

**BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
**Policy Committee**  
**Minutes of August 24, 2022 Meeting**

VOTING MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Donna Hutchison (for Mallory Avis), Deb Belles, Harry Burdett, Carl Fedders, Luke Walters (for Jeff Franklin), Joni Jones, Annjanette Kremer, and John Midgley

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: None

VOTING MEMBERS NOT PARTICIPATING: Derek King, Kevin Leiter and Laveta Hardish

NON-VOTING MEMBERS NOT PARTICIPATING: Andrew Sibold (FHWA) and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council

OTHERS PARTICIPATING: Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

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

**ROLL CALL**

All in attendance introduced themselves and their affiliations. New participants on the Policy Committee were Joni Jones, Charter Township of Bedford Supervisor, and Carl Fedders, permanent alternate for a City of Battle Creek representative (replacing Greg Rickmar who has retired from the City). It was determined that there was a quorum of voting members.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**It was moved by Fedders, supported by Midgley, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY to approve the agenda.**

Res.  
22-37

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**It was moved by Kremer, supported by Belles, to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2022 meeting, as presented, subject to any additions, corrections or changes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Res.  
22-38

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Karr reported the following items of communication:

- Public notices for Amendment #17 to the FY 2020-2023 TIP were published in the Battle Creek Enquirer on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and on August 10<sup>th</sup>, as well as being posted to the BCATS website.
- The new FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) document was submitted to MDOT and has been submitted by MDOT (along with the other MPO TIPs and the state's STIP) for processing at the federal level.
- The notice of proposed rule-making regarding a federal green house gases emission performance measure has been officially posted to the Federal Register. This item will be discussed later on the agenda.

- A summary of information about the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) was provided to the members which includes links for specific about programs included in the new federal legislation.
- A memo was provided to the members regarding BCATS staff attendance at the annual Michigan Transportation Planning Association conference held in late July in Flint. The expenses came in under the budgeted amount.
- Karr has met with the liability and property insurance carrier (MMRMA) and has been provided with premium information for the FY 2023 year. The premium is reducing by \$11 and a significant return distribution will be sent to BCATS with the current year under the provisions of the program.
- BCATS is required to submit a Title VI report form annually as a subrecipient of federal funding through MDOT. The form has been completed and submitted to MDOT. It is due by October 1<sup>st</sup> each year.
- Karr has executed the Engagement Letter with the audit firm for the FY 2022 audit. A requirement of the process is that the many page engagement letter be provided to the BCATS governing body. Therefore, copies of that letter were provided to the Policy Committee members. The FY 2022 audit will be done in October and November and a final report is generally provided to the BCATS Policy Committee in January.
- Karr will be attending the 20<sup>th</sup> Year special conference of the Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC) on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Amendment #17 to FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Tilma reviewed the proposed amendment to the current TIP, which includes two projects. Both of these changes were provided from MDOT after the July TIP amendment process had concluded. One project is transit related from MDOT's Office of Passenger Transportation and the other was from the MDOT Rail Division.

**It was moved by Kremer, supported by Midgley, to approve Amendment #17 to the FY 2020-2023 TIP, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Res.  
22-39

#### B. U.S. DOT/FHWA Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) "National Performance Management Measures; Assessing Performance of the National Highway System, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Measure

Karr discussed the Federal notice and the material provided to the BCATS Policy Committee members in advance about this topic. She noted that both she and Tilma have listened to a FHWA webinar on this topic. Comments can be made to the federal docket for this NPRM before October 13, 2022. There was discussion that the current NPRM still indicates that the states and MPOs would have to have targets for this new performance measure established by October 1, 2022. This is totally unrealistic considering that the comment period on the NPRM doesn't even close until after October 13<sup>th</sup>.

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

#### C. MDOT 5-Year Plan 2023-2027 - Request for Comments

Karr indicated that a handout about this topic was provided to the members in the advance material and the listing in the Plan for the MDOT Southwest Region was distributed to the members at the meeting. The posted handout provides links to MDOT's new 5-Year Plan covering the 2023-2027 time period, as well as links for making comments on the Plan. The comment period is open one more week, until the end of August. The Policy Committee members were encouraged to review the new MDOT 5-Year Plan and provide comments. Fedders indicated that he has already provided comments to the site and that it was very user friendly. Kremer stated that the comments are

being provided back to the MDOT Transportation Service Center (TSC) for issues in its area. There was discussion about the possibility of a roundabout at the Columbia Avenue/Main Street intersection. Kremer indicated that this is being studied by MDOT.

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

## COMMENTS

### A. Next Meeting

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 28, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

### B. Committee Member Comments

Kremer provided an MDOT update that included information about the upcoming design/build project on I-94 that will be a 3-year project replacing 9 bridges with road resurfacing and many other ancillary projects along I-94 in the BCATS area being included as well. A public meeting will be held coming up now that a contractor has been selected. There have been some delays on the M-37 (Helmer Road) project. There has been updated information about the M-96 (Columbia Avenue) bridge project; Tilma noted that project, along with the City of Battle Creek's Capital Ave project, would both be in the September TIP amendment. Kremer continued that Josh Grab, from MDOT Statewide Planning in Lansing, will be the new Region Planner at the MDOT Southwest Region replacing Amy Lipset. Kremer also made the Committee members aware of a Michigan House bill that would require "positive protection" (ie; concrete barriers) for night work conducted on the roads and bridges. This could significantly impact the costs and scheduling of the types of work that are now conducted at night and could impact the local agencies as well as MDOT

Belles reported that night-time paving will be occurring on Harper Village Drive shortly. She asked about pavement striping on M-96 (E. Michigan Avenue) in the area of Wattles Road and the potential for a signal on the same route at the Firekeepers Casino entrance. Kremer provided answers for her queries.

Fedders indicated that drainage work on M-96 (Columbia Avenue) will be proceeding to protect the waters of Goguaac Lake. He indicated that the City has put out requests for bids on a Beckley Road traffic study that has been discussed for some time. He stated that the review team needs to give the proposals high priority has far a getting back to the City's purchasing department. There will be a meeting to discuss the funding of this project.

Jones stated that chip sealing has been completed on some of the townships roads and that brush control is an issue for some local roads. Solutions are being sought for traffic speed issues on the north end of Washington Avenue. She asked about the status of the Marian Burch transportation program, which has not resumed since the COVID situation. Ensuing discussion determined that while the Marian Burch facility services, including transportation, remain limited if not closed, the vehicle replacement process approved earlier in the meeting under TIP Amendment #17 continues.

Walters announced that the statewide submittal of the TIPs and the STIP was made to the federal funding sources on August 15, 2022.

### C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

## ADJOURNMENT

Chair Burdett adjourned the meeting at 2:26 p.m.