



Battle Creek Area Transportation Study

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

1:30 p.m. - Wednesday, August 13, 2025

Council Chambers, Susan L. Anderson Municipal Bldg. (Springfield City Hall)

601 Avenue A, Springfield, MI 49037 (269) 963-1158

e-mail: bcats@bcatsmpo.org website: <https://www.bcatsmpo.org>

AGENDA

1. ROLL CALL
2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – **ACTION**
3. PUBLIC COMMENTS
4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of May 14, 2025 – **ACTION**
5. COMMUNICATIONS
6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - A.
7. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) Local Bridges – **DISCUSSION**
 - B. BCATS Travel Demand Model – Approval of Base Year Census/Employment Data – **ACTION**
 - C. FY2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #19 – **ACTION**
8. COMMENTS
 - A. **Next Meeting: September 10, 2025 - 1:30 p.m.**
 - B. Committee Member Comments
 - C. Public Comments
9. ADJOURNMENT

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Technical Committee
Minutes of May 14, 2025 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Tad McCrumb, Skylar Cudney, Max Gierman, Adrian Stroupe (for Josh Grab), Travis Sullivan, Aaron Edlefson (for Chaz Wilkey).
Non-voting: None

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Franklin, Brandy Standler, Jarret Geering (OHM Advisors)

Chair Cudney called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Springfield City Hall Council Chambers, 601 Avenue A, Springfield MI.

ROLL CALL

Cudney 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 Avis, supported by Cudney, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
25-12

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Avis, supported by Edlefson, to approve the minutes of the April 09, 2025 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
25-13

COMMUNICATIONS

Franklin shared the following communications:

- MDOT has modified language on their Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment concurrence process related to environmental justice no longer being a federal requirement. The JobNet application now reads that any “demographic analysis” attached with TIP amendments is MPO optional.
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has released Section 5303/5304 funds for FY2025-2026. BCATS received the annual allocation that was anticipated for the FY2026 Unified Work Program (the UWP is seeking recommendation for local approval today).
- USDOT sent a letter to all States and MPOs regarding the Equal Protection principles of the US Constitution as it relates to the receipt of federal aid under “the Department’s existing interpretation of Federal law.” “MPOs are prohibited from engaging in discriminatory actions in their policies, programs, and activities.” “Whether or not described in neutral terms, any policy, program, or activity that is premised on a prohibited classification, including discriminatory policies or practices designed to achieve so-called ‘diversity, equity, and inclusion’ goals, presumptively violates Federal law.” MPOs must ensure all decisions are merit-based and all policies, programs, and activities are not based on prohibited categories in order to continue to receive Federal aid. MPOs must also cooperate with US Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) when requested.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. BCATS’ Public Participation Plan Draft – ACTION

Franklin commented that the public participation plan, which was made available in April, has been updated including removal of references to the FAST Act and updating information pertaining to the Authorization of the Bipartisan Infrastructure law. Furthermore, language pertaining to outdated COVID policies was removed. An emphasis was given to electronic communications, including the BCATS website. References to antiquated forms of communication such as fax were also removed.

The Signal Newsletter will still be used as a form of communication. The plan was available for longer than 45 days as required.

It was moved by, Cudney supported by Sullivan, to approve the BCATS' Public Participation Plan Draft. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
25-14**

B. FY 2026 Unified Work Program Draft - ACTION

Franklin commented that the UWP is the work that BCATS staff performs on behalf of the Technical Committee. The UWP covers the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025. The Transportation Authority of Calhoun County has been added to the bylaws as a financially participating member which will match the FTA portion of funds. Local share funding per agency has decreased from last year.

It was moved by Sullivan, supported by Avis, to approve the BCATS' FY2026 Unified Work Program draft. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
25-15**

C. FY2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program Draft

1. Resolution of Approval of FY2026-2029 TIP - ACTION

Franklin commented the TIP is a four year outline of the 2026 – 2029 projects that include federal funds as determined by the Technical and Policy Committee.

It was moved by Cudney, supported by Avis, to approve the 2026-2029 TIP. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
25-16**

2. Resolution to Accept the Air Quality Conformity Report

Franklin commented that the BCATS area air quality was deemed at a detriment by the EPA according to a 2008 ozone quality standard. Although the BCATS area air quality has been meeting regulations as found in the 2012 and 2015 reports, it remains within a limited orphaned maintenance area until 2028. An air quality conformity report is required along with a long-range plan or Transportation Improvement Program.

It was moved by Avis, supported by, Sullivan to approve the Resolution to Accept the Air Quality Conformity Report. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
25-17**

3. Resolution of MPO Self Certification – ACTION

Franklin commented that BCATS is classified as a small MPO, thus able to self-certify that it is following all federal laws.

It was moved by Avis, supported by, Sullivan to approve the Resolution of MPO Self Certification. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
25-18**

D. FY2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #17 –

Franklin commented that amendment #17 includes an MDOT phase right of way addition regarding the replacement of the culvert of the Sperry drain over M-89. \$76,000 in right of way acquisition cost was added.

