

**BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
**Policy Committee**  
**Minutes of November 15, 2017 Meeting**

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Harry Burdett, Mark Dionise, Doug Steffen (for Steve Frisbie), Sally Shaw (for Adam Heikkila), Angela Kline, Rick Fowler (for John Lanum), Greg Rickmar (for Mayor Behnke), Rich Werner, and Barb Darlington (for Dave Morgan)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: None

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Laveta Hardish and Tim Hill

NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Andrea Dewey (FHWA) and SMPC

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Franklin, Scott Cubberly, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Kline 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**

A quorum was present (see above for voting members present). Members introduced themselves for the benefit of all in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

Res.  
**17-40**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**It was moved by Burdett, supported by Werner, to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2017 meeting, as presented, subject to any additions, corrections or changes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Res.  
**17-41**

## COMMUNICATIONS

Karr reported the following items of communication:

- Requests have gone out to the local units of government regarding the upcoming December Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention efforts. Policy Committee action will requested on this same topic later on the agenda.
- Karr is working to finalize material for the audit document with the auditor. She expects the audit to be presented to the Policy Committee in January, 2018.
- The City of Battle Creek has a new mayor after last evening's organizational meeting. Mark Behnke was voted mayor by his fellow commissioners. BCATS is awaiting a determination from the City about the changes to BCATS' appointments for Policy Committee that this will necessitate.
- The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning has put out a news release about the societal costs of crime and traffic crashes. Karr made copies of the news release available to the members.
- As a follow-up to action from the October Policy Committee meeting, the phone service for the BCATS office has been switched to CTS Telecom as of November 2<sup>nd</sup> with no issues so far.
- The Calhoun County Road Department was acknowledged for the completion of the Verona Road/Wattles Road intersection project that has received positive feedback.
- MDOT has published a flyer about how to utilize the new "Flex-Route" system that the department is implementing on a section of US-23 north of Ann Arbor. Copies of the brochure were provided to the members for their information.
- The American Public Transit Administration released a press release from its acting president and CEO regarding tax cuts and jobs legislation being considered by the U.S. Senate. Along with addressing issues specific to transit interests, the release identifies issues regarding municipal bonds that may be of interest to local units of government. Copies of the news release were provided to the members.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business at this time.

## NEW BUSINESS

### A. National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month Resolution

Karr noted that this is a national effort promoted by BCATS each year. The local units of government are also invited to participate, as noted under "Communications." Karr read the resolution into the record.

**It was moved by Werner, supported by Burdett to adopt the National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month Resolution as read into the record by Karr and to authorize Kline to sign the resolution. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
17-42**

**B. Appointment of Nominating Committee for 2018 Policy Committee Officers**

Kline appointed Burdett and Werner to serve as the Nominating Committee for recommending 2018 officers for the BCATS Policy Committee. A Nominating Committee report should be provided to staff one week prior to next month's Policy Committee meeting. Action will be taken on the recommendations at the December meeting.

**C. Letter of Support for Regional Prosperity Committee Funding Application for 2018**

Karr noted that a draft of a letter of support related to this item was provided in the advance material. She reviewed background about the Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI) Committee for region 8, which includes Calhoun County. An initiative from the Governor's office, the State of Michigan provided funding to establish these RPI groups and has provided on-going funding for several years. Each year an application must be submitted with a proposal for work the RPI will do in the coming year. Applications are due to the state by December 1<sup>st</sup>. The Southcentral Michigan Planning Council and the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission are the co-applicants for RPI Region 8 and are developing an application for 2018 funding.

Karr added that she participates on the RPI Committee, along with the director of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study, as representatives of the transportation sector. Other participants involved are from the areas of: education (including adult ed, and higher education); economic development; workforce development; and several others.

Fowler asked if it is likely that the RPI effort will continue under a new Governor after next year's election, since the current Governor is term-limited? Karr indicated that it is questionable if this will be a priority for the next Governor.

**It was moved by Fowler, supported by Werner, to authorize Kline to sign the letter of support for the funding application being prepared for Prosperity Region 8 for 2018 and that the letter would then be forwarded to the agencies preparing the application. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
17-43**

**COMMENTS****A. Next Meeting**

Chair Kline announced that the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 20, 2017, 1:30 p.m. in the City of Springfield Council Chambers. The earlier date is due to the Christmas holiday.

**B. Committee Member Comments**

Karr announced that Dave Morgan, supervisor at Pennfield Township, has asked that a second alternate be added to the list for BCATS for Pennfield. The second alternate will be Tom Matson, a Pennfield Township resident and former City of Springfield Public Works Director and BCATS participant.

Werner reported that the Transit Master Plan project is proceeding and there will be a stakeholders session held with the consultant on Monday, December 4, 2018 from 12 noon to 2 pm in the multi-purpose room at the City of Battle Creek Department of Public Works building located on Kendall Street in Battle Creek. He indicated that invitations to the session would be sent out soon.

There was general discussion about paving projects yet to be completed in the area and road closures necessitated by culvert failures.

**C. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Kline adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.