

**BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

**Technical Committee**

**Minutes of September 8, 2021 Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Carl Fedders, Kristine Parsons, Brian Sanada, Luke Walters, and Chaz Wilkey  
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: Battle Creek Community Development Department  
Non-voting: Andy Pickard and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

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

Chair Parsons called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. via Zoom.

**ROLL CALL**

A roll call was conducted of members and any guests.

Members participating remotely and location: Avis (City of Battle Creek, MI), Wilkey (City of Springfield, MI), Fedders (City of Battle Creek, MI), Walters (City of Lansing, MI), Parsons (Marshall Township, MI), and Sanada (Antwerp Township, MI).

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

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**It was moved by Fedders, supported by Avis, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
21-20**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**It was moved by Avis supported by Fedders, to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2021 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
21-21**

## COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- There was no TIP amendment in July. There have been some administrative adjustments that Tilma has processed since the last amendment in May.
- Information has been received from MDOT's air quality staff as to the new process that will have to be followed for the MPO relative to air quality with every TIP amendment.
- BCATS has received project authorizations for the new fiscal year for both Consolidated Planning Grant funds and Asset Management funds. There is an extra authorization being executed to extend the FY 2021 Asset Management funds until the end of FY 2022.
- The audit firm has been set up for this year's audit, to be conducted after the end of the fiscal year. BCATS also has to let MDOT know how much funding is expected to be spent by the end of the current fiscal year, which ends September 30, 2021.

Tilma noted that he is working last week and this week with staff from the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study to complete Asset Management PASER road rating activity within the BCATS area.

Karr asked Fedders about the status of the City of Battle Creek's Asset Management Plan and the prospects for having all the billings for that process turned in to BCATS before the end of the fiscal year. Fedders indicated that the final Plan is going to the City Commission and all bills should be available for processing yet this fiscal year.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

## NEW BUSINESS

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

Tilma reviewed the items included in the amendment this month. A public notice has been published for the amendment in the *Battle Creek Enquirer*. There were no questions from the members.

**It was moved by Fedders, supported by Wilkey, to recommend approval by the BCATS Policy Committee of Amendment #13 to the FY 2020-2023 TIP, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
21-22**

**B. TIP Amendment Schedule for FY 2022**

Tilma presented the schedule that he developed which indicates the potential amendment schedule for the FY 2020-2023 TIP for the next fiscal year. The schedule maintains an every other month opportunity for amendment consideration by the BCATS Committees. Tilma noted the dates for amendment material to be provided to BCATS, the dates of Policy Committee meetings, the dates for public notices, the joint planner's pre-amendment reviews, and air quality interagency work group meetings. The draft schedule will be posted for Technical Committee members on the BCATS website prior to Policy Committee action..

Tilma pointed out that due to development of a new TIP next year, the last month for any amendments to FY 2023 projects will be in May 2022. The last opportunity to amend FY 2022 projects will be the July 2022 amendment.

**It was moved by Fedders, supported by Walters, to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee approve the TIP Amendment Schedule for FY 2022, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
21-23**

**C. Initiation of Development of FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Tilma shared the screen to show the MDOT recommended development schedule for the next iteration of the TIP which will include the fiscal years 2023-2026. Karr stated that forms for submittal of projects for consideration in the next TIP have been sent out to the local agencies and transit. Project forms are due back to BCATS by October 1<sup>st</sup>. BCATS will subsequently schedule a meeting of the TIP Subcommittee to review all submitted projects. BCATS is starting the process of new TIP development a bit earlier this year in response to the recommended schedule provided by MDOT and the need to identify certain types of projects earlier than in the past for funding consideration purposes. There will also be an air quality component that wasn't required for the last TIP.

This was an information/discussion item not requiring action at this time.

**D. BCATS 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) - Progress Report, Draft Documentation, and Draft List of Recommended Improvements**

Karr noted that a couple of new draft chapters for the MTP are posted for the Committee members as handouts for this meeting. There are still parts to add, but the material is advancing. Additional chapters are being developed and staff will be providing them to the Technical Committee members for comment. The material will be left on this meeting's handout list until the next meeting. Karr indicated that the members are welcome to provide comments any of the material to-date. She noted that another newsletter was produced and distributed to public involvement and input. The newsletter was distributed at the end of July.

This 2045 MTP will have to undergo a process for air quality, unlike the last Plan update. This involves the group Tilma referenced that is termed the Michigan Transportation Conformity Interagency Work Group (MITC-IAWG). The group will meet to determine if there are projects in the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek MTPs that are not exempt from air quality conformity testing. At this point, there do not appear to be any projects in the BCATS area for the updated Plan that are not air quality exempt. The meeting of the MITC-IAWG for the Plans is scheduled for next Wednesday.

## COMMENTS

### A. Next Meeting

As Parsons needed to leave the meeting, Vice-Chair Fedders announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for October 13, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. At this time, it is expected that the October meeting will still be conducted in a virtual format.

### B. Committee Member Comments

Kernstock reported that the Calhoun County Road Department is wrapping up the Emmett Township local road project for this year and the federal-aid road projects are going well and mostly completed.

Sanada indicated that the MDOT Southwest Region is sponsoring a virtual Advanced Training Wheels training. The deadline for registering for next week's sessions (Sept. 14-16) is this Friday.

Fedders stated that the City's bridge work is done and most road work is also done. The City was not successful with the safety grants that were submitted. The City will be pursuing alternate funding sources to implement the Skyline Drive/Hill Brady Road round-about project in conjunction with the military.

### C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.