It was moved by Cudney, supported by Sullivan, to approve the 2023-2026 TIP Amendment #17. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
25-19**

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Chair Cudney announced the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for June 11, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

B. Committee Member Comments

Avis welcomed new BCATS Finance Director, Brandy Standler. Stroupe updated the committee regarding a MDOT TAP Pilot program regarding non-motorized transportation system to link communities and essential services. Franklin welcomed Edlefson and McCrumb to the committee.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Funding Options for Local Bridge Inspections

Purpose:

To remain in compliance with federal regulations, Michigan must meet the requirements of the National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS). This includes conducting routine inspections, performing load ratings for legal and permit vehicles, and collecting inventory data according to the new Specification for the National Bridge Inventory. The requirement applies to both MDOT and locally owned bridges. New requirements of the National Bridge Inspection Standards require additional data for permit load ratings, and CRA approached MDOT to assist with the massive effort of calculating this information. MDOT requires inspection data collection to perform this analysis. A long-term funding strategy is needed to support these NBIS activities while minimizing disruption to local programs. State law prohibits the use of trunkline-allocated funds on local projects, limiting available funding sources.

Project Description:

MDOT will assist with the full NBIS for all road agency owners for 5 years. This will include routine, initial, non-redundant steel tension member, underwater, in-depth, damage and special inspections. It will include review of existing AASHTOWARE Bridge Rating (BrR) load rating models, and completion of load rating models for the remaining bridges that can be rated in BrR. Bridges that cannot be rated in BrR will be rated and permit overload classes will be developed to meet the requirements of the NBIS. SNBI data will be collected from agencies that have started collection and reviewed for completeness. SNBI data will be collected for agencies that have not yet collected data.

MDOT will provide all inspection reports and work recommendations to the local agencies based on the NBIS functions. Local Agencies will remain responsible for load posting and closing bridges based on the findings of the NBIS activities. Local Agencies will remain responsible for maintenance, repairs and replacement of the bridges.

The project would begin in January of 2026 and conclude in December of 2030, or for 5 years. At the end of year 4 the program can be evaluated for continuance in the current format or with modifications, if funding is available.

Federal Funding Availability:

MDOT has identified approximately **\$55 million** in available federal allocations from a combination of sources that may be applied toward the local bridge inspection program. These sources include \$35 million in repurposed CRRSAA funds, available certain authorized funds, and redistributed TIFIA funds. However, an additional **\$40–53 million** is projected to be needed to fully fund inspection activities across fiscal years **2026 through 2030**. MDOT is exploring future funding strategies to reduce this projected shortfall.

- MDOT is working with the legislators to allow the use of Movable Bridge Fund which could bring up to \$28 million to the project (\$20M balance plus \$2M accrual per year)
- The local share of the Certain Authorized Funds allocation received each year, which varies but is approximately \$4 million per year, which could be put into this project. Obligation Authority from August redistribution would be paired with this allocation.
- Possible TIFIA fund allocation redistributions of unused funds for FY25 and FY26. Obligation Authority from August redistribution would be paired with this allocation.
- Potentially \$10M of additional CRRSAA funding currently held in contingency for construction projects could be available when construction is complete.
- Possible effort by MPO's or local governments to pursue a legislative earmark to assist with the funding for this project.

Federal Match Requirements:

To meet federal matching requirements, MDOT is seeking to utilize the **Movable Bridge Fund**. If this approach proves unavailable or insufficient, MDOT will use **Toll Credits** to fulfill the non-federal share. Currently, there are no plans to require local agencies to provide matching funds.

Proposed Scenario for additional funding:

After all other resources are exhausted if there is additional need MDOT proposes reserving a percentage of local **Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)** funding “off the top” of specific fiscal years to support the bridge inspection program. This set-aside would apply to funding administered through: Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Rural Task Forces (RTFs), and potentially MDOT's Statewide Local Agency Program (LAP) funding programs.

Once the additional amount needed to complete the bridge inspection program is determined, MDOT will coordinate with MTPA Finance Committee and the Rural Task Force Program Advisory Board to determine the amount to be set aside from the local STBG programs and in which year or years the funding will be set aside from. FY 2026 will not be affected, possibly affected years would be FY 2027 through FY2030.

The specific amount of allocation taken from each MPO and RTF would be based on the percentage cost for that area relative to the total cost of the project.

