

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of July 10, 2024 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Jarret Geering, Max Gierman, Donna Hutchison (for Mallory Avis), Brian Kernstock, Adrian Stroupe (for Josh Grab), Travis Sullivan and Chaz Wilkey
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: None
Non-voting: Jenny Staroska and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Franklin and Andrew Tilma

Chair Geering called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. in the Springfield City Hall Council Chambers, 601 Avenue A, Springfield MI.

ROLL CALL

Geering 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 Wilkey, supported by Kernstock, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
24-12**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Wilkey, supported by Kernstock, to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2024 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
24-13**

COMMUNICATIONS

Franklin shared the following communications:

- MDOT Local Agency Programs has reminded MPOs to remind their local road agencies that Fiscal Year 2025 project and NEPA submittals ought to be turned in soon to ensure timely review prior to FY25 obligation of funds.
- 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.
- MDOT has announced several projects of interest to the BCATS area. Several resurfacing projects – M-96 from Armstrong Road east to Helmer Road in Battle Creek and Springfield; M-37 (Bedford Road) from Creekview north to Barry County line; M-66 (Capital Ave NE) from White Rabbit Road north to Barry County line; M-78 from M-66 east to Barry/Eaton County line. All of these resurfacing projects have a late August completion date. Another project of interest is the M-66 closure north of Athens, where MDOT will rebuild the Histan drain, with a late October completion date.
- BCATS Executive Director Jeff Franklin was interviewed by Richard Piet, for the radio program/podcast Community Matters. The forthcoming episode, on the basics of BCATS and Metropolitan transportation planning, will air on WBCK 95.3 on July 13th, 8am and 8pm, and available online at the Community Matters/Richard Piet website.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. FY2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #11

Tilma reviewed the list of projects proposed for Amendment #11 to the FY 2023-2026 TIP. Tilma highlighted the NEVI deployment project identified in the BCATS planning area. Franklin discussed the funding changes to the Calhoun County B Drive N project included in this TIP Amendment #11.

It was moved by Kernstock, supported by Wilkey, to recommend approval of the FY2023-2026 TIP Amendment #11 by the BCATS Policy Committee, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Initiation & Schedule for Development of FY2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Tilma reviewed the timeline for the forthcoming FY2026-2029 TIP local call for projects (CFP), and what agency members can expect of the CFP process.

COMMENTS**A. Next Meeting**

Chair Geering announced the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for August 14, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

B. Committee Member Comments

Wilkey reported that the City of Springfield salt barn construction is underway with expected completion by August. The City has selected an engineering firm for the Transportation Economic Development Fund Category A grant for the 2025 Avenue A project.

Kernstock reported that the North Avenue project is underway with repaving expected soon. The N Wattles Road project is 99% complete, with only pavement markings expected to be completed, following an unanticipated delay. The S Wattles Road project has commenced, and is expected to take the majority of the summer to complete, and is being completed in phases. Multiple subdivisions in Emmett Township have had neighborhood street chip seals completed.

Gierman reported the FY2025 Unified Work Programs (for all MPOs, including BCATS) have been submitted to Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration for expected approval later this summer.

Stroupe reported that MDOT is increasing the use of Vulnerable Road User safety assessments, in an effort to better identify and further implement improvements to prevent pedestrian related traffic crashes. Stroupe also requested feedback on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Public Participation Plan. Stroupe also commented on the Marshall public meeting that was held May 29th, and the overall Marshall area project (I-94, I-69, M-96, M-311).

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.