

**BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
**Policy Committee**  
**Minutes of November 17, 2021 Meeting**  
**Zoom Meeting Format**

VOTING MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Mallory Avis, Harry Burdett, Annjanette Kremer, Kevin Leiter, Jeff Franklin, John Midgley, Greg Rickmar, and Bill Scutt

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: None

VOTING MEMBERS NOT PARTICIPATING: Deb Belles, Derek King, Laveta Hardish

NON-VOTING MEMBERS NOT PARTICIPATING: Andy Pickard and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council

OTHERS PARTICIPATING: Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Burdett called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. via a Zoom conference meeting. The meeting was held virtually due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic issues with in-person meetings.

**ROLL CALL**

Karr conducted a roll call of members and any guests. Members indicated their presence for the purpose of establishing a quorum. It was noted that all members are participating virtually and, per the Open Meetings Act Amendment, each member participating virtually indicated their physical location, which is included in the minutes below.

Members participating remotely and location: Avis (City of Battle Creek, MI), Burdett (City of Springfield, MI), Kremer (City of Marshall, MI), Leiter (Pennfield Charter Township, MI), Franklin (New Haven Township, MI), Midgley (Marshall Township, MI), Rickmar (City of Battle Creek, MI) and Scutt (Bedford Charter Township, MI).

It was determined that a quorum of the voting members were participating.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**It was moved by Rickmar, supported by Kremer, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY to approve the agenda.**

**Res.**  
**21-40**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

**It was moved by Rickmar, supported by Kremer, to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2021 meeting, as presented, subject to any additions, corrections or changes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
21-41**

## COMMUNICATIONS

Karr reported the following items of communication:

- Karr completed the virtual audit day with the auditor from Rehmann Robson on November 9<sup>th</sup> and is now awaiting a draft of the audit report to review.
- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was approved by Congress and signed by the President. It is currently unknown how much of an impact this bill will have on funding for roads, bridges and transit in the BCATS area. There is also funding in the bill for electric vehicle charging stations and broadband improvements. It is a 5-year authorization through FY 2026.
- BCATS provided the letter of support requested by Battle Creek Transit for a discretionary funding application for a new facility. There are several other transit funding programs also coming along that may be applicable to Battle Creek Transit.
- The public notice for the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) reaffirmation item on today's agenda was published in the Battle Creek Enquirer on October 31<sup>st</sup> and was posted to the BCATS website.
- Karr participated in the virtual Asset Management conference that concluded the day after the October Policy Committee meeting. A 20-year celebration conference is planned for September 2022 to mark the anniversary of the start of the Transportation Asset Management Council and the asset management data collection process.
- Through the statewide Metropolitan Transportation Planning Association, BCATS has received information about the roll-out of 2020 Census information from the Census Bureau. This information may be forwarded to the BCATS' Committee members for their use.
- Karr has sent out the annual request to the local units of government for action on the impaired driving recognition efforts in December.
- Calhoun County Administrator Kelli Scott has confirmed that the County is waiting to see if the state legislature extends the ability of local units to utilize a local declaration of health emergency to allow remote public meetings, but it is not likely this will occur. Therefore, public meetings should be planned to be conducted in-person starting in January.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

## NEW BUSINESS

### A. BCATS 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Reaffirmation

Karr noted the three handouts that were provided for the Committee members relative to this agenda item. The memo explains the need for this reaffirmation of the current 2040 MTP at this time. She added that the process requires public notice to be made, therefore a notice was published on the BCATS website and in the Battle Creek Enquirer about the reaffirmation. There was discussion about the timeline for the reaffirmation extension and it was decided that the extension should be moved to February 28, 2022 as a more realistic expectation for completion of the remaining work on the update. The resolution to be signed would reflect that change if approved. Franklin stated that the Federal agencies will likely be fine with the change and that he will inform the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study of this one month addition to the process that impacts the joint air quality submittal.

**It was moved by Midgley, supported by Avis, to approve the Reaffirmation Resolution for the BCATS 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, as amended. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
21-42**

### B. Holiday Season Impaired Driving Prevention Campaign 2021

Karr stated that it is the time of year again when BCATS promotes the national efforts around awareness of drunk and drugged driving and the injury and death caused by such driving. A resolution recognizing the national enforcement campaign was provided for consideration of the Committee. Karr added that a similar resolution has been sent to all of the local agencies for their possible individual action. She noted that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners will be acting on the resolution tomorrow evening. Leiter indicated that Pennfield has adopted the resolution. Karr thanked the units that have supported this important safety promotion.

**It was moved by Avis, supported by Scutt, to approve the Holiday Season Impaired Driving Prevention Campaign December 2021 resolution, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
21-43**

### C. Appointment of Nominating Committee for 2022 Policy Committee Officers

Chair Burdett asked for volunteers for the Nominating Committee for 2022 Policy Committee officers. Avis and Midgley volunteered to serve in that capacity. Karr noted that the Committee should prepare a slate of 2022 Policy Committee officers for consideration by the full Policy Committee at the December 15th meeting.

## COMMENTS

### A. Next Meeting

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 15, 2021, 1:30 p.m - a week early on the schedule due to the holiday.

### B. Committee Member Comments

Avis thanked the Committee for the letter of support for the BCT funding application and also for passing the impaired driving resolution, as her family has been impacted by a drunk driver in the past.

Burdett indicated that the Springfield City Council acted on the impaired driving resolution this past Monday.

Rickmar reported that the installation of a new four-way stop at Territorial Road and 28<sup>th</sup> Street has met with resistance from the community. The stop signs on Territorial Road are the new addition to the intersection. He stated that the location meets the warrants for the all-way stop and will be evaluated for permanent installation or not. Burdett indicated that speed carts have been posted to record speeds on the Springfield section of 28<sup>th</sup> Street in the past. Rickmar stated that he would be interested in the results of those studies.

Kremer stated that MDOT is wrapping up its projects for the construction season.

There was a general wishing of a Happy Thanksgiving to all by the Policy Committee members.

### C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

## ADJOURNMENT

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