

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Policy Committee
Minutes of September 22, 2021 Meeting
Zoom Meeting Format

VOTING MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Mallory Avis, Deb Belles, Chaz Wilkey (for Harry Burdett), Annjanette Kremer, Kevin Leiter, Jeff Franklin, John Midgley, Greg Rickmar and Bill Scutt

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: None

VOTING MEMBERS NOT PARTICIPATING: Derek King and Laveta Hardish

NON-VOTING MEMBERS NOT PARTICIPATING: Andy Pickard and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council

OTHERS PARTICIPATING: Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Vice-Chair Midgley called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. via a Zoom conference meeting. The meeting was held virtually due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic issues with in-person meetings.

ROLL CALL

Karr conducted a roll call of members and any guests. Members indicated their presence for the purpose of establishing a quorum. It was noted that all members are participating virtually and, per the Open Meetings Act Amendment, each member participating virtually indicated their physical location, which is included in the minutes below.

Members participating remotely and location: Avis (City of Battle Creek, MI), Belles (Emmett Charter Township, MI), Wilkey (City of Springfield, MI), Kremer (City of Potterville, MI), , Leiter (Pennfield Charter Township, MI), Franklin (New Haven Township, MI), Midgley (Marshall Township, MI), Rickmar (City of Battle Creek, MI) and Scutt (Bedford Charter Township, MI).

It was determined that a quorum of the voting members were participating.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Kremer, supported by Scutt, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY to approve the agenda.

Res.
21-29

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Scutt, supported by Avis, to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2021 meeting, as presented, subject to any additions, corrections or changes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
21-30**

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr reported the following items of communication:

- BCATS has sent out a request for submittal of projects for the new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which will cover the fiscal years 2023-2026. Completed applications are to be provided back to BCATS by the local road agencies and transit by October 1, 2021. Karr noted that any Committee members wanting to have input to the submittals should contact their appropriate road agency.
- Since the last Policy Committee meeting, some TIP project changes classified as technical correction amendments, not requiring Committee action, have been addressed by BCATS and MDOT staff.
- BCATS has received executed funding agreements from MDOT for the FY 2022 programs, including the consolidated planning grant and the asset management program. The new fiscal year begins October 1, 2021.
- Traffic count work is pretty much wrapped up for this year by the local road agencies.
- Tilma has been working with Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study staff to complete the Asset Management PASER rating process for federal-aid roads in the BCATS area.
- BCATS received safety target information from MDOT earlier this month after the Technical Committee meeting. This item is on the agenda today.
- Work continues on the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) by BCATS staff
- BCATS staff participated in a meeting of the Michigan Transportation Conformity Interagency Work Group (IAWG) on September 15th. This is now a requirement for the MTP and for each TIP amendment executed after October 1, 2021. The IAWG area encompasses Calhoun, Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties.
- BCATS staff was interviewed by a FHWA representative regarding freight planning in the BCATS area. This is a survey conducted by FHWA every two years with the metropolitan planning organizations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS**A. FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #13**

Tilma reviewed the public notice and the four items being considered for this amendment to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program. There were no questions about the projects proposed for this amendment.

It was moved by Kremer, supported by Avis, to approve Amendment #13 to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
21-31**

B. BCATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment Schedule for 2022

Tilma presented the proposed amendment schedule for the current TIP for the new fiscal year 2022. There will continue to be an amendment opportunity every other month starting with November 2021. He noted the dates for submittal of TIP change information for each amendment cycle and the addition of the IAWG aspect of each amendment, as noted by Karr under Communications. BCATS Technical Committee and staff recommend approval of this schedule.

It was moved by Avis, supported by Scutt, to approve the TIP Amendment Schedule for FY 2022, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
21-32**

C. Annual Update Regarding BCATS' Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)

Karr indicated that this Plan is to be updated each year and September is the time frame for the annual update. The only changes this year are to the Policy Committee member listing within the document. An updated member list was presented to the Committee for its acceptance.

It was moved by Leiter, supported by Avis, to approve the update to the COOP, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
21-33**

D. Safety Targets for 2022

Karr discussed the state safety targets that were provided to all of the metropolitan planning organizations in Michigan by MDOT earlier this month. BCATS has chosen to support the state targets in the past rather than develop its own targets, which is an option. Karr indicated that there is a resolution associated with the action BCATS decides to take in regard to the safety targets, which is to be signed by the Chairperson of the Policy Committee. Also included with the advance material for the members was the seven-page handout about the establishment of the state targets that was prepared by MDOT. It is recommended that BCATS continue to support the state targets for this performance measure. Karr noted that this topic is being presented to the Committee at this time in order that the latest safety target information can be included in the MTP update.

It was moved by Scutt, supported by Kremer, to approve the Resolution to Support Department of Transportation State Targets for Safety Performance Measures, as presented for the 2022 targets. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
21-34**

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Vice-Chair Midgley announced that the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 1:30 p.m. In response to a question about the format for the meeting, Karr stated that it will likely still be virtual. She noted that BCATS still has the virtual option since the County has an emergency order in effect until the end of the calendar year. Not all MPOs have this option at this point.

B. Committee Member Comments

Scutt indicated that he would like to talk with Midgley about a new type of speed signing for which he has samples, which he displayed.

There were no other Committee member comments this meeting.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Midgley adjourned the meeting at 1:59 p.m.