

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Policy Committee

Minutes of June 25, 2025, Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Harry Burdett, Mallory Avis, Erick Stewart, Max Gierman, Annjanette Kremer, Steve Skalski, Tracy Myers
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: Derek King, Kevin Leiter, Terrie Godde, Laveta Hardish, Kristine Parsons
Non-voting: Jenny Staroska and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

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

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

Chair Burdett asked all members and staff 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 Kremer, supported by Stewart, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
25-34**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Skalski, supported by Stewart, to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2025 meeting.

Discussion: Kremer commented that action concerning an amendment was missing under New Business, section A – BCATS' Public Participation Plan Draft in the May 28, 2025 meeting minutes. Franklin noted that the minutes will be reviewed and amended.

It was moved by Skalski, supported by Kremer, to approve the minutes as amended, of the May 28, 2025 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.

25-35

COMMUNICATIONS

Franklin shared the following communications:

- The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has a draft public participation plan out for public comment through August 15, 2025. This draft public participation plan strives for meaningful public engagement on MDOT long-range transportation priorities, ahead of the next State long-range plan, Michigan Mobility 2050 (which would replace/extend the current Michigan Mobility 2045 plan).
- FHWA Federal Lands Management has conducted an interview of all Michigan Southwest Region planning organizations, including MDOT Southwest Region Planning and the MPOs of BCATS, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study, and Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (covering Niles and Benton Harbor/St. Joseph). In BCATS planning area specifically, the discussion focused on access to the FireKeepers Casino (Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi); the Veterans Affairs hospital complex; and the North County Trail (aligned with various County and City trails).
- MDOT has reached out to BCATS to discuss the potential for meeting on any National Functional Classification updates, as part of the ongoing decennial census review. Franklin reached out to all BCATS agencies with comment on potential proposals.
- Franklin, as current Chairperson of the Michigan Transportation Planning Association (the statewide association of all Michigan metropolitan planning organizations including BCATS) has been Invited to sit on the State Transportation Innovation Council (MiSTIC). This Council was created to collaborate with stakeholders, including MDOT and FHWA, in fostering a culture of innovation that enables the rapid implementation of meaningful advancements for Michigan's transportation system. Meetings are held virtually each month.
- BCATS staff intends to start the 2025 PASER Federal Aid data collection this coming week, June 30th through July 3rd, as time and weather allows. Both Standler and Franklin are PASER/IBR certified.
- Franklin continues discussions with Calhoun County, and the Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch Authority, about potential funding for their county train crossing sensor funding project, previously discussed at May BCATS Technical and Policy Committee meetings. Our group is to potentially meet this coming Wednesday, July 2nd.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Battle Creek Area Transportation Study and Transportation Authority of Calhoun County – ACTION

Franklin discussed an FTA requirement that an MOU between the TACC and BCATS be entered into.

It was moved by Skalski , supported by Avis , to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Battle Creek Area Transportation Study and Transportation Authority of Calhoun County, and to authorize the BCATS Executive Director execute this document.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
25-36**

B. FY2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #18 – ACTION

Franklin addressed the amendments concerning the removal of a pre-planned CMAQ funded traffic signal modernization. The City of Battle Creek resurfacing project on Hill Brady Road has a budget change. An amendment was suggested to use the freed up CMAQ funds for a railroad crossing sensory project for Calhoun County, having been previously discussed at BCATS May Technical and Policy Committee meetings. Franklin meets again with the County on the project on Wednesday, July 2nd.

It was moved by Skalski, supported by Avis, to approve the FY2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #18, as presented, and with the new amended addition of a Calhoun County railroad crossing sensory project, as details of such a project are identified, to use the freed up CMAQ funding. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
25-37**

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Chair Burdett announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Policy Committee is scheduled for July 16, 2025.

B. Committee Member Comments

Kremer discussed MDOT administrative rule changes being proposed regarding unhoused individuals on MDOT property. It is out for public comment.

Stewart discussed the TACC and how it's coming together. There will be more public engagement. Marketing and accounting firms have been hired.

Skalski updated the committee concerning the Hill Brady Road project, which is scheduled to bid in August.

Avis noted that while a federal grant was rescinded for a Battle Creek Transit electric vehicle and charging station project, Consumer's Energy has agreed to provide for four vans and two charging stations, in replacement of the previously planned project.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Burdett adjourned the meeting at 1:52 p.m.