

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of July 12, 2023 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Heather Bowden, Susan Cronander, Steve Skalski (for Jarret Geering), Madee Thorburn (for Josh Grab), Kristine Parsons, and Chaz Wilkey
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: None
Non-voting: Andrew Sibold (FHWA) and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Kernstock, John Midgley, and Pat Karr

Chair Parsons called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Springfield City Hall Council Chambers, 601 Avenue A, Springfield MI.

ROLL CALL

Chair Parsons asked all 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 Skalski, supported by Wilkey, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-17**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Wilkey, supported by Avis, to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2023 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-18**

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- The May amendment #5 to the current TIP has been approved.

- BCATS submitted the FY 2024 Unified Work Program to MDOT following Policy Committee approval of the document in May.
- BCATS staff attended a public meeting held for the I-194 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study currently underway by MDOT with a consultant.
- BCATS hosted the Adjusted Census Urban Boundary (ACUB) meeting for the Battle Creek area on May 22nd. The result of that meeting is an agenda item for today's meeting
- MDOT held a safety target coordination meeting with the metropolitan planning organizations on June 15th. The official state safety targets for 2024 will be released by MDOT at the end of August.
- The regional transit coordination plan is progressing with the state's consultant. A Zoom meeting for this project was held in May.
- BCATS staff attended a meeting called by City of Battle Creek and Battle Creek Unlimited staff to discuss electric vehicle charging opportunities within the City of Battle Creek into the future.
- A reminder to members that the BCATS staff will be attending the Michigan Transportation Planning Association conference at the end of July.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2020 Census - Battle Creek Area - Adjusted Census Urban Boundary (ACUB) Establishment & Revision

Parsons indicated that material for this item was posted in advance of the meeting. Karr stated that this process of defining an adjusted census urban boundary is completed after each decennial census. She thanked the individuals who participated in the meeting to define that boundary back in May. Karr noted that BCATS Principal Planner Andrew Tilma, who was unable to attend the meeting, had prepared an extensive memo about this process, including a map of the proposed revised ACUB for the BCATS area. A large version of the map was displayed at the meeting. Karr stated that a statement needs to be signed by certain involved parties to the establishment of the revised ACUB. This will occur after the BCATS Policy Committee takes action on this item.

It was moved by Skalski, supported by Wilkey, to recommend approval of the revised 2020 ACUB by the BCATS Policy Committee, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-19**

B. FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Federal Surface Transportation Program and Carbon Reduction Program Funding; FY 23 Adjustment, FY 24-26 Reductions

BCATS Principal Planner Andrew Tilma had also prepared for the Committee, in advance of the meeting, a multi-page document updating the information available about changes to the funding programs that are administered by BCATS. Several factors have resulted in revised estimates which are lower for the 2024, 2025, and 2026 fiscal years. Karr reviewed those factors. It was determined that there should be a meeting of the BCATS TIP Subcommittee as soon as possible to make adjustments to maintain financial constraint of the TIP. Karr noted the situation that occurred in June for the current fiscal year that benefitted the County Road Department with federal funding for a road project. Parsons stated that the benefit of the urban funding switch involved offset a loss of funds for a rural project that had the funding which was rescinded by the federal legislation.

Cronander had a question about some of the funding category changes.

This was an information/discussion item not requiring action.

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Chair Parsons announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for August 9, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

B. Committee Member Comments

Avis announced that the Battle Creek City Commission has passed a resolution asking for Calhoun County to establish a county transit authority. It is expected that the County Board of Commissioners will act on the establishment of such an authority on August 3rd.

Wilkey reported that the Harmonia Road project has been obligated with letting scheduled for August. Springfield' salt storage building is expected to be constructed this fall.

Parsons stated that the Raymond Road project is ongoing. The Morgan Road phase 2 will start this week. There are several components to this project. Emmett Township is embarking on chip seal work for recently repaved roads next week. Some similar work will occur in Leroy and Newton Townships.

Skalski indicated that the Skyline/Hill Brady Road roundabout project is proceeding. Movement of a powerline had held up the project. The City is working on a watermain project on Helmer Road that has Helmer Road closed south of the I-94 interchange. The Union Street bridge project is progressing as well.

Thorburn provided some details about the public meeting held for the I-194 PEL. About twenty-five members of the public attended. Now MDOT is working to engage the neighborhoods in the direct area of any proposed changes to the facility. A website for public comment is also close to being available.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.