

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Policy Committee
Minutes of July 21, 2021 Meeting
Zoom Meeting Format

VOTING MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Donna Hutchison (for Mallory Avis), Deb Belles, Harry Burdett, Annjanette Kremer, Kevin Leiter, Jeff Franklin, Kristine Parsons (for John Midgley), Greg Rickmar and Bill Scutt

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: None

VOTING MEMBERS NOT PARTICIPATING: Derek King and Laveta Hardish

NON-VOTING MEMBERS NOT PARTICIPATING: Andy Pickard and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council

OTHERS PARTICIPATING: Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Burdett called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. via a Zoom conference meeting. The meeting was held virtually due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic issues with in-person meetings.

ROLL CALL

Karr conducted a roll call of members and any guests. Members indicated their presence for the purpose of establishing a quorum. It was noted that all members are participating virtually and, per the Open Meetings Act Amendment, each member participating virtually indicated their physical location, which is included in the minutes below.

Members participating remotely and location: Hutchison (City of Battle Creek, MI), Belles (Emmett Charter Township, MI), Burdett (City of Springfield, MI), Kremer (City of Marshall, MI), , Leiter (Pennfield Charter Township, MI), Franklin (Drummond Island Township, MI), Parsons (Marshall Township, MI), Rickmar (City of Battle Creek, MI) and Scutt (Bedford Charter Township, MI).

It was determined that a quorum of the voting members were participating.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Kremer, supported by Parsons, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY to approve the agenda.

Res.
21-26

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Rickmar, supported by Scutt, to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2021 meeting, as presented, subject to any additions, corrections or changes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
21-27**

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr reported the following items of communication:

- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #12 was approved federally within two days after the May BCATS Policy Committee meeting in order to meet the MDOT Office of Passenger Transportation June 1 deadline for flexing funds.
- Since that amendment, several changes classified as technical correction amendments, not requiring BCATS Committee action, have been addressed by BCATS and MDOT staff.
- BCATS staff submitted the FY 2022 UWP to MDOT before the June 1st deadline.
- There is no TIP amendment this month as there were no substantive changes to the TIP that could not wait until the next scheduled time for an amendment, which is September.
- The one planner at the City of Battle Creek, Eric Feldt, has accepted a new position and will be leaving the City of Battle Creek at the end of July.
- Jeff Franklin at MDOT has been promoted to Unit Supervisor in the Statewide Planning section. Franklin was welcomed to the BCATS Policy Committee as Don Mayle's replacement. Franklin has served on the BCATS Technical Committee and as the BCATS Program Manager.
- BCATS new Program Manager and Technical Committee representative for MDOT is Luke Walters.
- BCATS staff has been back in the office more now. However, Pat will be working remotely for at least two weeks after her husband has some surgery shortly.
- There is a meeting of MDOT and local agency staff tomorrow afternoon regarding the future of the I-194 corridor from I-94 into downtown Battle Creek.
- Traffic count work is underway by the local agencies for the program provided to them by BCATS.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. April-June, 2021 Quarterly Financial Report

Karr reviewed the two page quarterly financial report for April-June, 2021. She noted that the expenses and revenues during the quarter were nearly equal, which is very unusual. The local agencies had not yet submitted any billing for the traffic count program by the end of June, so their work will show up in the next quarter.

It was moved by Rickmar, supported by Kremer, to receive and file the April-June, 2021 Quarterly Financial Report, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
21-28**

B. BCATS 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update and Discussion

Karr began the discussion for this item by referencing the several chapters in draft form for the update of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). She asked for any comments on the material developed so far. Tilma reviewed in detail the spreadsheet that he had finished the morning of the meeting that lists potential transportation projects for inclusion in the Plan. He explained the concept of an “illustrative list” for the Plan and the need for the main list of projects to be financially constrained by the amount of revenue that can be reasonably expected over the life of the Plan.

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

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Chair Burdett announced that the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 25, 2021, 1:30 p.m. Karr noted that many times the August meeting will be cancelled, so members should watch for notification closer to the meeting date.

B. Committee Member Comments

Scutt asked about the current work on Morgan Road. This is a Calhoun County Road Commission project and Parsons updated the group about the status. Kremer added that the intersection of M-37 and Morgan Road is scheduled for improvement along with a larger segment of M-37 next summer.

Kremer provided information about staffing at the MDOT Marshall Transportation Service Center as some positions are now vacant with staff taking promotions to the Lansing MDOT office. She also reported that MDOT is going to be doing a heavy chip seal on a roadway which was resurfaced last year as a preventative maintenance project. This procedure has worked well for some counties and MDOT is trying it as well. Another heavy maintenance project will be on a section of I-94 on the westside of Battle Creek and into Kalamazoo County involving skip paving. The major I-69 project north of I-94 is seeing a switch over of traffic from using the southbound lanes to using the first course of the newly constructed northbound lanes. It will take several days to complete the switch.

Parsons reported that, as noted above, the Morgan Road project is ongoing and other major road projects are also on schedule.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Burdett adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.