

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of September 11, 2024 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Darren Campbell (for Steve Skalski), Skylar Cudney (for Brian Kernstock), Max Gierman, Josh Grab, Travis Sullivan and Chaz Wilkey
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: Mallory Avis
Non-voting: Jenny Staroska and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Franklin, Adrian Stroupe and Andrew Tilma

Cudney (for Vice Chair Brian Kernstock) called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. in the Springfield City Hall Council Chambers, 601 Avenue A, Springfield MI.

ROLL CALL

Cudney asked all 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 Wilkey, supported by Sullivan, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
24-15**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Wilkey, supported by Grab, to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2024 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
24-16**

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, thus the agenda item later today to elect an interim chairperson through December 2024.
- MDOT Urban Obligation Specialist, Michele Zaverucha, P.E., shared that she'll attend the BCATS' Policy Committee meeting on September 25th, for local agency members who wish to meet her, and put a face to the name.
- Richard Werner, retired Transit Manager for City of Battle Creek and longtime BCATS' committee member, passed away September 4th, with funeral service held this morning. Battle Creek Transit staff were unavailable to attend today's BCATS' meeting.
- 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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Nomination & Election of Interim Technical Committee Chair for Remainder of 2024

Franklin stated that with the resignation of current chairperson Geering, an interim chairperson needed to be elected by BCATS Technical Committee members to serve the remainder of 2024. Franklin stated that Brian Kernstock, current Vice Chair, volunteered to be the interim chairperson. Skylar Cudney volunteered to be the interim Vice Chair for the remainder of 2024.

It was moved by Wilkey, supported by Sullivan, to elect Brian Kernstock as the interim chairperson, and Skylar Cudney as the interim vice chairperson, for the remainder of the 2024 term. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
24-17**

B. FY2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #12

Tilma reviewed the list of projects 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. Tilma also highlighted the changing locations of a regionwide asphalt crack treatment project.

It was moved by Grab, supported by Wilkey, to recommend approval of the FY2023-2026 TIP Amendment #12 by the BCATS Policy Committee, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
24-18**

C. Development of FY2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Tilma reviewed the timeline for the forthcoming FY2026-2029 TIP local call for projects (CFP), and what agency members can expect of the CFP process. The group discussed how to best present a 2026-2029 TIP list of projects that would collectively meet federal/state performance measure target and BCATS' long range plan goals.

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Vice Chair Cudney announced the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for October 9, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

B. Committee Member Comments

Grab reported that MDOT has received the final report from the Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study that was done on I-194 over the last two years. The final recommendations of the PEL study are that either alternative for I-194 (rebuilding an in-kind limited access freeway, or, converting to an at-grade boulevard) is feasible, and would address the goals of the PEL. No funding currently exists for either option. Grab also reported on an MDOT Southwest Region goal to reduce the number of overall change requests to any particular job, so as to prevent additional work by MDOT and the affected MPOs in addressing so many consecutive changes, or contradictory changes.

Cudney reported that Calhoun County Road Department is about to choose an engineering design contractor for the forthcoming 2026 Verona Road project (BCATS portion would be 11 Mile Road eastward to 12 Mile Road). Franklin and Tilma reported to the group that an inquiry had been received from Marshall Township about project expenditures along Verona Road within Marshall Township. Information was provided in response to the inquiry, however only Verona Road within Emmett Township is within BCATS' metropolitan planning area. Marshall Township is not covered by BCATS.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.