

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Policy Committee
Minutes of August 25, 2016 Meeting

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Harry Burdett, Steve Frisbie, Mark Dionise, Angela Kline, Jason Latham (for John Lanum), Steve Buller, Deb Owens, and Richard Harvey (for Tom Sprau)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: None

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Rich Werner, Laveta Hardish and Rob Behnke

NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Andy Pickard (FHWA) and SMPC

OTHERS PRESENT: Donna Hutchison, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Vice-Chair Kline called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. in the Council Room at Springfield City Hall, 601 Avenue A, Springfield, MI 49037.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present (see above for voting members present).

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Harvey, supported by Dionise, to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
16-33

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Harvey, supported by Buller, to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2016 meeting, as presented, subject to any additions, corrections or changes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
16-34

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr reported the following items of communication:

- BCATS has been informed that BCATS will be administering the 5303 transit plan work item. Karr had to sign the Project Authorization form for these grant funds.
- The City of Battle Creek provided information about a project it is developing an application for related to the MDOT FY 2018 Local Safety Project “call” discussed last month. The applications are due in September. This is an agenda item for today.

- Karr provided a summary of the annual Michigan Transportation Planning Association (MTPA) planning conference attended by BCATS staff in July. The conference was held in Kalamazoo. She announced that Darrell Harden, former MDOT SW Region Planner, was awarded the Ray Lenze award as a special MDOT/FHWA friend of MPOs. This was a well deserved award for Harden. The expenses for the conference came in under the approved amount.
- An OHSP news release regarding upcoming enhanced enforcement for impaired driving over the Labor Day holiday was distributed.
- BCATS has received federal approval of the FY 2017 Unified Work Program. Once it is determined that there are not any minor corrections to the document forthcoming from either FHWA or MDOT, copies of the document will be printed and provided to the Committee members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Application for Local Safety Funds - Letter of Support from BCATS

Karr reviewed the material provided relative to this agenda item. A draft of a potential support letter was distributed for Committee review. The cost estimate for the proposed safety project is approximately \$24,000. Karr noted that this funding program is competitive at the state level.

It was moved by Latham, supported by Owens, to authorize Karr to finalize the draft letter of support for the City of Battle Creek's Local Safety Program project application and to provide the letter to the City to accompany its application to MDOT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
16-35

B. U.S. DOT Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) "Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Coordination and Planning Area Reform" - Comments to Docket

Karr reviewed the final draft comments she has developed to be sent to the U.S. DOT Docket regarding the NPRM dealing with significant changes proposed for the operation of MPOs across the nation. The NPRM was released in June and only has a 60-day comment period, with comments due by this Friday, August 26th. Karr indicated the potential impact to BCATS of these proposed rules. General discussion followed.

Frisbie asked if the Congressional delegation will be informed about this development. Karr indicated that she will pursue this.

It was moved by Harvey, supported by Frisbie, to authorize Karr to submit the comments on the subject NPRM to the U.S. DOT Docket by Friday, August 26th. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
16-36**

C. MDOT 5-Year Plan 2017-2021 - Request for Comments

Karr indicated that the two pages of the MDOT 5-Year Plan dealing with the Southwest Region were provided to the members at their places. The entire document is very lengthy, but was posted with the advance materials for any members wishing to review the entire Plan. Karr noted that comments on the 5-Year Plan are due by this Friday, August 26th.

Tilma commented that this Plan does not include some of the lower category maintenance work that can amount to significant amounts of funding being involved as well. He indicated that he would like to see a listing of that type of work provided by MDOT for public notification. Latham stated that this kind of information can be provided once the list of these types of projects is developed each year. These project types can be dependent upon the amount of funding available after winter maintenance costs.

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

D. BCATS 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) - Update, Identification of Deficiencies, and Development of Preliminary Project List

Tilma reviewed the advance material provided to the members on this subject and distributed a map and additional narrative material to those present. He noted that there are several categories of interest for project development including: capacity deficiencies, safety, pavement condition, bridge, public transit and intermodal, non-motorized, security-reliability-resiliency, and economic development. He explained how the travel-demand-forecast computer modeling develops expected areas of capacity deficiency into the future. The areas where capacity may be considered for Plan projects were highlighted. Vehicle replacement plans will be included in the Plan for Battle Creek Transit and the local human service agencies. The status of the area's non-motorized plans, by the individual units, was discussed.

Tilma provided a listing of some potential projects that may be included in the Plan list for the roadway capacity and non-motorized categories.

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

E. Modification of Policy Committee 2016 Meeting Schedule

Karr indicated that it will be beneficial to the schedule for completion of the MTP, discussed in item D., to move the November Policy Committee meeting date to November 30, 2016, rather than November 16, 2016. This still avoids the week of Thanksgiving, as November has five Wednesdays. Karr stated that, if approved, the revised meeting schedule will be posted both at the BCATS' office and on the website.

It was moved by Frisbie, supported by Buller, to approve the change in the Policy Committee meeting schedule for November, 2016, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
16-37**

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Vice-Chair Kline announced that the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 28, 2016, 1:30 p.m. in the City of Springfield Council Chambers.

B. Committee Member Comments

There were no Committee member comments offered.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Kline adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.