Battle Creek Travel Demand Model

Sam Hetherington

HetheringtonS1@michigan.gov

Michigan Department of Transportation

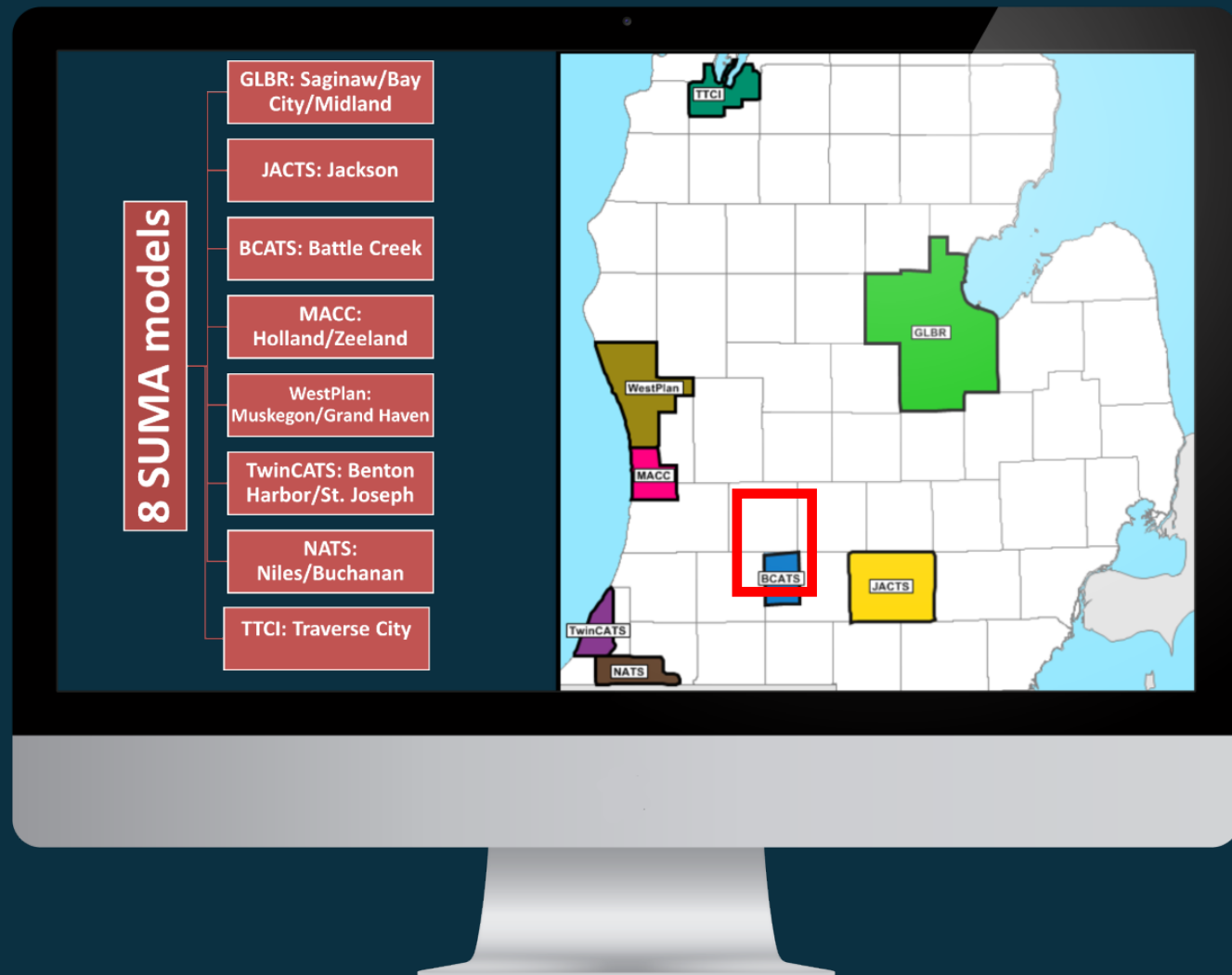
Statewide and Urban Travel Analysis

March 12, 2025

Modeling Overview

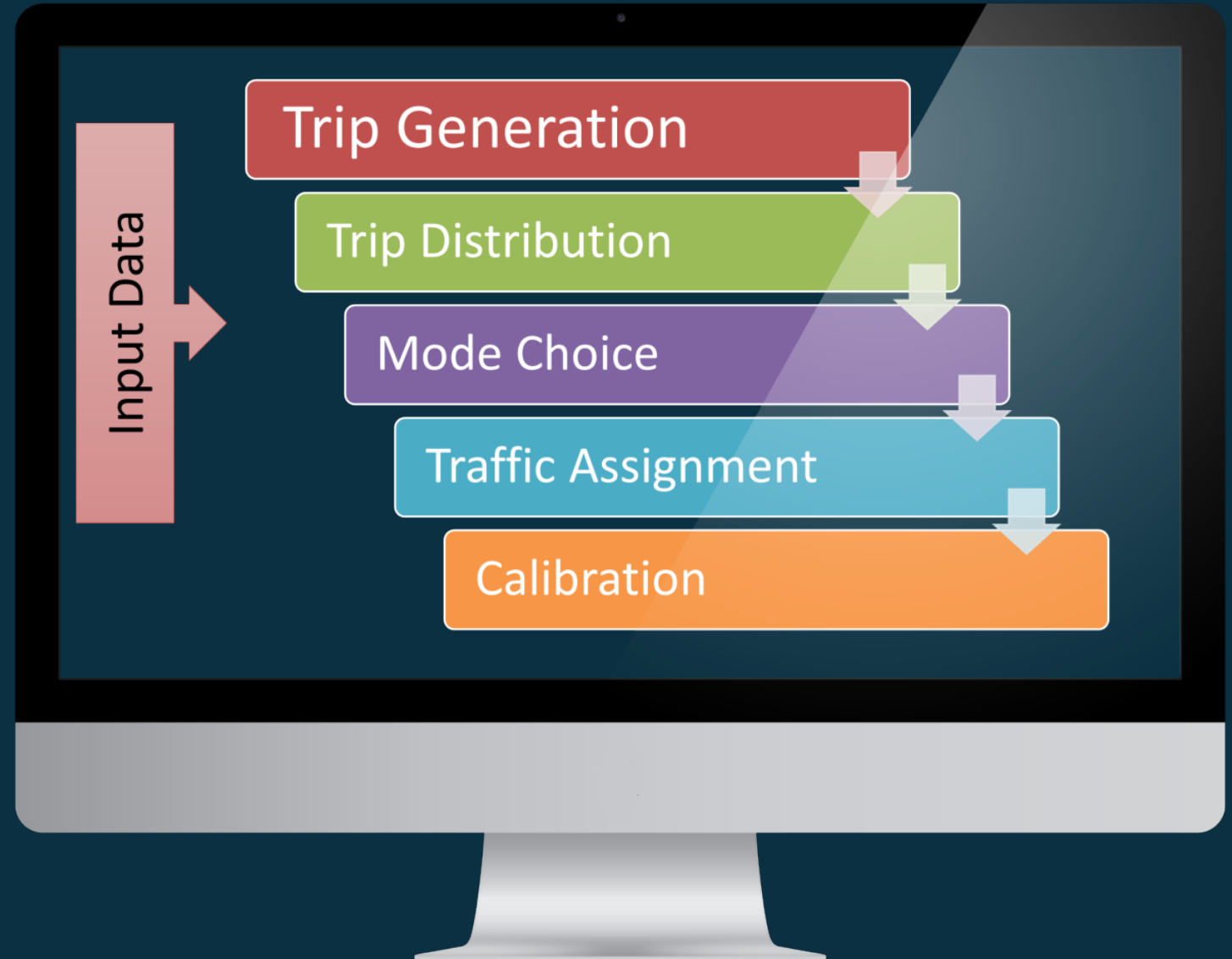
There are currently 8 Small Urban Model Areas (SUMA) in Michigan all of which are MPO study areas.

