

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of August 10, 2016 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Chris Dopp, Terry Blaniar, Rich Werner, Rick Fowler, Jason Latham, Glenn Perian, and Angela Kline
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: None
Non-voting: Andy Pickard (FHWA) and SMPC

OTHERS PRESENT: Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Dopp called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. in the Council Room of 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

Dopp noted staff's request to add item 7.D. Letter of Support for the City of Battle Creek's Application for Local Safety Funds. **It was moved by Werner, supported by Perian, to approve the agenda with the noted addition. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Res.
16-20

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Perian, supported by Werner, to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2016 meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
16-21

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- Applications for both safety categories, HRRR and Local Safety that MDOT put out calls for are due in September. The City of Battle Creek is planning to submit a Local Safety Project. This was added as an agenda item for today.
- The award letter for the 5303 Transit Planning study funding was received on June 21st. The Project Authorization for the funding has been signed on BCATS' end and obligation of the funds by MDOT should occur shortly. The funding will be available for 3 years to complete the project.
- BCATS staff attended the annual MTPA transportation planning conference in early July that was held in Kalamazoo. Overall, a very good offering of topics and sessions filled the conference event.
- Staff reported to the Policy Committee in July that the May Transportation Improvement Program Amendment (TIP) #12 was Federally approved except for a couple of transit items that have been placed on the TIP "illustrative list", pending award of the federal funds.
- The National Functional Classification (NFC) system changes submitted to MDOT last fall and finalized with MDOT in January, 2016 have been officially approved.
- FY 2016 construction projects are proceeding as planned for all agencies.
- The updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BCATS and BCT was executed as of July 27, 2016 and is being sent on to the Federal Transit Administration by BCT to satisfy the finding in the FTA triennial review of BCT.
- BCATS has received calls for comments on MDOT plans and programs which will be discussed under "New Business" today.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. Request for Comments on MDOT's 2017-2021 Five-Year Transportation Program and 2017-2020 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

Tilma provided information and highlighted the current MDOT documents for which comments are being solicited by the Department. The first document is the MDOT 5-Year Program covering 2017-2021. Comments are due to MDOT about this document by August 26th. A handout listing the planned MDOT road and bridge work in the MDOT Southwest region by county for the next 5 years was distributed. Tilma showed how to use the links available on the MDOT website to access the mapping feature for projects in the 5-Year Program.

The second document out for comment by MDOT is the FY 2017-2020 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). This is an outline of project planned over the four-year period on the STIP and includes all of the metropolitan area Transportation Improvement Programs by reference as part of the whole state program. Comments are due to MDOT about the STIP by next Monday, August 15th.

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

B. Request for Comments on U.S. DOT Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on “Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Coordination and Planning Area Reform”

Karr reviewed a handout of a slide presentation prepared by the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) regarding a new U.S. DOT Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that was published on June 27, 2016 in the Federal Register and only has a comment period until August 26, 2016. The rulemaking is termed “Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform”. It seeks to use census geography and locally defined “Metropolitan Planning Area” (MPA) boundaries to consolidate transportation planning efforts in many areas of the country and to make the process more “regional”. The Kalamazoo and Battle Creek MPOs will be impacted if these rules are adopted. There would be three options for the MPOs - 1. Merge the MPOs 2. Remain separate agencies, but prepare a joint Plan and TIP for the entire KATS and BCATS area 3. Revise the MPA boundaries of the MPOs so that there is no longer any overlap. None of these options are optimal for Battle Creek. Karr is preparing comments for the docket on this NPRM and will be reviewing those comments with the Policy Committee on August 24th before submitting them. She will also be participating in a group session with the other MPOs next week to determine if there are common issues and to see if there are items to add to BCATS’ comments.

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

C. BCATS 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Tilma presented graphic display of the results of the travel demand modeling process relative to deficiencies which could be expected in the future on BCATS area road facilities. As compared to deficiencies seen in prior plans, those identified for this Plan update are predicted to be minor spot areas. These areas will be considered in the development of the final listing of future projects for the BCATS 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), currently under development.

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

D. Letter of Support for the City of Battle Creek’s Local Safety Project Application

Material for this item was distributed. This included a form detailing the work to be done, along with a map of the proposed project area. There was discussion about the proposed project.

It was moved by Werner, supported by Perian, to recommend that a letter of support for the City of Battle Creek's Local Safety Program application be authorized by the BCATS Policy Committee at its August 24, 2016 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
16-22**

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Chair Dopp announced that the next regular Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at the same location.

B. Committee Member Comments

There were no Committee member comments.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Dopp at 2:50 p.m.