

**BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

**Technical Committee**

**Minutes of August 10, 2022 Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Donna Hutchison (for Mallory Avis), Susan Cronander, Carl Fedders, Kristine Parsons, Jeff Franklin (for Luke Walters) and Chaz Wilkey  
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: Brian Sanada  
Non-voting: Andrew Sibold (FHWA) and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Kernstock and Pat Karr

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

**ROLL CALL**

Fedders 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 Parsons, supported by Hutchison, to approve the agenda, as modified.**

Karr noted the addition of an Item 7.C. to adjust the published September meeting date for the Technical Committee from September 7<sup>th</sup> to September 14<sup>th</sup>.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, with the requested addition to the agenda.**

**Res.  
22-21**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**It was moved by Cronander, supported by Parsons, to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2022 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
22-22**

## COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- BCATS submitted the FY 2023 Unified Work Program to MDOT by the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.
- Amendment #16 to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was approved in June.
- Two public notices for Amendment #17 to the FY 2020-2023 TIP were published in the Battle Creek Enquirer, one on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and the second on August 10<sup>th</sup>.
- BCATS finally received federal approval of the air quality conformity determination associated with the BCATS 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) that was submitted with the 2045 MTP at the end of February 2022.
- BCATS staff has worked with MDOT staff to convert the FY 2023 TIP projects from the current TIP to the new FY 2023-2026 TIP. The final FY 2023-2026 TIP document was submitted to MDOT for processing on July 1<sup>st</sup>. There was also a new air quality conformity document that accompanies the new TIP.
- BCATS received notification of a federally proposed new performance measure for green house gases that would be applicable to both states and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs).
- MDOT will be sending out updated performance measure targets for a variety of target areas to the MPOs in September or October. BCATS will need to act upon the updates later this fall or early winter.
- Two long-serving City of Battle Creek employees are retiring and a farewell reception is planned for this Friday afternoon from 1-3pm at the Public Works office. Greg Rickmar (42 years) and John Gardner (21 years) are the retirees. Both have had interaction with BCATS.

Fedders indicated that the City of Battle Creek is pursuing “gateway” entrance signage on two bridges on MDOT facilities in the Battle Creek area and has held hearings about the design.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

## NEW BUSINESS

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

Karr noted the two projects which are being considered for amendment into the FY 2020-2023 TIP to take advantage of funding available in the transit and rail programs. As noted under Communications, both of these projects had been noticed to the public.

**It was moved by Cronander, supported by Parsons, to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee approve Amendment #17 to the FY 2020-2023 TIP, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
22-23**

- B. Request for Comments on MDOT's Draft 2023-2027 Five-Year Transportation Program**  
Karr indicated that Tilma had posted information about the call for comments that MDOT has provided relative to its draft FY 2023 to 2027 Five-Year Program. The comment period is open until the end of August. The MDOT statement identifies links to where comments can be offered. Fedders asked if the projects are broken out by area of the state and Karr indicated that there usually are separate section of the document for each MDOT region.

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

- C. Change of Technical Committee Meeting Date for September 2022**  
Karr asked for formal action to correct the published meeting date for the BCATS Technical Committee in September, which had erroneously been listed as September 7<sup>th</sup> instead of September 14<sup>th</sup>.

**It was moved by Wilkey, supported by Parsons, to identify the next BCATS Technical Committee meeting date as September 14, 2022. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
22-24**

(The September meeting date will be updated on the BCATS website and for all postings)

## COMMENTS

**A. Next Meeting**

Chair Fedders announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for September 14, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

**B. Committee Member Comments**

Hutchison reported that Battle Creek Transit has a new maintenance supervisor starting work next week. The position has been vacant for an extended period of time.

Wilkey stated that Springfield's new DPW building is now complete. A culvert replacement project is expected next spring. An asset management plan has been completed for the City of Springfield and a new dog park is opening later this month.

Fedders provided updates on a contract with MDOT for a drainage project on Columbia Avenue, the gateway signage, signal modernization at Beckley Road and Capital Avenue as part of MDOT's upcoming I-94 project, and that a consultant will be updating the City's non-motorized plan.

Parsons indicated that the Emmett Township local road work is wrapping up for this year, with only a few areas yet to be finished. Beadle Lake Road has almost been completed but still needs pavement markings and signs. In addition, the Raymond Road bridge project has been delayed due to additional rail permits that were unknown to be needed. FY 2023 designs for federal-aid projects are completed and submitted. There was discussion about future year project changes for both the County and the City that may need to be included in the September or November TIP amendments for the FY 2023-2026 TIP.

Franklin noted that MDOT will be commenting on Federal Register Notice about the proposed green house gas performance measure requirements, especially about the impossible time line included in the proposed rules that would require initial targets by October 1, 2022. The proposed rules will still be out for comment at that time and won't even be finalized. It is expected that the delay will result in the rules going into effect October 1, 2023.

#### **C. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.