

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of October 12, 2016 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Terry Blaniar, Chris Dopp, Rick Fowler, Angela Kline, Jason Latham, Glenn Perian, and Rich Werner
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: None
Non-voting: Andy Pickard (FHWA) and SMPC

OTHERS PRESENT: Fred Oaks, Denise Smith, Dharmesh Valsadia, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Dopp called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. in the Council Room of Springfield City Hall, 601 Avenue A, Springfield, MI 49037.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present (see above for voting members present). Introductions were made for the benefit of all in attendance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Werner, supported by Perian, to approve the agenda, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
16-26

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Latham, supported by Werner, to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2016 meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
16-27

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- Karr has met with Battle Creek Transit staff to work on moving forward the 5303 transit planning study.
- An additional Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) has been published relative to the “Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Reform” NPRM that came out in June, 2016. The current 2-page NPRM asks for comments on certain aspects of the prior NPRM, with comments due by October 24, 2016.
- Final approval has been received by BCATS for the FY 2017 Unified Work Program (UWP), as well as approval of the indirect cost rate associated with the financials in that UWP. Copies of the FY 2017 UWP have already been provided to the Committee members.
- The FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) has also recently been approved by the federal agencies. Final copies of that document were distributed by Tilma.
- The Michigan State Police/Office of Highway Safety Planning news release reporting the results of special Labor Day enforcement efforts was distributed to the members for their information.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Tilma noted the approval of the new TIP that Karr spoke of under “Communications” and indicated that the first amendment opportunity for that document is already coming up in November. Material for any amendment requests needs to be provided to BCATS by November 2nd in order to be considered for the November amendment. Staff will prepare a public notice for the amendment. Tilma reviewed the items he currently has to include in the November amendment. Werner commented on the transit 5339 discretionary funding application that did not get funded. He stated that they have feedback from the grant process that will assist them with applying in the future. Karr added that part of the feedback includes the desire of the reviewers to see more letters of support for the project. There was further discussion about the items that are expected to be included in the upcoming amendment.

Valsadia reported that the CMAQ project application to add a deceleration lane southbound on M-66 at Glen Cross Road has been approved. Optimally, the project will be able to be constructed as much in conjunction with the already planned M-66 roadway project as possible. However, due to the timing of the approval of this additional work along the segment, it could occur after the mainline work is completed.

Tilma announced that the MDOT “snapshot” of the status of TIP items is expected next Monday.

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

B. BCATS 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) - Progress Report

Tilma reviewed the status of the update to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Various sections of the Plan document are being worked on by staff.

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

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Chair Dopp announced that the next regular Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at the same location.

B. Committee Member Comments

Latham introduced Denise Smith, the new Southwest Region Planner, working out of the Kalamazoo office.

Tilma noted the recent article in the local paper about the MDOT Director’s proposal to change the transportation funding distribution formula for road agencies. There was general discussion about this topic.

Dopp indicated that the “Quiet Zone” railroad project in downtown Battle Creek is nearing completion. Once all of the upgrades are in place at the crossings, the trains will no longer be sounding their whistles through the greater downtown Battle Creek area.

Werner reported that there is work being done on the City of Battle Creek partnering with Calhoun County in the area of county transit service opportunities. A meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2017 to further pursue this topic. He noted that the Battle Creek “Vision” effort is also involved with the transportation issue as part of its process.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments offered.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Dopp at 2:07 p.m.