

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of November 3, 2021 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Susan Cronander, Carl Fedders, Kristine Parsons, Brian Sanada, Luke Walters, and Chaz Wilkey

Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: None

Non-voting: Andy Pickard and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Lindsay Dowswell, Brian Kernstock, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Parsons called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. via Zoom.

ROLL CALL

A roll call was conducted of members and any guests.

Members participating remotely and location: Avis (City of Battle Creek, MI), Wilkey (City of Springfield, MI), Cronander (City of Battle Creek, MI), Fedders (City of Battle Creek, MI), Walters (Delta Township, MI), Parsons (Richland Township, MI), and Sanada (Antwerp Township, MI).

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Fedders, supported by Cronander, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
21-27**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Fedders supported by Avis, to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2021 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
21-28**

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- The requested letter of support for Battle Creek Transit's capital project application was provided to BCT after BCATS Policy Committee action on this topic last week.
- The Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council's virtual fall conference was held on Wednesday and Thursday, October 27-28, from 9:00am to noon each day. Karr participated in this event.
- The local road agencies and transit held a TIP Subcommittee meeting last week and a listing of projects for the new FY 2023-2026 TIP has been substantially formulated as a result of that meeting.
- Per the adopted TIP amendment schedule, information for the next BCATS TIP amendment, scheduled for January 2022, will be due to the staff office by December 22nd. This information was provided as an early notice for that due date.
- It is unlikely that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners will extend the emergency health declaration past the end of December. If they do not, starting in January BCATS will have to hold its Committee meetings in person to meet the requirements of the Open Meetings Act. There is no option for hybrid meetings in the Act as it stands.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. BCATS 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Re-Affirmation of Approval and Extension of Due Date for Update to 2045 MTP

Karr indicated that a memo, sample resolution, and copy of the public notice for this item were provided to the Committee members in the advance material. Reaffirming the current MTP will allow for BCATS to have until January 2022 to complete the update for the 2045 MTP. There is a process that needs to be followed for the reaffirmation, including publishing a public notice and adopting the provided resolution. The public notice was in the Battle Creek Enquirer this past Sunday, October 31st and the same notice has been posted to the BCATS' website.

The recommendation is for Technical Committee to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee adopt the Reaffirmation Resolution for the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

It was moved by Fedders, supported by Sanada, to recommend approval of the 2040 MTP Reaffirmation Resolution to the BCATS Policy Committee, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
21-29**

B. Development of FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Status Report and Schedule

Tilma reviewed the generic TIP development schedule provided by MDOT which has been reviewed by the Michigan Transportation Planning Association, which represents all of the MPOs in Michigan. He indicated that the local listing of projects for the new TIP is fairly well determined after the TIP Subcommittee meeting was held. He asked for a listing of MDOT projects to be included in the new TIP as well. The projects will be entered into JobNet in December, including the information for the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) projects necessary to program those projects in JobNet. The projects will also have to be reviewed by the Interagency Work Group (IAWG) for the Kalamazoo-Battle Creek Limited Orphan Maintenance Area (LOMA) relative to air quality status.

Starting with a question from Fedders, there was discussion about projects from MDOT for the new TIP and at what point they would be identified so that the local agencies could assess their impact on the local program. Sanada indicated that he had a listing that could be provided to BCATS for distribution. He will make the list available shortly.

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

C. Appointment of Nominating Committee for 2022 Technical Committee Officers

Parsons indicated that she and Fedders had discussed the two of them serving in the officer positions for the coming year and asked if there was anyone else interested in being an officer for Technical Committee. Having no one express interest, Karr stated that she would develop the election of officers item for the December meeting with Fedders being nominated for the Chair position and Parsons being nominated for the Vice-Chair position. This will be an action item on the December Technical Committee agenda.

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Chair Parsons announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for December 1, 2021 at 1:30 p.m., a week early due to the Christmas holiday later in the month.

Karr added that the meeting schedule for the 2022 calendar year will also be an agenda item at the December meeting. The only months in 2022 not expected to follow the second Wednesday of the month schedule are November and December due to the holidays.

B. Committee Member Comments

Parsons reported that the Calhoun County Road Department is finished with the federal-aid projects for the year and is pleased with the final Morgan Road Phase 1 project. The Emmett Township local road project is finishing some punch list items for this year. There will be lane closures on Main Street as final paving is completed.

Sanada announced that there will be a Teams meeting of the regional non-motorized pedestrian/bicycle committee on November 18th. If anyone is interested in participating in that meeting, just contact Sanada and he will provide information for that meeting. Fedders asked about signage for non-motorized facilities that he has heard about. Sanada indicated that this is a Kalamazoo area issue with the local interest group and the Road Commission for Kalamazoo County. Karr asked Sanada about a non-motorized component of the M-96 work in Kalamazoo County between Augusta and the Calhoun County line. He recalled that there was some non-motorized work involved, possibly with specific grant funds for that portion of the project.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.