

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Policy Committee

Minutes of September 25, 2024 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Richard Bayus, Deb Belles, Harry Burdett, Brian Kernstock
(for Kristine Parsons), Annjanette Kremer, Kevin Leiter, and Steve Skalski
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: Laveta Hardish, Derek King, and Carl Kinzel
Non-voting: Jenny Staroska and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council
(SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Franklin and Andy Tilma

Chair Burdett called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. in the Council Room of the Susan L. Anderson Municipal Building (Springfield City Hall), 601 Avenue A, Springfield MI 49037.

ROLL CALL

Burdett asked all members and staff in attendance to introduce themselves. It was determined that a quorum of the voting members was present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

**Res.
24-26**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Belles, supported by Kernstock, to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2024 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
24-27**

COMMUNICATIONS

Franklin shared the following communications:

- The MDOT Model Inventory Roadway Elements/Fundamental Data Elements (MIRE/FDE) transportation planner, Heather Hoeve, is scheduled to attend next month's BCATS' Technical Committee meeting, October 9th, to give a presentation on the basics of MIRE/FDE for the sake of our local agencies.
- The City of Battle Creek informed BCATS' staff of the resignation of Jarret Geering, former City engineer, as of July 30th. Jarret had been serving as chairperson of BCATS' Technical Committee. The Vice Chair, Brian Kernstock, will serve as chairperson of BCATS' Technical Committee for the remainder of this term.
- Richard Werner, retired Transit Manager for City of Battle Creek and longtime BCATS' committee member, passed away September 4th.
- MDOT hosted their mid-performance reporting period coordination meeting with MPOs in July and August, to discuss the forthcoming target updates to all performance measures with a mid-performance period – Pavement Condition, Bridge Condition, and System Reliability. BCATS' Committees will be asked to entertain new support of these altered state targets at forthcoming meetings this fall. BCATS's Committees will also entertain support for the annual Safety performance measure targets (which are annual, and do not have a mid-performance period).
- TAMC hosted a regional coordination catch-up call in July to gauge MPO and Regional Planning Agency progress on TAMC data collection efforts for FY24. BCATS reported on our now completed effort of PASER/IBR data collection on 325+ centerline miles of Non-Fed Aid/Local County roads within the BCATS' planning area.
- BCATS' staff met with Terry Martin, Carrier & Gable, to discuss the potential for an Emergency Vehicle Preemption MPO areawide project within the FY2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program. The City of Battle Creek currently utilizes EVP equipment for some of the area traffic signal network. Such a project would effectively support federal/state transportation performance measure targets, as well as the goals of the BCATS' metropolitan long-range transportation plan.
- BCATS's director, Jeff Franklin, has been elected by the Michigan Transportation Planning Association, of which BCATS' is a member, as the Association chairperson for a two-year term from August 2024 through July 2026.
- BCATS Consolidated Planning Grant and Asset Management grant contracts with MDOT have been executed prior to the fiscal year start.
- BCATS property and liability insurances will once again be through Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority. Our 2025 rate is \$24 lower than the previous year, with BCATS' excess fund distribution increased to \$969, recorded as 2024 miscellaneous revenue.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #12

Tilma reviewed the list of projects being proposed for Amendment #12 to the FY 2023-2026 TIP. Tilma highlighted the removal of the Barberry Drive/Dickman Road location from the MDOT vulnerable road users' project. Kremer stated that the TSC was not consulted on this removal, however, the TSC has found a way to proceed with similar treatment at this intersection within the existing Capital Preventative Maintenance project underway on Dickman Road. Burdett expressed gratitude for this outcome. Tilma also highlighted the changing locations of a regionwide asphalt treatment project and how BCATS' Policy Committee was being asked to approve these compiled changes at today's meeting.

It was moved by Kremer, supported by Skalski, to approve Amendment #12 to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
24-28**

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

Franklin reviewed the annual update to the BCATS' Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan and answered questions.

It was moved by Belles, supported by Skalski, to approve the annual update to the BCATS' Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
24-29**

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Chair Burdett announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Policy Committee is scheduled for October 23, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

B. Committee Member Comments

Kremer reported the ongoing I-94 bridge project is going well, with winter restoration work already commencing. The bridge over the Kalamazoo River continues to see the majority of active work.

Kremer also reported the Battle Creek Rest Area is currently closed, and is being rebuilt, with a scheduled reopening of Memorial Day weekend in 2025.

Kernstock reported that the S Wattles Road project is almost complete. Kernstock also reported that Newton Township gravel roads will see maintenance, commencing soon until the start of winter. The transition to winter maintenance mode has started.

Belles expressed gratitude for the Wattles Road projects, and appreciation for her time on the BCATS' Policy Committee. This will likely be her final meeting with the group.

Skalski reported that the Capital Avenue project is substantially completed, with a gap near the former Graphics Packaging facility (in the midst of demolition). When the plant demolition is completed, the Capital Avenue project will be completed between Dickman and Hamblin. The City also recently started a resurfacing project on Kendall between Dickman and Michigan.

Avis reported that Battle Creek Transit has four new buses hitting the roads on Monday, September 30th. The buses feature automated wheelchair securement, which allows passengers to position themselves into the securement location, without physical interaction with the bus driver. Avis also reported on the rebranding of TACC to Ride Calhoun and the Congressionally Designated Spending grant (Senator Gary Peters) received by Ride Calhoun for various capital purchases. The Ride Calhoun ballot initiative is coming up this November, with an ask of 2.66 mils, which would generate just over \$5 million in revenue. The public should start to see promotional materials through various outlets this coming week.

Bayus reported that the statewide drunk driving penalty (from USDOT against State of Michigan) will be in effect for Fiscal Year 2025 (which impacts/decreases all MPO funding statewide). However, Michigan legislature should act to prevent any consequence for Fiscal Years 2026 and beyond.

Tilma announced that BCATS is working with Committees to development the forthcoming 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program. BCATS and MDOT have also scheduled a kick-off meeting to discuss the travel demand forecast model, as a precursor for the development of the next BCATS's long-range plan (2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan).

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Burdett adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.