.

Parsons updated the group about Calhoun County Road Department work going on in the BCATS area. The Raymond Road bridge will be closed longer than anticipated as the bridge needs more work than originally anticipated. The multiple projects impacting Morgan Road are set to begin in late May or June.

Geering reported that the Fort Custer roundabout at Skyline and Hill Brady Road has commenced. The Union Street bridge has also started. A Helmer Road/Beckley Road water main project is scheduled for this year and the local road paving for 2023 has been identified.

Grab added that the I-194 PEL study discussed under Communications will be ongoing.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.