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are required to have an objective method to evaluate the federal aid road system as part of their Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).



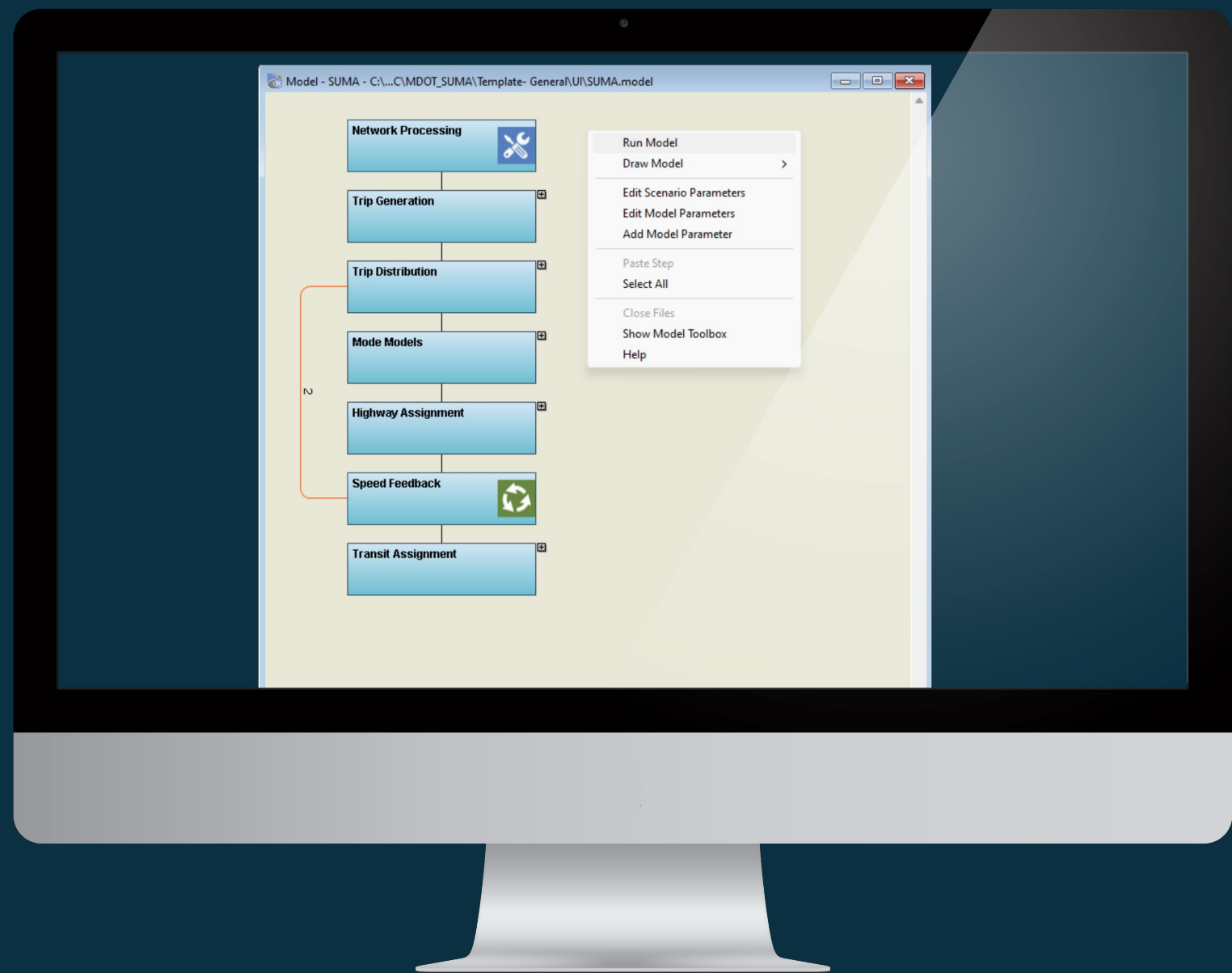
MDOT is responsible for building and maintaining the small urban models using the 4-step modeling process.

