

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Technical Committee
Minutes of May 14, 2025 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Tad McCrumb, Skylar Cudney, Max Gierman, Adrian Stroupe (for Josh Grab), Travis Sullivan, Aaron Edlefson (for Chaz Wilkey).
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: None
Non-voting: Jenny Staroska and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Franklin, Brandy Standler, Jarret Geering (OHM Advisors)

Chair Cudney called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Springfield City Hall Council Chambers, 601 Avenue A, Springfield MI.

ROLL CALL

Cudney 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 Avis, supported by Cudney, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
25-12

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Avis, supported by Edlefson, to approve the minutes of the April 09, 2025 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
25-13

COMMUNICATIONS

Franklin shared the following communications:

- MDOT has modified language on their Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment concurrence process related to environmental justice no longer being a federal requirement. The JobNet application now reads that any “demographic analysis” attached with TIP amendments is MPO optional.
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has released Section 5303/5304 funds for FY2025-2026. BCATS received the annual allocation that was anticipated for the FY2026 Unified Work Program (the UWP is seeking recommendation for local approval today).
- USDOT sent a letter to all States and MPOs regarding the Equal Protection principles of the US Constitution as it relates to the receipt of federal aid under “the Department’s existing interpretation of Federal law.” “MPOs are prohibited from engaging in discriminatory actions in their policies, programs, and activities.” “Whether or not described in neutral terms, any policy, program, or activity that is premised on a prohibited classification, including discriminatory policies or practices designed to achieve so-called ‘diversity, equity, and inclusion’ goals, presumptively violates Federal law.” MPOs must ensure all decisions are merit-based and all policies, programs, and activities are not based on prohibited categories in order to continue to receive Federal aid. MPOs must also cooperate with US Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) when requested.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. BCATS’ Public Participation Plan Draft – ACTION

Franklin commented that the public participation plan, which was made available in April, has been updated including removal of references to the FAST Act and updating information pertaining to the Authorization of the Bipartisan Infrastructure law. Furthermore, language pertaining to outdated COVID policies was removed. An emphasis was given to electronic communications, including the BCATS website. References to antiquated forms of communication such as fax were also removed.

The Signal Newsletter will still be used as a form of communication. The plan was available for longer than 45 days as required.

It was moved by, Cudney supported by Sullivan, to approve the BCATS' Public Participation Plan Draft. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
25-14**

B. FY 2026 Unified Work Program Draft - ACTION

Franklin commented that the UWP is the work that BCATS staff performs on behalf of the Technical Committee. The UWP covers the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025. The Transportation Authority of Calhoun County has been added to the bylaws as a financially participating member which will match the FTA portion of funds. Local share funding per agency has decreased from last year.

It was moved by Sullivan, supported by Avis, to approve the BCATS' FY2026 Unified Work Program draft. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
25-15**

C. FY2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program Draft

1. Resolution of Approval of FY2026-2029 TIP - ACTION

Franklin commented the TIP is a four year outline of the 2026 – 2029 projects that include federal funds as determined by the Technical and Policy Committee.

It was moved by Cudney, supported by Avis, to approve the 2026-2029 TIP. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
25-16**

2. Resolution to Accept the Air Quality Conformity Report

Franklin commented that the BCATS area air quality was deemed at a detriment by the EPA according to a 2008 ozone quality standard. Although the BCATS area air quality has been meeting regulations as found in the 2012 and 2015 reports, it remains within a limited orphaned maintenance area until 2028. An air quality conformity report is required along with a long-range plan or Transportation Improvement Program.

It was moved by Avis, supported by, Sullivan to approve the Resolution to Accept the Air Quality Conformity Report. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
25-17**

3. Resolution of MPO Self Certification – ACTION

Franklin commented that BCATS is classified as a small MPO, thus able to self-certify that it is following all federal laws.

It was moved by Avis, supported by, Sullivan to approve the Resolution of MPO Self Certification. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
25-18**

D. FY2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #17 –

Franklin commented that amendment #17 includes an MDOT phase right of way addition regarding the replacement of the culvert of the Sperry drain over M-89. \$76,000 in right of way acquisition cost was added.

It was moved by Cudney, supported by Sullivan, to approve the 2023-2026 TIP Amendment #17. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
25-19**

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Chair Cudney announced the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for June 11, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

B. Committee Member Comments

Avis welcomed new BCATS Finance Director, Brandy Standler. Stroupe updated the committee regarding a MDOT TAP Pilot program regarding non-motorized transportation system to link communities and essential services. Franklin welcomed Edlefson and McCrumb to the committee.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.