

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of September 13, 2023 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Donna Hutchison (for Mallory Avis), Heather Bowden, Jarret Geering, Josh Grab, Skylar Cudney (for Kristine Parsons), Travis Sullivan, and Chaz Wilkey

Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: None

Non-voting: Jenny Staroska and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Franklin, Madee Thorburn and Pat Karr

Acting Chair Geering called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Springfield City Hall Council Chambers, 601 Avenue A, Springfield MI.

ROLL CALL

Geering asked all in attendance to introduce themselves. It was determined that a quorum of the voting members was present. It was announced that Travis Sullivan is the new representative to the Technical Committee for the City of Battle Creek Planning Department.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Wilkey, supported by Grab, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-20**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jeff Franklin took the opportunity to thank the Calhoun County Road Department and MDOT for the change to 4-way stops at the 11 Mile Road and B Drive N and S intersections, as well as the chip seal work done by the County in the same general area.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Wilkey, supported by Bowden, to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2023 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-21**

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- A public notice for Amendment #6 to the current TIP was published on September 7th in the Battle Creek Enquirer.
- The FY 2024 Unified Work Program was approved federally and copies are being provided to the members today. This Work Program goes into effect October 1, 2023.
- After the discussion about changes to federal funding amounts for the next few years, a meeting of the TIP Subcommittee was held in July and adjustments are being made to the 2024-2026 local projects to meet the anticipated revised financial constraints. Final figures for 2024 will not be available from the federal government until after October 1st.
- Karr announced that the BCATS Policy Committee met on August 16, 2023 and selected Jeff Franklin to succeed Pat Karr as Executive Director of BCATS. Franklin, who has been employed as a supervisor in the Statewide Planning Section of MDOT, will start at BCATS on October 2nd and work with Karr for three months to transition the duties of the position to him.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #6

Karr indicated that material for this item was provided to the Committee members in advance of the meeting. There are 9 items included in this amendment. As noted under Communications, the public notice for the amendment was published last week.

It was moved by Wilkey, supported by Grab, to recommend approval of Amendment #6 to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program by the BCATS Policy Committee, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-22**

B. FY 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment Schedule

Due to Tilma's absence for several days due to illness, this item is being delayed until the October Technical Committee meeting. Karr noted that the next TIP amendment is scheduled for November and submissions for that amendment will be due to BCATS by October 27th in all likelihood, based on the new amendment schedule.

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Acting Chair Geering announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for October 11, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

B. Committee Member Comments

Grab reported on several MDOT construction projects underway within the BCATS area. The most notable is that the Capital Avenue Bridge reopening has been delayed a week until September 30th. This will allow the contractor to rebuild the westbound off and on ramps within a two week time period instead of an eight week time period. Grab also indicated that the I-194 PEL Study is moving along. He and Madee Thorburn had a display at the Calhoun County Fair in August to inform the public of the PEL Study and to solicit comments. They felt it was a successful public outreach effort. The next public meeting for the Study is planned for the end of October.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:51 p.m.