Communication and coordination with MPOs are crucial to gather network and socio-economic data for inputs into the model.



All Small Urban Models are or will be updated to use a standardized framework called SMAC (Small Model Area Contract) which was developed by MDOT.

A test version of the BCATS model has been translated to this format but it is not up to date.



Model Applications



Long-Range Transportation Plans (L RTPs)



Work Zone/Detour Analysis



Capacity Changes – Expansions and Right-Sizing



Environmental Studies and Corridor Plans



Select Link Analysis/Subarea Analysis



Growth Rates for HPMS and other studies

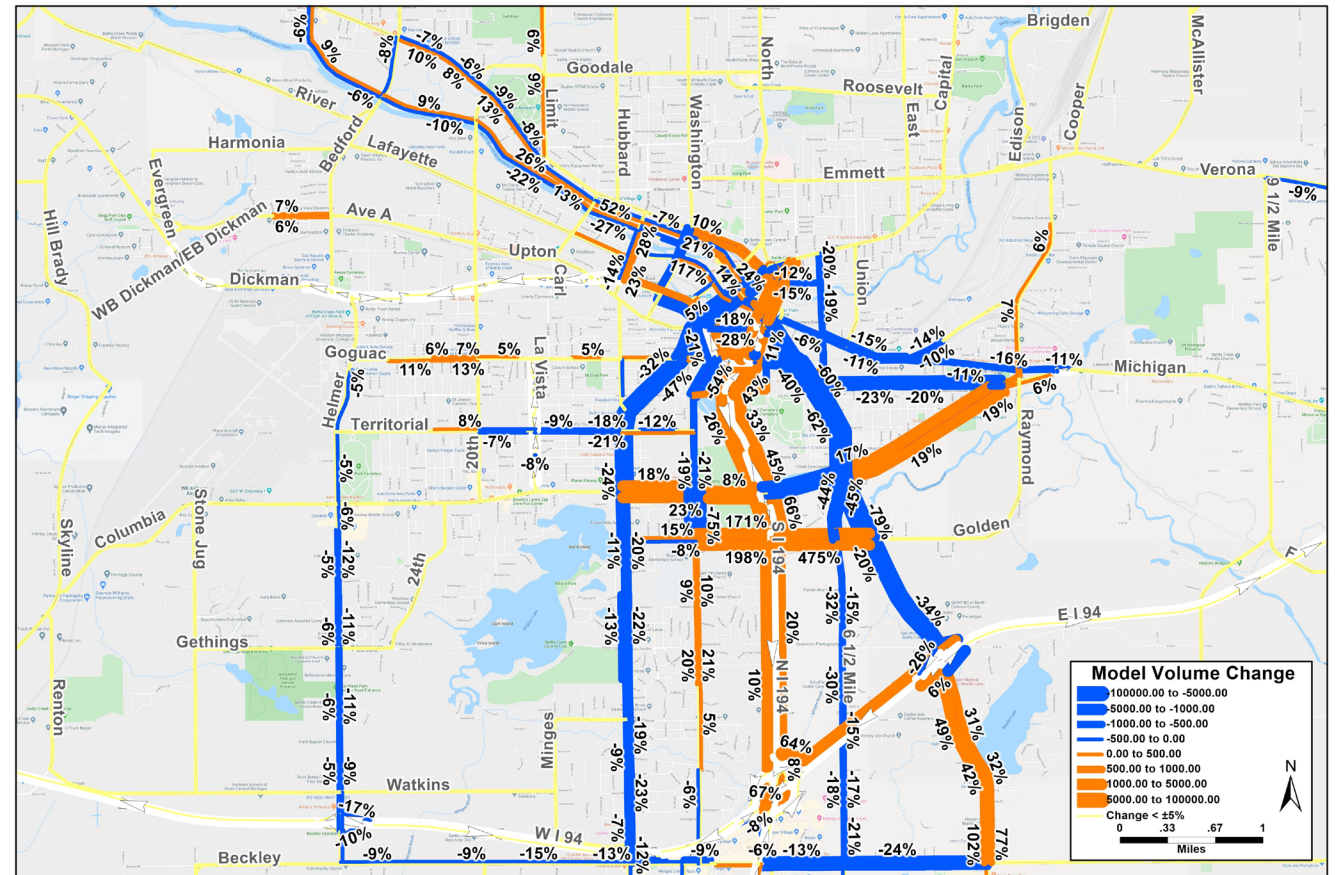


State Long Range Transportation Plan Scenarios and Tolling Study

PEL I-194 - scenario 2

Assumptions: G Drive, Columbia Ave, Burnham St. and Dickman Rd with at grade intersections.
Speeds: 55 mph from I-94 to Dickman Rd and 45 mph from Dickman Rd to Hamblin Ave.

Map 2: Surrounding Area



Urban Travel Analysis, MDOT
August, 2023

For Discussion Purposes Only

