

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of July 11, 2018 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Terry Blaniar, Chris Dopp, Jeff Franklin, Donna Hutchison (for Rich Werner), Kristine Parsons, and Amy Lipset (for Brian Sanada)
Non-voting: Andrea Dewey

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: Glenn Perian (for Christine Zuzga)
Non-voting: Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Dopp called the meeting to order at 1:36 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).

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Blaniar, supported by Hutchison, to approve the agenda, as presented.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
18-15

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Franklin, supported by Parsons, to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2018 meeting, as presented. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Res.
18-16

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- The BCATS May TIP Amendment was approved by the federal partners on June 15th. The changes in that amendment were official as of that date.
- The BCATS May Unified Work Program amendment was approved as of June 28th.
- BCATS received a request from MDOT to develop a “regionally significant” transportation project definition relative to the TIP. It was noted that this item is on the agenda today.
- BCATS staff was approached about coordinating on an application for the Michigan Mobility Challenge grant fund. Applications are due by July 16th. An application is planned from the Battle Creek area and either Community Action or local organization Aequitas may be the one working on developing the submittal.
- It was announced that MDOT is now using a new CMAQ Emissions Calculator that has been developed by FHWA. BCATS has been requested to redo the CMAQ calculations sheets for 2018-2020 projects with the new calculator as MDOT has to submit a statewide summary report to FHWA on this matter.
- At a May meeting of the Michigan Transportation Planning Association and MDOT, the MDOT targets for pavement, bridge, and travel time reliability were released. The MPOs now have until November 16, 2018 to either “support” the state targets for these measures or to develop their own targets. This is the same situation as with the safety targets, 180 days after the state sets its targets is the deadline for the MPOs to address the state targets. BCATS has received summary information sheets about these three target areas from MDOT. The three new target categories will be discussed, and the information sheets distributed to the BCATS Committees, in September in advance of anticipated October MPO action. Action is anticipated in October as the BCATS Policy Committee would meet too late in November to meet the deadline.
- MDOT will release the new state safety targets in late August, 2018. The MPOs will again have 180 days following that release to take action on those targets.
- The second of three MDOT Adopt-a-Highway litter pick-up efforts will start this Saturday and run through July 22nd.
- The MDOT project programming software, JobNet, is down this week for upgrading to Phase 2 of the program. As of next Monday, July 16th, the system is supposed to be operating again.
- The County received a grant from MDOT’s Office of Passenger Transportation for use in conducting a county-wide transit study with a consultant. BCATS is participating on the review team for the RFPs that have been received for the county-wide transit study.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

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

Tilma reviewed the proposed items for inclusion in Amendment #11 to the current TIP. He noted that a public notice was published for the amendment. He also explained the change-over to JobNet Phase 2 and some of the new functionality expected with that updated program. During this current week, no changes can be made to projects in the JobNet system as the update takes place. If the Policy Committee approves the amendment, BCATS will be utilizing a new TIP Amendment submittal process through JobNet to submit the project to MDOT and FHWA for approval. A MDOT project of note in the amendment is the doubling in length of the project on I-194, now from I-94 north to Hamblin Avenue rather than to Golden Avenue. The preliminary engineering phase and construction phase are both included in the current TIP to be funded with state funding only.

It was noted that if the City of Battle Creek's STUL project scheduled to be bid on July 13, 2018 does not come in under budget that the potential project proposed by the City for the amendment would not be pursued.

It was moved by Blaniar, supported by Parsons, to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee approve Amendment #11 to the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
18-17**

Tilma asked Franklin (MDOT) and Dewey (FHWA) about the expectation for the submittal of TIP Amendments through the new system and the anticipated "timeliness" of the approval process. Both Franklin and Dewey offered their suggestions. Dewey indicated that MDOT has submitted a letter to FHWA and FTA indicating that as of July 1, 2018 JobNet is being considered the official TIP listing of projects and that the previously utilized Excel e-file will no longer be considered in the process.

B. Definition of "Regionally Significant" Transportation Projects in TIP Processes

Karr discussed the memo she had prepared about this issue. The updated JobNet program is supposed to have the ability to identify "regionally significant" projects that need to be considered as amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Each MPO in Michigan has been asked to develop its definition for this category and to make that definition available to all agencies with projects involved with the TIP. There was extensive discussion about the draft proposal developed by staff to define "regionally significant" which was provided to the members. It was recommended that the language in the last paragraph be modified to allow for "exclusion" of projects subject to the definition on a case-by-case basis as well as "inclusion" of projects. The language will also emphasize that this policy applies to federal-aid eligible roads and transit.

It was moved by Blaniar, supported by Franklin, to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee adopt the definition of “Regionally Significant” Transportation Projects, as modified by Technical Committee discussion. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
18-18**

C. Potential Requests for Letters of Support for Local Safety Program Applications

Parsons discussed a tentative listing of projects that the Calhoun County Road Department may submit for the “call” from MDOT for 2020 local safety projects that has three separate funding categories this time. The Cities of Battle Creek and Springfield are not planning to submit any projects for this funding program’s current “call.” Applications are due to MDOT by August 13th. Karr asked that Parsons relay to BCATS as much of the specifics for these projects as possible for consideration by the Policy Committee next week.

This was no longer an Action item for the Technical Committee.

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Chair Dopp announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for August 8, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. at the same location. Karr noted that it is highly likely that the August meeting will not be held due to a lack of agenda items. June and August are months when meetings are generally not held during the summer unless there are pressing agenda items.

B. Committee Member Comments

There were no Committee member comments.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Dopp at 2:40 p.m.