

**BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

**Technical Committee**

**Minutes of October 9, 2024 Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Max Gierman, Brian Kernstock, Steve Skalski, Adrian Stroupe (for Josh Grab), Travis Sullivan and Chaz Wilkey

Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: None

Non-voting: Jenny Staroska and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Franklin, Heather Hoeve, and Andrew Tilma

Chair Kernstock called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. in the Springfield City Hall Council Chambers, 601 Avenue A, Springfield MI.

**ROLL CALL**

Kernstock 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 Skalski, supported by Wilkey, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
24-19**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**It was moved by Wilkey, supported by Skalski, to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2024 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
24-20**

## COMMUNICATIONS

Franklin shared the following communications:

- MDOT has updated JobNet for improved air quality conformity reporting. BCATS was required to reconcile all 2025 and 2026 projects on the BCATS' Transportation Improvement Program after the JobNet update was applied. The reconciliation has been completed, and all of the 2025 local jobs are capable of obligation. The BCATS component of all MDOT jobs is also up-to-date.
- Calhoun County Road Department was successful in the FY2026 Local Safety Program call for projects. Two projects were selected within the BCATS area: a tree removal project along B Drive North from Beadle Lake Road eastward to 12 Mile Road; and a tree removal project along 6 Mile Road from Hickory Hills Drive southward to K Drive South.
- MDOT led BCATS staff through a travel demand forecast model kickoff meeting, as an early step in the overall development of our next Metropolitan Transportation Plan. In Spring 2025, BCATS' local agencies will be asked to review employment and demographic data.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

## NEW BUSINESS

### A. FY2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment Schedule for FY2025

Tilma reviewed the draft calendar of TIP amendments proposed for Fiscal Year 2025. Tilma highlighted the month of July as being earlier than typical to accommodate BCATS' staff attendance at the annual Michigan Transportation Planning Association conference. Tilma also highlighted the particular calendar changes necessary to accommodate the development and eventual approval of the forthcoming FY2026-2029 TIP.

**It was moved by Avis, supported by Skalski, to recommend approval of the FY2023-2026 TIP Amendment Schedule for 2025 by the BCATS Policy Committee, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
24-21**

### B. Model Inventory of Roadway Elements – Fundamental Data Elements (MIRE FDE); Presentation

Heather Hoeve, MDOT MIRE FDE Local Outreach Coordinator gave a presentation on the basics of MIRE FDE data collection and review, including what steps MDOT has developed for the data

collection, and the expected review process from local agencies either within RoadSoft or via an online Experience Builder platform developed by MDOT.

**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. Tilma presented information about the current MDOT Five Year Plan, which includes some projects that would appear on the BCATS FY2026-2029 TIP. Tilma also briefly discussed the opportunity to change existing priorities of the overlapping 2026 project year, which would otherwise copy from the current FY2023-2026 TIP to the forthcoming FY2026-2029 TIP.

**COMMENTS**

**A. Next Meeting**

Chair Kernstock announced the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for November 6, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

**B. Committee Member Comments**

Kernstock reported that Calhoun County Road Department has chosen the engineering design contractor AECOM for the forthcoming 2026 Verona Road project (BCATS portion would be 11 Mile Road eastward to 12 Mile Road).

Stroupe reported on an opportunity to register for an upcoming MDOT sponsored non-motorized training, "Training Wheels: On-Road Bicycle Facility Design". This training seeks to educate community leaders in making Michigan a more bicycle friendly state.

**C. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.