Line thickness indicates model traffic volume difference
Blue indicates decrease in traffic volume
Orange indicates increase in traffic volume
Percent change between -5 and 5 not shown

Model Development Timeline

Spring 2025: MPO Review of Employment and Demographic data

- Jan. 2025 demographic data becomes available for use.
- Employment and demographic data provided to MPO for review.
- New GIS map is available for review of employment and demographic data.

Spring 2025 – Spring 2026: Base Year Model Development

- The 4 – step modeling process will be developed for a base year of 2023.
- MITC 4 survey and analysis will begin to wrap up.

Model Development Timeline

Spring 2026: MPO Review of Model Results Base Year

- MPO review and concur of the model outputs and capacity deficiencies.
- MPO review and approval of demographic and employment data for future years.
- Development begins for model future years.

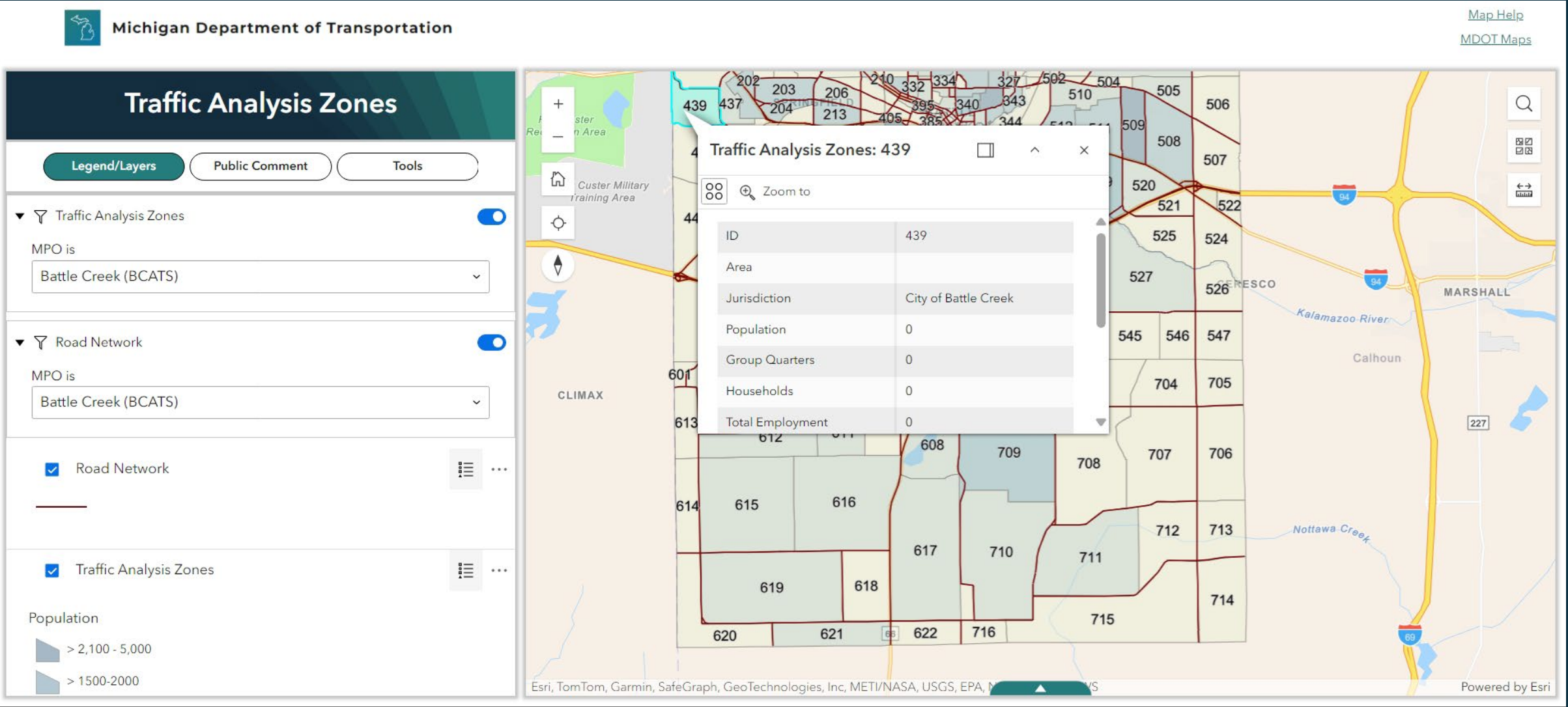
Summer 2026: MPO Review of Model Results Future Years


- MPO review and concur of the model outputs for future years.

