

**BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

**Technical Committee**

**Minutes of September 13, 2017 Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Terry Blaniar, Chris Dopp, Rick Fowler, Kristine Parsons (for Angela Kline), Rich Werner, Jason Latham, and Glenn Perian (for Christine Zuzga)  
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: None  
Non-voting: Andrea Dewey, and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Justian Crane, Jeff Franklin, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Dopp called the meeting to order at 1:38 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). Introductions were conducted for the benefit of all in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**It was moved by Perian, supported by Werner, to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
17-16**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**It was moved by Blaniar, supported by Perian, to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2017 meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
17-17**

## COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- A consultant has been selected and a contract awarded for the Transit Master Plan project. The firm conducting the work is Foursquare Integrated Transportation Planning (Foursquare ITP) out of Rockville, Maryland. Work on the Plan is expected to commence shortly, with a completion deadline of July 31, 2018. Werner indicated that a “kick-off” meeting is scheduled with the consultant on September 26<sup>th</sup>.
- The FY 2018 Unified Work Program for BCATS was approved by federal funding sources. Copies of the document were distributed to the members. It was noted that the document has been posted to the BCATS’ website.
- BCATS received approval of the July, 2017 TIP Amendment (#5) on August 23, 2017.
- Karr attended a meeting in Kalamazoo yesterday regarding the final document produced by a consultant for MDOT as the “Coordinated Mobility Plan” for Prosperity Region 8 in Michigan. There was discussion at the meeting about which recommendations in the Plan were practical and which were less so. BCATS will provide a summary of the Plan recommendations to Foursquare ITP as they begin BCT’s Master Plan. The group meeting yesterday agreed to hold quarterly meetings to work on greater understanding, collaboration, and coordination within the region.
- Tilma has completed the field work, with MDOT and local representatives, for this year’s asset management PASER road rating process.
- Tilma also attended a Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) workshop this past Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.
- In early August, Karr attended a presentation by Scott Cubberly, who is associated with the BC Vision effort. The report that was presented provided information about addressing the transportation issues related to the goals of BC Vision for the betterment of the Battle Creek community.
- The Michigan Asset Management Council has announced its annual fall conference, which is being held in Marquette, Michigan on October 5, 2017. Flyers are available with conference details.
- It was stated that BCATS’ fiscal year ends on September 30, 2017.
- Tilma noted, and distributed, a “Design Advisory” from MDOT regarding lane markings which do, and do not have to, be placed regarding lanes designed as turn only. Arrow symbols, with no wording, are now allowed to be placed in developed turn lanes except for “drop” lanes, where the wording is still required. This change has been noticeable in the BCATS area as MDOT has been redoing pavement markings this summer.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

## NEW BUSINESS

### A. FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #6

Tilma reviewed the changes proposed for Amendment #6 to the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program. He distributed an updated copy of the public notice that was published, along with a spreadsheet detailing the TIP projects.

**It was moved by Fowler, supported by Perian, to recommend approval of Amendment #6 to the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) by the BCATS Policy Committee at its meeting of September 27, 2017. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
17-18**

### B. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Amendment Schedule for FY 2018

Tilma handed out copies of the amendment schedule for the first six months of the new fiscal year that starts October 1, 2017. Amendment opportunity months are November 2017, January 2018, and March 2018. The dates by which information for the amendments from the implementing agencies needs to be provided to BCATS were noted on the schedule. Tilma added that MDOT has not released its amendment schedule yet that BCATS usually uses as a basis for its schedule. If there is any new or different information on the schedule that is developed by MDOT, it will be reflected in the 12-month schedule that Tilma will put together.

**It was moved by Perian, supported by Blaniar, to approve the BCATS Amendment Schedule as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
17-19**

## COMMENTS

### A. Next Meeting

Chair Dopp announced that the next regular Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. at the same location.

### B. Committee Member Comments

Werner had several updates from Battle Creek Transit (BCT). He announced that the replacement refurbished 35 foot bus with wheelchair lift (replacing the one that was lost due to a fire) has been delivered and will be available for use in the near future. Refurbishing results in 85% of the vehicle being upgraded. BCT will also be getting one or two new buses in 2018 using grant funds. They have also acquired three 40 foot 2005 buses from the Grand Rapids transit operator which is converting to an all compressed natural gas (CNG) fleet. The Grand Rapids buses will be held in reserve to be refurbished in the future. Refurbishing is a very cost effective option, since funding for new buses is very limited. Werner also noted that

labor negotiations are underway with transit's union employees. Staffing is a serious issue for Battle Creek Transit right now as there are multiple open driver positions.

Werner informed the members that AMTRAK has eliminated its second shift of workers at the Intermodal Station in Battle Creek. Therefore, the building is being closed and locked after 5pm. This poses a problem for any train passengers arriving after that time as they can not access the building for facilities, or gain access to the long-term parking area. The City of Battle Creek is responsible for maintaining the facility and hopes this issue can be resolved quickly. AMTRAK has proposed a "caretaker" person but this has not been finalized yet.

Perian announced the building of a new plant by an aluminum finishing company in Fort Custer Industrial Park. This will add about 40 jobs in its first phase. Dopp added that public works is working on the grading of the lots that BCU is preparing to entice companies to locate in the industrial park.

Blaniar stated that the empty lot across the street from Springfield City Hall is being developed with a Dollar General store on part of the property.

Dopp noted that the City is completing a large amount of chip-sealing work on its roads this construction season.

Parsons reported that the Custer Drive project is underway and traffic is being detoured. The Wattles Road/Verona Road intersection project being funded with Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds is due to start in a couple of weeks.

Latham indicated that he is ready to start the interviewing process for the planner position that reports to him. This is to replace Denise Smith, who took another position within the MDOT region.

### **C. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Dopp at 2:12 p.m.