

CHAPTER VIII
INTERMODAL CONSIDERATIONS
TRANSIT, TAXICAB, INTERCITY BUS, & RIDESHARING

TRANSIT

Public transportation service in the area encompassed by BCATS is currently provided by Battle Creek Transit (BCT). According to BCATS' 2010 population estimates, approximately 75% of the BCATS area population resides within ¼ mile of the fixed-route line-haul service (transportation service operated over fixed-routes on a regular schedule). BCT's demand response service operates throughout the City of Battle Creek, City of Springfield, and the charter townships of Bedford, Pennfield, and Emmett.

From 1932 to 1967, transit service was privately operated by the Battle Creek Coach Company, without any local government support. From 1967 to 1972, the Coach Company provided service under contract with the City of Battle Creek, which subsequently purchased the Coach Company. In July, 1977, public transportation service became a complete City of Battle Creek function known as Battle Creek Transit (BCT). BCT is currently housed in a downtown Battle Creek facility which houses the administrative, dispatching, maintenance, and bus storage functions in three separate buildings. These BCT facilities are located separately from the downtown transfer station for its buses.

BCT operates its line-haul service on eight (8) fixed-routes, at thirty to sixty minute intervals - depending on the route - between the hours of 5:15 am and 6:45 pm on weekdays and from 9:15 am to 5:15 pm on Saturdays. No Sunday service is provided. BCT's fleet currently consists of fourteen (14) traditional large buses for its line-haul service and 7 van-type vehicles for demand-response operations. As of September, 2016, the average age of BCT large buses was 6.8 years. Federal guidelines dictate that large buses can be replaced at 10-12 years of age, or at 350,000 miles. The BCT fleet is being replaced as funding becomes available. The plans for the next 25 years call for replacement of both large and small buses and vans based on the allowed life expectancy. BCT has established an ongoing vehicle replacement program that is primarily dependent on discretionary federal monies for implementation.

TABLE VIII-1
BATTLE CREEK TRANSIT BUS STOP AMENITIES

ROUTE	MILES	STOPS	BENCHES	SHELTERS
1W - West Michigan	9.5	84	5	4
2E - Emmett-East Ave	6.4	46	6	4
2W - Columbia-Territorial	12.7	48	3	2
3E - Main-Post	5.8	37	6	3
3W - Kendall-Goodale	7.0	53	7	4
4N - NE Capital	6.7	39	4	2
4S - SW Capital	14.1	67	6	3
5W - Ft Custer-VA Hosp	20.0	69	4	4
SYSTEM TOTALS	82.2	443	41	26

Replacement buses are required to be wheelchair accessible. Bus shelters and benches are provided and maintained by BCT along its routes (see Table VIII-1). BCT plans to rotate replacement of shelters on an on-going basis, addressing those in the worst condition first. As new destinations develop, BCT evaluates the need for service and service amenities for those locations.

BCT also plans to update its farebox system as technological advances dictate changes in the way farebox revenues are collected and administered. Each year, BCT allocates a prescribed amount of its federal funding to address safety and security needs of its operation. Examples of recent safety projects for transit include improved facility security equipment and replacement security cameras on the buses, cameras at the Transit Transfer Station, and cameras on the exterior of the BCT administrative building.

BCT has outfitted its line-haul fleet of buses with bicycle racks so that passengers can load their bikes on the bus and travel to a destination where they can continue their bicycle trip. This upgrade to BCT's buses represented an increase in intermodal connectivity within the BCATS area.

A schedule of capital improvements for BCT has been provided to BCATS. The schedule is the basis for the recommended *Plan* projects for BCT.

BCT has successfully implemented its goals in meeting the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, (ADA), to provide for the accessibility of persons with disabilities. Details may be obtained from BCT by calling (269) 966-3474. Some senior service agencies, social service organizations and private non-profits in the BCATS area offer smaller-scale transit services for their clients. These agencies are eligible for certain categories of funding that are "passed through" BCT and which are included, as applicable, in the BCATS Transportation Improvement Programs. This represents a very small portion of the program as these agencies typically apply for one small demand-response vehicle at a time.

BCT is currently doing a study to develop a comprehensive transit master plan that will improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of public transit to the Battle Creek service area. The study may include (exact scope of work to be developed) an in-depth evaluation of the transit operations of the City of Battle Creek, to include a financial plan, a comprehensive asset management plan (fleet, facilities, security, and equipment), marketing plan, and in-depth review of fare structure, route and ridership analysis, customer service satisfaction and trip purpose analysis, and ADA service compliance. It will also identify gaps in transit travel needs within the existing service area. In addition, the study will identify and evaluate all other existing public and human service transportation service in Battle Creek and identify potential unmet travel needs within Calhoun County and as they carry into the greater Regional Prosperity Region #8. This study will be conducted in FY 2017.

TAXICAB SERVICES

There currently is only one taxicab service licensed to operate in the BCATS area, which is A City Cab. In the 2025 Transportation Plan, there were five cab operators. There are also several limousine operators licensed in the City of Battle Creek to provide specialty service. The cab and limousine services are licensed and are regulated by the City of Battle Creek in order to operate within the City Limits. Most of these services are available on an on-call basis 24-hours per day, 7 days per week. There is also a service called "Mobility Transport LLC" that provides accessible vehicle transportation. Currently, that service is not a licensed service, but it may soon fall under the licensing requirements of the City of Battle Creek.

INTERCITY AND CHARTER BUS SERVICES

There are two intercity bus companies operating regularly-scheduled services in and out of Battle Creek. These companies are Greyhound Bus Lines and Indian Trails Motorcoach. These operators utilize the Intermodal Terminal in downtown Battle Creek as their transfer center. Service is provided once or twice a day coming into and leaving Battle Creek, generally bound for other Michigan cities. As noted in the Rail section of Chapter VI, Indian Trails is partnering with Amtrak on some connecting service for Amtrak passengers. Other bus companies provide charter service on an on-call basis to the greater Battle Creek area.

RIDESHARING

The BCATS area is included within the Kalamazoo Local Ridesharing Office (LRO), which encompasses the counties of Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph. The Kalamazoo LRO function is performed by Kalamazoo Metro Transit, the urban transit provider in Kalamazoo, MI. Ridesharing remains an alternative to the single person commute and benefits air quality, congestion, and safety as the number of vehicles using the system is reduced.

MDOT maintains two carpool lots within the BCATS area for use by commuters. They are located at the I-94 Exit 100 at Beadle Lake Road and at I-94 Exit 92 at Skyline Drive. These lots have been expanded as demand for carpooling spots increases. The Beadle Lake Road lot currently has 53 spaces and the Skyline Drive lot has 69 spaces. Both lots are utilized extensively. The paved lots are maintained by MDOT. Future programming will focus on the on-going preventative maintenance work needed at these carpool lots and if any additional lot locations need to be identified. A new carpool lot has just been added by MDOT at the newly redesigned Exit 88 on I-94. This is located just to the west of the BCATS area, approximately four miles west of the Calhoun County/City of Battle Creek boundary. Further information about ridesharing can be obtained from the Kalamazoo LRO, Office of the Special Projects Coordinator, at Kalamazoo Metro Transit, 530 N. Rose Street, Kalamazoo, MI, (269) 337-8394, web information at www.KMetroRide.com.