MPO and Local Agency Review

Technical Committee and Local Agencies

- **Population, and Household Data**, review and verify demographic data, including total population, and number of households. (Base year and Future year)
- **Employment Data**, Includes top employers within each jurisdiction. (Base year and Future year)





Michigan Department of Transportation

[Map Help](#)
[MDOT Maps](#)

Traffic Analysis Zones

[Legend/Layers](#)
[Public Comment](#)
[Tools](#)

MPO Public Comments

Submit your MPO comments here!

MPO*

Battle Creek (BCATS)

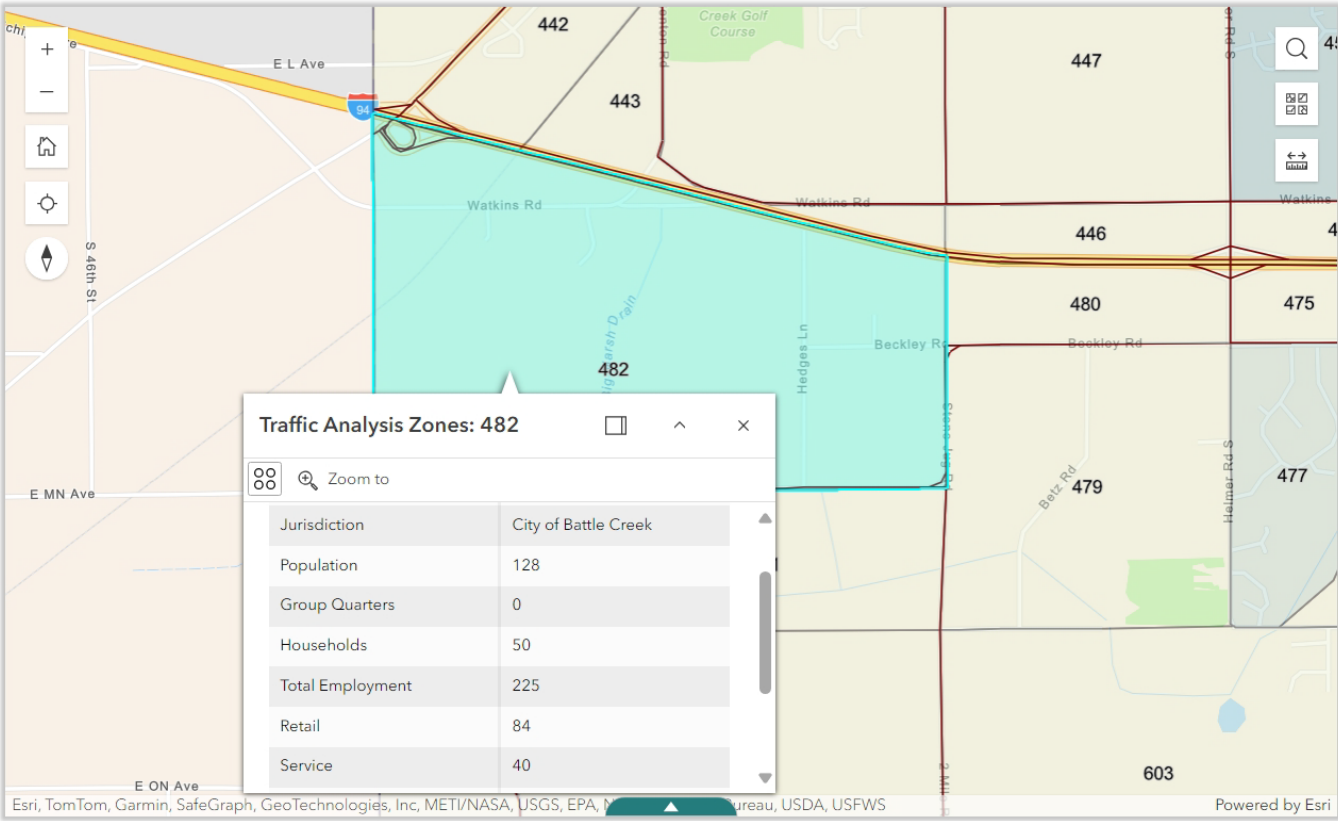
Comments*

Include any relevant location information - Road name, intersecting road, and zone number.

