

**BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Policy Committee
Minutes of October 25, 2023 Meeting**

- MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Deb Belles, Harry Burdett, Derek King, Kevin Leiter, Don Mayle, John Midgley, Steve Skalski, and Madee Thorburn (for Annjanette Kremer)
Non-voting: None
- MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: Laveta Hardish, and Dennis McKinley
Non-voting: Jenny Staroska and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)
- OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Franklin, Pat Karr, and Andrew Tilma

Chair Burdett called the meeting to order at 1:30 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 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 Midgley, supported by Skalski, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-47**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Midgley, supported by Skalski, to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2023 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-48**

COMMUNICATIONS

Franklin shared the following communications:

- Amendment #6 to the current TIP, which was approved by the BCATS Policy Committee in September had been approved by FHWA on October 18th.
- With the short-term federal funding extension, it is important to have project packets submitted to LAP as soon as possible since there was only a small amount of obligation authority released during the first 45-day period, and again during any other short-term extensions that may follow.
- MDOT Local Agency Programs released their 2025 Safety Program local projects, and CCRD has three jobs on that_list – Struwin Road – from White Rabbit to Baseline – tree removal/chip seal; B Drive South – 8 Mile to 12 Mile – tree clearing only; T Drive S – Jackson Rd to M-60 – tree removal.
- At the monthly Michigan MPO association meeting, a discussion on Title VI Plans took place. Federal and MDOT counterparts state that MPOs can no longer self-investigate Title VI complaints – that they are to be sent to MDOT for investigation. MPOs have asked MDOT to provide an updated contact person. Karr and Franklin reviewed the current BCATS Title VI plan for compliance, and find that it already sufficiently addresses these criteria.
- MDOT has reported that the 2025 Federal Aid Buyout Program Call For Projects will be delayed until January (originally set for October). MDOT may not be able to match all their Federal aid with limited state funds. Options are being explored. The delay in this Call For Projects allows for MDOT to determine what the 2025 maximum Fed Aid Buyout Program amount can be.
- The 2024 Safety Transportation Performance Measure targets/predictions have been released. As in the past, MPOs may support these state predictions or create a methodology in which to adopt their own quantitative driven Performance Measure targets. BCATS staff recommends support of the state targets, and will be bringing the Safety newsletter and request for support to BCATS Committees in December.
- The City of Battle Creek has invited BCATS staff to participate in the Beckley Road Corridor Redevelopment Study as a Steering Committee Member. The Steering Committee will meet monthly from December 2023 through September 2024, to advise and make recommendations about the planning process to a consultant team working on this Study. Karr and Franklin will attend the kickoff meeting on December 5th, where this Committee will be reviewing public involvement strategies and providing input on a community survey.
- The Calhoun County Road Department has requested BCATS and MDOT NFC Planner(s) concurrence on a proposed modification to the National Functional Classification of 6 Mile Road between Beckley/B Drive N and B Drive S. The County wants to update the functional classification from Local Road to Minor Collector. MDOT requires the local agency achieve concurrence on eligibility with MPO and MDOT staff, followed by bringing the proposal to the Committees for local support/approval. BCATS would then send Policy Committee approval to MDOT for their submittal to FHWA for Federal approval of the change. This is expected to be a November agenda item. Avis questioned staff about an overall review of NFC for the entire BCATS area. MDOT NFC Planner(s) will be leading BCATS members in that task within the coming year, performed post

decennial census. Tilma responded that this CCRD request is a single request that can occur at any time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Bi-Monthly TIP Amendment Schedule for FY 2024

Tilma reviewed the TIP Amendment Schedule for FY 2024 which was provided to the members. He noted the dates outlined in red which are the dates for having amendment information to BCATS for each amendment cycle.

It was moved by King, supported by Belles, to approve the Amendment Schedule for FY 2024, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-49**

B. Update on Year-End for BCATS and FY 2023 Audit Status

Karr provided an update on the year-end progress of BCATS and the audit status for Fiscal Year 2023. The audit is currently scheduled for November 16th with the audit firm. A completed audit for FY 2023 is expected to come to the Policy Committee in January 2024.

This was a discussion item, not requiring action.

C. Report from the BCATS Study Management Committee

Avis indicated that staff health insurances for CY 2024 was reviewed by the Study Management Committee and that the Committee is recommending continuing with the current health, dental, and life insurance options for BCATS staff, along with the same HSA contributions relative to calendar year 2024.

It was moved by Midgley, supported by Skalski, to approve the recommendation of the Study Management Committee regarding BCATS staff insurance coverage and HSA contributions for calendar year 2024. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-50**

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Chair Burdett announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Policy Committee is scheduled for November 15, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

B. Committee Member Comments

Mayle reported that certain large MPO funding allocations had not been deposited by FHWA yet for FY 2024, as FHWA incorporates 2020 Census figures into those allocation formulas. Thus, all allocation announcements are on hold until the first week of November. Estimates sent out in June 2023 for FY 2024, which BCATS currently has programmed within, will likely be lower than these final FY 2024 numbers (thus BCATS ought to see a bit more funding to program to). Mayle announced the new West Unit Supervisor in Statewide Planning is Heather Bowden. Backfill for Heather's position is underway.

Midgley reported that County projects are wrapping up. There is a delay in some pavement parking project completion. Midgley announced his retirement effective the end of calendar year 2023. Congratulations were given by other members.

Skalski announced the roundabout at Hill Brady and Skyline is open to traffic, with some beautification work yet to be completed. The Beckley Road watermain project is almost completed – the watermain is in, and paving should occur very soon.

Belles announced that details on the watermain project between Battle Creek and Marshall have been decided upon – they are preparing to start, maybe commencing this winter.

Avis reported that the congressional spending 'earmark' request is still on the books for the TACC – 1.5 million from Senator Gary Peters. The TACC has passed the 30-day mark for municipalities to opt in or opt out. The municipalities that have opted in to the TACC are the Cities of Albion, Battle Creek, Marshall, and Springfield. No townships or villages have opted in to the TACC. Funding is being looked at for FY 2025 options. Avis addressed questions of members about the TACC, its potential funding, and potential routing with those municipalities that opted in.

Thorburn reported that the I-94 bridge project is proceeding on schedule, and that traffic will be put back onto the original alignment before winter.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Burdett adjourned the meeting at 2:04 p.m.