

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Policy Committee

Minutes of July 24, 2024 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Deb Belles, Harry Burdett, Skylar Cudney (for Kristine Parsons), Max Gierman (for Richard Bayus), Donna Hutchison (for Mallory Avis), Derek King, Annjanette Kremer, Kevin Leiter, and Steve Skalski
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: Laveta Hardish, and Carl Kinzel
Non-voting: Jenny Staroska and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Franklin, Dave Neubauer, and Andy Tilma

Chair Burdett called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Conference Room B of the Susan L. Anderson Municipal Building (Springfield City Hall), 601 Avenue A, Springfield MI 49037.

ROLL CALL

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 King, supported by Leiter, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
24-22**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Skalski, supported by Belles, to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2024 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
24-23**

COMMUNICATIONS

Franklin shared the following communications:

- The City of Springfield, City of Battle Creek, and Calhoun County on behalf of Calhoun County Road Department, have each resolved to participate in the BCATS FY2025 Unified Work Program with local match dollars as detailed in the UWP.
- BCATS has once again engaged Rehmann Robson LLC for our agency FY2024 audit of financial statements, with our fiscal year ending September 30, 2024. The not-to-exceed fee for the FY2024 audit is \$3,900, which is \$100 higher than the fee for the FY2023 audit. This increase was anticipated and budgeted for within BCATS forthcoming FY2025 UWP.
- BCATS Executive Director Jeff Franklin was interviewed by Richard Piet, for the radio program/podcast Community Matters. The episode, on the basics of BCATS and Metropolitan transportation planning, aired on WBCK 95.3 on July 13th, and is now available online at the Community Matters/Richard Piet websites.
- MDOT has coordinated with MPOs about the 2025 annual Safety Performance Measure target setting. The State reported targets are to be submitted to FHWA on August 31, 2024, and MPOs have the typical 180 days to either support the state targets or establish an MPO specific target and methodology. In the past, BCATS has opted to support the state targets.
- BCATS staff will be attending the Michigan Transportation Planning Association conference in Muskegon from July 30th through August 2nd. BCATS staff office will be closed during this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. April – June 2024 Quarterly Financial Report

Franklin reviewed the Fiscal Year 2024 Q3 Financial Report covering the April through June 2024 period. Franklin requested a motion to accept and file this Financial Report.

It was moved by Skalski, supported by Leiter, to accept and file the April – June 2024 Quarterly Financial Report, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
24-24

B. FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #11

Tilma reviewed the list of projects being proposed for Amendment #11 to the FY 2023-2026 TIP. At the request of MDOT, Tilma highlighted the statewide National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure deployment project, including the single identified location within the BCATS area.

It was moved by Kremer, supported by Skalski, to approve Amendment #11 to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
24-25**

COMMENTS**A. Next Meeting**

Chair Burdett announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Policy Committee is scheduled for August 28, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

B. Committee Member Comments

Belles reported the Emmett Township chip seal program is about halfway completed.

Skalski reported that the Capital Avenue roadwork is about 66% completed, with the third phase from Rebecca Road to Columbia Ave about to commence. The Citywide chip seal program is about 75% completed.

Cudney reported that the N Wattles Road project is completed. The S Wattles Road project is moving along south of Michigan Ave. Calhoun County was successful in their Transportation Economic Development Fund Category A grant for county road improvements related to the Marshall area Ford campus. Road improvements along Verona Road, 11 Mile Road, and 15 Mile Road are to be funded with the grant.

Kremer reported the ongoing I-94 bridge project is proceeding on schedule. Dickman Road night paving is ongoing within City of Springfield. Night paving was selected in coordination with the industrial park.

Neubauer gave a brief update on Marshall area construction planning. Project engineers have entered a phase now in which details about what would be constructed and how it would be constructed will be determined. Construction activities ought to be focused in Marshall Township in 2025, and Emmett Township in 2026-2027. A second open house seeking public input is being planned for October-November 2024.

Kremer, Neubauer, Leiter, and King discussed the MDOT chip seal program as it relates to potential safety concerns for motorcyclists.

Gierman reported that the new FY2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program estimated funding targets have been released by MDOT. BCATS uses these targets in the development of the BCATS FY2026-2029 TIP.

Tilma briefly outlined the forthcoming process for the development of the FY2026-2029 TIP, and how Policy Committee members can prepare for this process.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Burdett adjourned the meeting at 1:51 p.m.