

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of June 8, 2016 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Chris Dopp, Rich Werner, Rick Fowler, Jason Latham, Glenn Perian, and Kristine Parsons (for Angela Kline)
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: Terry Blaniar
Non-voting: Rachael Tupica and SMPC

OTHERS PRESENT: Carl Fedders, Dharmesh Valsadia, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Dopp called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. in the Council Room of Springfield City Hall, 601 Avenue A, Springfield, MI 49037.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present (see above for voting members present). Introductions were conducted for the benefit of all in attendance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Perian, supported by Fowler, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
16-16**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Werner, supported by Perian, to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2016 meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
16-17**

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- OHSP has sent out a news release regarding the second year of its “Summer of Safety” promotion in Michigan. The news release was distributed to the members, along with a “Summer of Safety” sticker.
- The Southwest/South Central Traffic Safety Network, formerly known as the Traffic Safety Committee, will be meeting at 10:00 am on June 20th at the Regional Law Enforcement Center in Marshall. The meeting is open to all interested in traffic safety. A RSVP is required. Karr noted that anyone interested in attending could contact her for the RSVP information. The meeting will be a legislative session and all legislators representing the region are being invited to the meeting.
- Karr noted that, relative to the call for projects to utilize unobligated transit 5303 funds, BCATS has unofficially heard that BCT will get an award under this program. Fowler has not seen the official award letters yet.
- BCATS has officially received approval of an extension for adoption of the updated BCATS Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The extension goes until November, 2016.
- MDOT has announced night time work and lane closures for several area routes including: I-94 at Exit 92 for bridge beam painting; I-94 from Mile Marker 91 to 93 for road resurfacing work; and work on M-311 and M-60.
- MDOT has issued a “call” for High Risk Rural Road (HRRR) safety projects for FY 2018. Application are due back to MDOT by September 2, 2016.
- It is anticipated that another “call”, for the regular Local Safety Program, will be coming out later this month, with a due date of approximately September 23, 2016. Karr encouraged the local road agencies to start thinking about projects they may be interested in submitting for this funding program.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 2016 Unified Work Program (UWP) Amendment

Karr indicated that material for the proposed amendment to the current FY 2016 Unified Work Program was provided to the members. She provided copies of the material at the meeting for those who had been unable to access them in advance. The amendment includes the addition of a work item for the anticipated Transit Planning Study, as well as a shifting of funding between the existing BCATS work items. The BCATS work items are being adjusted to best reflect where work is expected to take place through the end of this fiscal year which ends

September 30th. Karr noted that the total budget for BCATS remains the same. The total budget increase is due to the addition of the new transit 5303 funds.

It was moved by Werner, supported by Perian to recommend approval by the BCATS Policy Committee of the Amendment to the FY 2016 Unified Work Program, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
16-18**

B. FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Tilma commented on the material he distributed relative to the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). There is still some additional material to be completed. There was discussion about the TIP project list and the financial chapter, including the financial constraint tables provided.

It was moved by Werner, supported by Perian, to recommend approval by the BCATS Policy Committee of the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program with the changes made since the last Technical Committee meeting and the additional material that will be added, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
16-19**

C. 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Tilma noted the extension of the timeline for completion of the Plan that Karr referenced under "Communications" earlier on the agenda. He stated that information about future deficiencies on the transportation network is being evaluated and will be discussed with the agencies involved as part of the next steps in the MTP update process. He added that once the new Transportation Improvement Program and other projects are finalized, there will be more staff time available to devote to the completion of the MTP update.

This was an information/discussion item not requiring action at this time.

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Chair Dopp announced that the next regular Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for July 6, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at the same location. Dopp stated that he may be unavailable for this meeting date.

B. Committee Member Comments

Latham announced that there was light attendance at the two public meetings regarding MDOT's update of its long range transportation plan that were held in the MDOT Southwest

Region. He also reported that the MDOT Southwest Region office will be filling the Planner position shortly that was held by Darrell Harden. Harden is now working in Lansing in the MDOT statewide planning group.

Tilma asked Valsadia, of the MDOT Marshall Transportation Service Center (TSC), if there has been any progress in securing safety funds to extend a deceleration lane in the vicinity of Glen Cross Road that is associated with an already planned resurfacing project on M-66, south of B Drive N. Valsadia stated that he has not heard about the status of the safety funding request, but that he would check into it.

Dopp reported that the City of Battle Creek's "Quiet Zone" rail crossing project is moving forward. It is expected that the project may be completed before the end of this construction season. He also noted that the areawide roadway preventative maintenance project in the FY 2016 TIP list is currently underway.

Werner announced that Battle Creek Transit (BCT) will soon take delivery of its third propane fueled vehicle. A new maintenance supervisor has been promoted from within at BCT.

Werner and Dopp thanked Tilma for his work on the TIP development lists, as this is a time-consuming, detailed task.

C. Public Comments

Valsadia, of the MDOT Marshall TSC, informed the Committee that a project to repair the rail crossing on Helmer Road, just south of Avenue A, will be occurring this summer and will require a one week detour to be established. The work will likely occur in mid' July.

Valsadia also announced that design work will begin shortly for the MDOT FY 2018 restore and rehabilitate project on M-66, from the Capital Avenue/Division Street split north to Frey Drive. Dopp asked if there has been any consideration for reducing the 4-lane sections of that project area to three lanes. Some sections of M-66 along that stretch are already only 3 lanes. Latham added that roadways with traffic volumes less than 12,000 per day may be candidates for such a change. Valsadia indicated that he would pass along this concept to the appropriate staff at MDOT working on this project. There is a scoping meeting for the project coming up shortly.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Dopp at 2:06 p.m.