

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of October 13, 2021 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Susan Cronander, Carl Fedders, Brian Kernstock (for Kristine Parsons), Brian Sanada, Jeff Franklin (for Luke Walters), and Chaz Wilkey
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: None
Non-voting: Andy Pickard and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Fred Featherly, Corey Hackworth, Daniela Khavajian, Terry Martin, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Vice-Chair Fedders called the meeting to order at 1:30 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 Battle Creek, MI), Cronander (City of Battle Creek, MI), Fedders (City of Battle Creek, MI), Franklin (New Haven Township, MI), Kernstock (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 Kernstock, supported by Sanada, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
21-24**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Avis supported by Wilkey, to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2021 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
21-25**

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- The September TIP amendment #13 was submitted to MDOT and FHWA and was federally approved on October 6th. All of those changes are now official.
- BCATS received a request from Battle Creek Transit for a letter of support for a capital project application being submitted to the Federal Transit Administration next month. This topic is on today's agenda.
- BCATS now has the information needed to comply with the air quality aspect of every TIP amendment, as now required. The Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) amendment schedule is the opposite of BCATS', with an amendment this month. BCATS will observe how the process goes for KATS on the air quality matter in preparing for the BCATS amendment in November.
- Asset Management PASER field work was completed by BCATS and KATS staff in September. KATS staff will report the data to the Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council.
- The local road agencies and transit were thanked for their submittals of project applications for the next TIP, for FY 2023-2026, currently under development.
- MDOT's safety target information for 2022 was received the day after the September Technical Committee meeting. The targets were acted upon by the BCATS Policy Committee at its September meeting and the appropriate documentation has been sent to MDOT.
- Per the adopted TIP amendment schedule, information for the next BCATS TIP amendment in November is due to the staff office by October 22nd.
- The Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council is holding a virtual fall conference at the end of October, Wednesday and Thursday October 27-28, from 9:00am to noon each day. There is no charge and interested individuals can likely still sign up for the conference on-line at the TAMC website.
- Springfield City Hall is currently closed until October 22nd, which has resulted in BCATS' staff working remotely once again.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. Letter of Support for Battle Creek Transit's Application for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5339 - Bus and Bus Facilities Discretionary Grant

Fedders noted that the request from BCT and a draft letter of support from BCATS were provided in the advance material for the Technical Committee members. Avis reviewed

the request for support of BCT's application and the intent to construct a new transit facility that would support a greater regional transit program and modal interconnectivity. The request being made for the discretionary grant is for \$13.2 million for this purpose.

It was moved by Kernstock, supported by Wilkey, to authorize a letter of support for Battle Creek Transit's Bus and Bus Facilities Discretionary Grant application to FTA. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
21-26**

B. BCATS 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) - Progress Report and Draft Documentation

Karr indicated that two additional chapters for the update of the 2045 Plan were posted in advance of the meeting. This follows the chapters that were provided for comment in July and again in September. She highlighted the new Performance-Based Planning chapter that is a new section since the last Plan update was done.

Fedders noted the need to change the reference to the acronym EGLE for the state environmental agencies listed in the Consultation chapter.

Karr stated that the goal is for local approval of the 2045 Plan within the next two months. She requested comments from Technical Committee members on all of the material provided to-date.

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

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Vice-Chair Fedders announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for November 3, 2021 at 1:30 p.m., a week early due to the Thanksgiving holiday later in the month. At this time, it is expected that the November 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 Morgan Road project and the Emmett Township local road project for this year.

Wilkey stated that the Springfield Department of Public Works building expansion is nearly complete.

C. Public Comments

Corey Hackworth, of the MDOT Marshall Transportation Service Center, reported on MDOT projects in the BCATS area. This included the M-96 (Columbia Avenue) Helmer to I-194 project, I-94 skip-paving, and M-311 fixed object removal and skip paving projects (almost all completed). He indicated that the upcoming large I-94 Design Build project will have a You-Tube video explaining the project. There will also be a public meeting about the work to be held, likely in December.

There were no further public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m.