

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of September 9, 2020 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Carl Fedders, Jeff Franklin, Kristine Parsons and Brian Sanada
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: Terry Blaniar and Christine Zuzga
Non-voting: Andy Pickard and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Kernstock, Daniela Khavajian, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Fedders called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. via a Zoom virtual meeting format and an audio call-in for public participation.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present (see above for voting members participating). Karr confirmed the existence of a quorum.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Parsons, supported by Franklin, to approve the agenda. It was noted that there is an addition to the agenda of Item 7.C. Letter of Support for Calhoun County Road Department Transportation Alternatives Program application. With that addition, the **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.
20-16**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public participants in the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Franklin supported by Parsons, to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2020 meeting, as corrected. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
20-17**

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- All of the authorized letter of support were provided to the local agencies after the May Committee meetings for the local agency bridge and safety project applications. As far as BCATS knows, all of those applications were submitted for funding consideration.
- The Master Agreement with MDOT has been executed by MDOT and a copy was returned to BCATS. BCATS has since received the Project Authorizations for FY 2021 and signed and returned those for MDOT action.
- The FY 2021 UWP has been approved by the federal funding sources. Hard copies will be made available to the members and it will be posted to the BCATS website.
- The public notices for both the July and September TIP amendments were in the Battle Creek Enquirer as necessary. Both the May and July TIP amendments were federally approved.
- BCATS' Policy Committee action regarding the Transit Safety Plan and safety targets for Battle Creek Transit was provided to BCATS for submittal with their Plan. BCATS staff also provided the information about BCATS addressing the transit safety targets to MDOT for information, as has been done with other performance measure target categories.
- Correspondence was received from the Transportation Asset Management Council indicating that the priority for FY 2020 was federal-aid road rating, although not much of that was occurring at Council standards this year due to MDOT's lack of participating in the rating process. The Council has also decided to allow carryover of Asset Management funds from 2020 to 2021 to facilitate catch-up of rating activity. Karr indicated that this may allow for some local road rating to be done next year in the BCATS area.
- BCATS has received a request for a letter of support for a Calhoun County Road Department Transportation Alternatives Program project and this is the item added to the Technical Committee agenda today.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #8

Tilma shared the screen with the list of changes to the projects that have been announced for this amendment to the current Transportation Improvement Program. He reviewed the projects seeing changes at this time. He noted two additional adjustments to projects that don't require a formal amendment. Tilma noted that Battle Creek Transit has received a

large discretionary grant for vehicles that will be addressed in the November TIP amendment.

It was moved by Parsons, supported by Avis, to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee approve Amendment #8 to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program, as presented.

There was discussion about MDOT's decision to add the auxiliary lane on M-66 from Beckley Road to I-94. Fedders stated that the operation of this corridor is a priority for the local units. The signal at M-66 and Beckley Road is one that there is continued interest in coordinating with the local signals in the immediate vicinity of this MDOT controlled signal. Tilma asked about the process used to develop projects for this area and that this auxiliary lane is a newly identified project and had not been anticipated by BCATS.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
20-18**

B. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Amendment Schedule for FY 2021

Tilma referenced the draft TIP Amendment Schedule for FY 2021 which was displayed to the members on-screen. There was discussion about the various dates depicted on the schedule. He noted the shortening of the anticipated state and federal approval dates on the schedule based on how turn-around experienced recently. It was noted that the Technical Committee meeting date in November will be on the 4th. Both November and December meetings are earlier than normal due to the holidays those months.

It was moved by Parsons, supported by Avis, to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee approve the TIP Amendment Schedule for FY 2021, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
20-19**

C. Letter of Support for Calhoun County Road Department (CCRD) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Project

Parsons informed the Committee of a pending TAP project application for which the CCRD is asking for a letter of support from BCATS. The project would provide a widen shoulder which would serve as a non-motorized path along F Drive North from the Flex N'Gate facility west to Wattles Road. The portion of F Drive from 11 Mile Road to the Flex N'Gate facility already has the wide shoulders serving as a non-motorized facility. The section is along the Calhoun County Trail Alliance's planned trail extension for Calhoun County as part of the Iron Belle trail. The CCRD is requesting \$380,000 for the non-motorized portion of a larger road project along this section of F Drive North.

It was moved by Franklin, supported by Parsons, to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee authorize a letter of support for the proposed TAP project being submitted by the Calhoun County Road Department. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
20-20**

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Chair Fedders announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for October 14, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. Due to the continuing impact of COVID-19, the format for the meeting will be determined closer to the meeting date, but will likely still be a virtual format.

B. Committee Member Comments

Avis reiterated the announcement made by Tilma about the Section 5339 discretionary grant funding awarded to Battle Creek Transit. She stated that the agency is still waiting on word about an additional grant application under the BUILD program for transit.

Sanada stated that the regional non-motorized guide has been updated and copies will be printed, but distribution is still being worked on due to the pandemic.

Parsons offered that the first year of the Emmett Township local road upgrade program has gone fairly smoothly and is wrapping up this month for the year.

Khavajian reported to the Committee that the base year for the BCATS travel demand model has been calibrated. She asked to be able to present the information about the base year model at the next Technical Committee meeting in October.

Fedders stated that work has been completed on the joint project for Main Street between the City and the County. Projects for FY 2021 have been submitted to MDOT and are under-going NEPA review. Fedders noted that the City was able to work with KATS staff to get some local road rating done this year and he thanked BCATS staff for connecting the City with the KATS resource for this. The round-about project at North and Emmett will take some time to meet NEPA review and may have some new concepts developed for garnering public input that are not based on being computer based, like Zoom meetings. There was discussion about the possibility of a round-about project on Skyline Drive at Hill Brady Road and Fedders asked about the potential for funding sources available to the City to implement the project. He asked about future CMAQ funding, which Karr indicated may no longer be allocated to the BCATS area after FY 2023, since the area is now

considered attainment for air quality. The City is also working on a project involving South Airport Road and has pursued Transportation Economic Development Fund Category A financing for that project.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.