

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of November 16, 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: Justian Crane, Denise Smith, Dharmesh Valsadia, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Dopp called the meeting to order at 1:32 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 Perian, supported by Blaniar, to approve the agenda, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
16-28**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Perian, supported by Kline, to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2016 meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
16-29**

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- Karr noted that the pass-through agreement with the City of Battle Creek/Battle Creek Transit has been completed and submitted to MDOT. The study work is moving forward on the 5303 transit planning study.
- Karr submitted comments related to the additional Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that was published relative to the “Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Reform.” The comments were submitted before the October 24, 2016 deadline.
- Karr will be attending a public transit subcommittee meeting of the Battle Creek Vision group tomorrow.
- Karr has provided information to Calhoun County relative to opportunities for transit planning funding for rural areas of the County.
- Staff has become aware of an MDOT website that may provide helpful information for local engineers and planners when dealing with questions from the public about road issues. The site is michigan.gov/realitycheck, and it has various “Reality Check” fact sheets on a variety of topics. Karr distributed an example of these fact sheets dealing with sign replacement.
- On October 24th, Karr attended a meeting of the state sponsored Region 3 Local Safety Study being conducted by a consultant, Hubbell Roth Clark. The next meeting for this study is expected in January, 2017. BCATS has received a map indicating high fatality and A-level crash locations.
- A brochure was distributed for the upcoming “Transportation Bonanza” event being held in Lansing.

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) - Amendment #1

Tilma discussed the contents of the proposed first amendment to the new FY 2017-2020 TIP. There are several item being considered for the amendment.

It was moved by Kline, supported by Werner, to recommend Policy Committee approval of Amendment #1 to the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
16-30**

B. BCATS 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Karr discussed the Plan components and reviewed the financial chapter that was recently completed. Tilma highlighted the components of the project listing for the Plan, including the multi-year categories for preservation activities and some types of transit projects. There is also an illustrative list of projects for the Plan that are not to be included in the financial constraint consideration. These projects will be discussed in the narrative section of the document. There was additional discussion about the Plan update. Karr noted that there are no requirements for air quality modeling at present due to the Battle Creek area's current air quality status of "attainment." The air quality narrative discussion included in the Plan is similar to that which was recently included in the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

It was moved by Werner, supported by Perian, to recommend Policy Committee approval of the BCATS 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
16-31**

C. Appointment of Nominating Committee for 2017 Technical Committee Officers

Chair Dopp appointed Kline and Fowler to serve as the Nominating Committee for this task. They agreed to serve in this function. The Nominating Committee is to report a slate for action at the December Technical Committee meeting.

COMMENTS**A. Next Meeting**

Chair Dopp announced that the next regular Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at the same location.

B. Committee Member Comments

Tilma asked about the status of the Verona CMAQ project and if it is proceeding. Kline replied in the affirmative, stating that with new engineers at the County, this project is a good learning experience for their staff. It was noted that Springfield is looking at funding options for a vehicle replacement that will have to be done ahead of the original schedule due to equipment failure.

Dopp indicated that the City of Battle Creek's "Quiet Zone" project is nearing completion, but there is still work dependent upon the railroad that has not been finished quite yet.

In response to a question from Karr about an article in the *Battle Creek Enquirer*, Dopp reported that the City of Battle Creek is subscribing for another year to the Traffic Land software that

allows for public viewing of the output of the City's traffic cameras. This led to a discussion about the City's Traffic Management Center and plans for that Center into the future.

Karr emphasized the importance of getting projects submitted to Local Agency Programs at MDOT as early as possible. Karr also discussed with the members the option of using "advance construct" as a tool to advance projects. This will be discussed further in the future.

Werner asked what the process is for changes in BCATS' Committee membership as a result of the election. Karr reported that two current township supervisors were not re-elected, including the Chair of the BCATS Policy Committee. The new supervisors are automatically new members of the Policy Committee. Karr has already sent them letters regarding participating in BCATS. There was further discussion about the status of representatives from the City of Battle Creek and the County Board of Commissioners. Both of these groups hold organizational meetings after the election time.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments offered.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Dopp at 2:28 p.m.