TAZ 482 - Industrial Partners located on Watkins Rd / Add 100 empl

Submitter Name*

Sam Hetherington



Traffic Analysis Zones: 482


Zoom to

Jurisdiction	City of Battle Creek
Population	128
Group Quarters	0
Households	50
Total Employment	225
Retail	84
Service	40

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Example Comment: TAZ 482 - Industrial Partners USA located on Watkins Rd along Interstate 94, just off exit 92 / Add 100 employment / Year opened 2024

Link to Online GIS Review Map

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/e4e759ff47744191aeccccc3360015225>



ALL PROJECT SEARCH - STANDARD REPORT

Fiscal Year(s) : 2025

Date: 08/06/2025

Page: 1 of 2

Classification: Public

Fiscal Year	Job Type	Job #	MPO	County	Responsible Agency	Project Name	Limits	Length	Primary Work Type	Project Description	Phase	Phase Status	S/TIP Cycle	Fund Source	Template	AC/ ACC	ACC Year(s)	Fed Estimated Amount	State Estimated Amount	Local Estimated Amount	Total Estimated Amount	Phase Participating Amount	Phase Non Participating Amount (Part + Non-Part)	Total Phase Amount	Total Job Cost Incl	Total Job Cost Non LAP	Action Type	Action Approval Date	Local Fed Approval Date	FHWA Approval Date	FTA Approval Date	Schedule Obligation Date	Actual Obligation Date	Schedule Let Date	Actual Let Date	Federal Amendment Type	S/TIP Exempt	Comments	S/TIP Status	
S/TIP Line items																																								
2025	Multi-Modal	210666	Battle Creek Area Transportation Study (BCATS)	Calhoun	Community Inclusive Recreation	Transit Capital - Community Inclusive Rec, Sec5310	Areawide	0.000	6410-5310 Projects	FY25 Section 5310, Purchase 1 (one) replacement bus	NI	Programmed	23-26	5310	Transit			\$63,200	\$15,800	\$0	\$79,000	\$79,000	\$0	\$79,000	\$79,000	\$79,000.00	Admin Modification	03/06/2023	05/25/2022	N/A	09/09/2022	09/30/2025					Abandoned		Approved	
2025	Multi-Modal	216679	Battle Creek Area Transportation Study (BCATS)	Calhoun	Community Action Agency of South Central MI, Inc	Transit Capital, Community Action, Sec5310 vehs	Areawide - Calhoun County	0.000	1110-Bus Rolling Stock	FY25, Section 5310, Replace 2 wheel chair vans and 2 passenger vans	NI	Programmed	23-26	5310	Transit			\$237,280	\$59,320	\$0	\$296,600	\$296,600	\$0	\$296,600	\$296,600	\$296,600.00			05/25/2022	N/A	09/09/2022	09/30/2025					Abandoned		Approved	
2025	Multi-Modal	216681	Battle Creek Area Transportation Study (BCATS)	Calhoun	Community Inclusive Recreation	Transit Capital, Comm Inclusive Rec, Sec5310 vehs	Areawide - Calhoun County	0.000	1110-Bus Rolling Stock	FY25, Section 5310, Replace 2 small light duty buses	NI	Programmed	23-26	5310	Transit			\$126,400	\$31,600	\$0	\$158,000	\$158,000	\$0	\$158,000	\$158,000	\$158,000.00			05/25/2022	N/A	09/09/2022	09/30/2025					Abandoned		Approved	
2025	Multi-Modal	216682	Battle Creek Area Transportation Study (BCATS)	Calhoun	Marian E. Burch Adult Care & Rehabilitation Center	Transit Capital	Areawide	0.000	1110-Bus Rolling Stock	FY25, Section 5310, Replace 2 medium class (26') buses w/lift	NI	Programmed	23-26	5310	Transit			\$232,000	\$58,000	\$0	\$290,000	\$290,000	\$0	\$290,000	\$290,000	\$290,000.00	Adjustment	01/22/2025	01/22/2025	N/A	03/14/2025	09/30/2025					Abandoned		Approved	
2025	Trunkline	224854	Battle Creek Area Transportation Study (BCATS)	Calhoun	MDOT	M-89	M-89 (MICHIGAN) @ 20TH ST	0.000	Traffic Safety	Modernize signalized intersections	ROW	Programmed	23-26	STG	Traffic Signal Modernization			\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0	\$60,000	\$620,227	\$620,227.00				N/A	07/07/2025		08/07/2026		Phase Added		Pending			
GPA Type Subtotals:			S/TIP Line items															\$718,880	\$164,720	\$0	\$883,600																			
Grand Total:																		\$718,880	\$164,720	\$0	\$883,600																			

Total Job Phases Reported: 5

Job Phase(s) highlighted in yellow are delayed to future S/TIP cycle

Preferences:

Report Format: Standard

FISCAL Year(s): 2025

MPO/Non-MPO: Battle Creek Area Transportation Study (Battle Creek)

County: ALL

Prosperity Region: ALL

MDOT Region: ALL

STIP Cycle: Fiscal Year 2023 - Fiscal Year 2026, Fiscal Year 2026 - Fiscal Year 2029