

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of November 1, 2017 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Terry Blaniar, Chris Dopp, Rick Fowler, Rich Werner, and Jason Latham
Non-voting: Andrea Dewey
MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: Angela Kline, Glenn Perian
Non-voting: Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)
OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Franklin, Brian Sanada, Dharmesh Valsadia, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Dopp called the meeting to order at 1:34 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 conducted 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.
17-20**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Blaniar, supported by Werner, to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2017 meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
17-21**

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- The Transit Master Plan project is proceeding, with work having been started by Foursquare Integrated Transportation Planning (Foursquare ITP) in September. Werner indicated that BCT is in contact with the consultant every other week. Establishment of the Planning Committee and work with local business stakeholders will commence shortly. Public involvement meetings will be conducted by the consultant early in December. The consultant has already conducted various surveys (ridership counts and customer surveys). Results of the April survey conducted by MDOT through Michigan State University will also be incorporated into this process. Dopp asked how the Fort Custer businesses are involved. Werner indicated that they will be involved with the business stakeholder group. He also noted that there is a business consortium for the firms in Fort Custer that holds regular meetings and he attends those meetings. Dewey noted that this project will again show-up on the inactivity list for FHWA, since there is not anticipated to be a billing until January. Justification for the delay in billing has previously been submitted and will be submitted again.
- Field work for the Asset Management program for this year has been completed. Karr thanked the local agencies for their participation and assistance with this project.
- Tilma has been reappointed to the BCT Local Coordinating Committee for another year.
- The City of Battle Creek has posted the final draft of its Master Plan update for comments.
- There are many issues with the CMAQ program and these will be discussed later on the agenda.
- Karr attended a meeting on October 10, 2017 regarding the Regional Traffic Safety Plan which will also be discussed later on the agenda.
- Requests have gone out to the local units regarding to acknowledge, through resolution or proclamation, the National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month of December and the enhanced enforcement activities associated with the national effort.
- Tilma is attending a statewide general program accounts (GPA) discussion meeting tomorrow in Lansing. Work is being done to develop uniform guidance on the use of GPA in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He is also participating on a statewide committee dealing with TIP issues.
- Karr announced an updated version of what constitutes an “administrative modification” vs. an “amendment” to the TIP. Dewey indicated that this version has not yet been fully finalized.
- MDOT has announced some safety related improvements to about 400 miles of roadways in the MDOT Southwest Region. Valsadia provided details about the project, which was assigned a job number at MDOT in 2016. Various work will be done to add signing, safety sheeting, and other work of this nature. One of the segments involved is M-37 on the northwest side of the BCATS area.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. **Southcentral Michigan Regional Traffic Safety Plan**

Karr indicated that she provided the members with the Executive Summary for this Plan, along with a few of the charts and graphs from the full documents. She noted that the time-frame involved with developing the Plan resulted in the data set being 2010-2014 and that conditions for some of the categories have changed since then. The MDOT Local Safety program will utilize the recommendations from this Plan to award extra points for funding applications that address the results of the Plan.

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

B. **Transportation Performance Measures (TPM)**

Karr provided hand-outs for this item. She reviewed the safety target letter provided by MDOT that indicates that MDOT has set its safety targets for 2018. MPOs need to either “support” the state safety target or set their own safety targets. This has a deadline of February 27, 2018. Karr also provided graphs indicating fatality and serious injury data by unit of government in the BCATS area. The low numbers, especially of fatalities, point to BCATS likely deciding to “support” the MDOT targets. A statewide group is working on how the MPOs will be reporting their decision to MDOT. This group is attempting to develop a standard resolution that MPO Committees can use to state their decision on this performance measure.

Karr noted that MDOT staff is developing material related to the other performance areas that have reporting dates in the future. She will attempt to assemble the information sheets for distribution to the members at next month’s meeting. Dewey added that some of the performance areas only apply to the National Highway System (NHS), which is primarily the roadway controlled by MDOT. Karr stated that there are a few small segments of NHS that are under local jurisdiction.

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

C. CMAQ & STP-Urban Local (STUL) Funding Summaries & Status of Projects

Tilma indicated that several issues have arisen with Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program projects since the Technical Committee last met. He distributed two tables, one for CMAQ projects and one for STUL projects. The City of Marshall truck project was moved from FY 2017 to FY 2018 due to a late determination on the diesel retro-fit issue by FHWA. Marshall still wishes to proceed with this project and it should be able to move ahead.

A combination of funding was used in 2017 to purchase transit vehicles. However, a planned project for the conversion of light-duty vehicles to propane by the City of Battle Creek was not obligated by MDOT in time for 2017 funding due to no fault of the local agency. BCATS is pursuing with MDOT funding for this project that will not impact BCATS' planned CMAQ projects for 2018 and later years. Tilma then indicated that the "Buy America" waiver procedure that was completed for the Marshall vehicle is not being processed by the U.S. DOT for any more recent or future projects at this time. Therefore, the County vehicle planned for 2018 is not able to proceed until that happens. Since there is no indication that this lapse will end in the near future, it is advisable that the funding involved will need to be allocated to another project, whether that is moving a future year project up for programming or deciding upon a new project. Tilma reviewed the remaining years of the CMAQ program.

Tilma also reviewed the current listing of STUL funded projects in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He mentioned that there is a small amount of STUL funding in 2018 and 2019 that still needs to be programmed.

There will be a CMAQ/TIP Subcommittee meeting in the near future to address all of the issues discussed under this item. The question arose as to the status of review of any newly developed projects and how they would be addressed at MDOT by the CMAQ review committee. Fowler is to follow-up on this issue with the CMAQ Coordinator. Presumably, there will be other MPOs impacted by the lack of "Buy America" waivers, resulting in the potential for new replacement projects to be submitted to MDOT for review.

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

D. Appointment of Nominating Committee for 2018 Technical Committee Officers

Dopp appointed Werner and Kline to serve as the nominating committee to present a slate of officers to serve in 2018 for the Technical Committee. (The officer recommendations are to be presented at the December 6, 2017 meeting.)

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Chair Dopp announced that the next regular Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. at the same location.

B. Committee Member Comments

Karr noted that Latham is glad to have Brian Sanada on board in the planner position for the MDOT Southwest Region.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Dopp at 2:39 p.m.