

**BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
**Policy Committee**  
**Minutes of July 17, 2019 Meeting**

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Donna Hutchison (for Mallory Avis), Harry Burdett, Steve Frisbie (for Derek King), Bill Scutt (for Rande Johnson), Annjanette Kremer, Don Mayle, Kristine Parsons (for John Midgley), Barb Darlington (for Dave Morgan), and Greg Rickmar

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: None

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Laveta Hardish and Tim Hill

NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Andrea Dewey and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council

OTHERS PRESENT: Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Burdett called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. in the Council Room of the Susan L. Anderson Municipal Building (Springfield City Hall), 601 Avenue A, Springfield, MI 49037.

**ROLL CALL**

A quorum was present (see above for voting members present). Introduction of members was completed to take roll call and for the benefit of all in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**It was moved by Rickmar, supported by Kremer, to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Res.  
**19-32**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**It was moved by Rickmar, supported by Kremer, to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2019 meeting, as presented, subject to any additions, corrections or changes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Res.  
**19-33**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Karr reported the following items of communication:

- A thank you note was received from Mallory Avis at Battle Creek Transit, thanking BCATS for the letter of support for its discretionary capital grant application.

- The FY 2020-2023 TIP document was submitted to MDOT at the end of June. The FY 2020 projects are now effectively “frozen” until October 1<sup>st</sup>, or when the new TIP is federally approved (if that is later than October 1<sup>st</sup>.) Kremer asked about changes to the 2020 projects and if those should be submitted. Karr noted that a package of changes can be acted upon as an amendment in September, to take effect when the new TIP is approved.
- BCATS received a copy of the letter sent to MDOT from FHWA indicating that several areas in Michigan, including the Kalamazoo-Battle Creek area, have been found to meet the air quality conformity requirements related to the court decision for the 1997 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). This topic was addressed by the BCATS Committees back in February 2019. Karr explained the impact of this on the work of BCATS.
- BCATS received information from the City of Battle Creek and the Calhoun County Road Department regarding planned safety project applications to MDOT which are due by August 5<sup>th</sup>. This will be discussed under New Business on the agenda.
- Under state legislation passed last year, the road agencies with over 100 miles of certified road miles are being required to prepared updated asset management plans. A new template for development of those plans will be released by the Michigan Asset Management Council around October 1, 2019. Statewide, the agencies have been put into three reporting groups and submittal deadlines are over a three year period. The Calhoun County Road Department’s plan is due October 1, 2020 and the City of Battle Creek’s plan is due October 1, 2021.
- BCATS received notice of a symposium dealing with development of mini roundabouts by road agencies. It will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at a cost of \$90 per registrant. Tilma distributed flyers about this event to the Calhoun County Road Department and the City of Battle Creek representatives.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment B17/J8**

Tilma reviewed the proposed project changes for this amendment as listed in the public notice and on the project spreadsheet, copies of which were distributed. This is the same material that was posted in the advance meeting material.

**It was moved by Rickmar, supported by Parsons, to approve Amendment B17/J8 to the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.**  
**19-34**

**B. April-June, 2019 Quarterly Financial Report**

Karr noted the distributed April-June, 2019 Quarterly Financial Report. She reviewed the two page report and noted the costs incurred by the local road agencies in this quarter.

**It was moved by Rickmar, supported by Parsons, to receive and file the April-June, 2019 Quarterly Financial Report, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
19-35**

**C. Letters of Support for Local Safety Project Submittals**

Karr referenced the memo about this topic which was made available to the members in advance of the meeting which outlined the projects which are anticipated to be submitted for local safety funding for FY 2021. The applications are due to MDOT by August 5<sup>th</sup> and are considered in the competitive statewide process for funding. This includes six tree removal projects and three centerline rumble strip projects for the Calhoun County Road Department as well as one roundabout project for the City of Battle Creek.

There was discussion about the roundabout project and how this type of feature assists in pedestrian crossings. Kremer noted that there can be issues with roundabouts for persons with limited hearing ability. It was noted that data over time is necessary to be submitted with the application for the project to be assessed for funding. Parsons also noted the issues with rumble strip application.

Karr noted that the Technical Committee recommended authorizing the letters of support for all of the projects anticipated to be submitted for this funding.

**It was moved by Frisbie, supported by Kremer, to authorize letters of support from BCATS for all of the proposed projects being submitted for funding under the local safety category, as listed on the memo. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
19-36**

**COMMENTS****A. Next Meeting**

Chair Burdett announced that the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 28, 2019, 1:30 p.m. in the City of Springfield Council Chambers. Karr stated that it is hoped that the August BCATS Committee meetings can be cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. Notification to this effect will be provided if this is the case.

**B. Committee Member Comments**

Parsons noted that the North Avenue project for this year started today and will take four to six weeks. Halbert Road is closed for a culvert project. Outside of the BCATS area, Michigan Avenue in Marengo Township is also under construction.

Tilma noted that there was one public comment on the current TIP amendment as a result of the public notice in the local newspaper. The public comment was an inquiry regarding the addition of funding for Aequitas Mobility Services. The caller was referred to MDOT's Office of Passenger Transportation, since MDOT awarded the funding.

Karr stated that the annual Michigan Transportation Planning Association conference will be next week. Tilma will be attending to represent BCATS.

Kremer reported on a change to an overhead sign cantilever project that has three interstate locations, one in the BCATS area. A change to one of the locations outside of the BCATS area will be prompting a TIP amendment.

Maintenance funds for this year are being allocated for year-end projects by MDOT. Resurface work is likely to be scheduled on M-311. A separate project for the M-311 bridge over the Kalamazoo River is expected to start at the end of this month and last several months.

Scutt asked about the future of concrete composition if the binder called fly ash is no longer available. Since all of the coal plants are being shut down, and fly ash is a byproduct of burning coal, what will be the alternative to that binder? Kremer indicated that there has been some concern about using fly ash anyway due to environmental contaminants in the fly ash. There are alternatives that are being used and investigated. Kremer volunteered to follow-up with Scutt on this topic.

**C. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Burdett adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.