

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of November 1, 2023 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Heather Bowden, Darren Campbell (for Jarret Geering), Brian Kernstock (Acting Chair), Madee Thorburn (for Josh Grab), and Chaz Wilkey

Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: Travis Sullivan

Non-voting: Jenny Staroska and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Franklin, Pat Karr, Kristine Parsons, and Andrew Tilma

Acting Chair Kernstock called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Springfield City Hall Council Chambers, 601 Avenue A, Springfield MI.

ROLL CALL

Kernstock asked all in attendance to introduce themselves. It was determined that a quorum of the voting members was present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Wilkey, supported by Avis, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-26**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Avis, supported by Wilkey, to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2023 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-27**

COMMUNICATIONS

Franklin shared the following communications:

- Amendment #6 to the current TIP, which was reviewed by this Committee in September, was approved by FHWA on 10/18.
- With the short-term federal funding extension, there was only a small amount of obligation authority released during this first 45-day period. It is expected that further short-term federal funding extensions that follow will feature small amounts of further obligation authority. BCATS 2024 status: City of Battle Creek CPM various segments; Golden Ave@Riverside signal modernization; both remain to be obligated. CCRD N Wattles Road has been obligated. State funded TEDF Cat F project on 20th St is yet to be obligated.
- MDOT Local Agency Programs released their 2025 Safety Program local projects, and CCRD has three jobs on that list –_Struwin Road – White Rabbit to Baseline – tree removal/chip seal; B Drive South – 8 Mile to 12 Mile – tree clearing; T Drive S – Jackson Rd to M-60 – tree removal.
- MDOT has reported that the 2025 Federal Aid Buyout Program Call For Projects will be delayed until January. MDOT may not be able to match all their Federal aid with limited state funds. Options are being explored. The delay in this Call For Projects allows for MDOT to determine what the 2025 maximum Fed Aid Buyout Program amount can be.
- The 2024 Safety Transportation Performance Measure targets/predictions have been released. As in the past, MPOs may support these state predictions or create a methodology in which to adopt their own quantitative driven Performance Measure targets. BCATS staff recommends support of the state targets, and will be bringing the Safety newsletter and request for support to BCATS Committees in December.
- The City of Battle Creek has invited BCATS staff to participate in the Beckley Road Corridor Study as a Steering Committee Member. The Steering Committee will meet monthly from December 2023 through September 2024, to advise and make recommendations about the planning process to a consultant team working on this Study. Franklin and Karr will attend the kickoff meeting on December 5th, where this Steering Committee will be reviewing public involvement strategies and providing input on a community survey.
- CCRD has submitted a request for a change in National Functional Classification for a segment of 6 Mile Road, which will be discussed later on the agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #7

Tilma reviewed the list of projects being proposed for Amendment #7 to the FY 2023-2026 TIP. There was clarification that 2025 Safety Program Struwin Road project is a chip seal and tree removal, while 2025 Safety Program B Drive South is tree removal only.

It was moved by Wilkey, supported by Avis, to recommend approval of the FY2023-2026 TIP Amendment #7 by the BCATS Policy Committee, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-28**

B. National Functional Classification (NFC) Modification for 6 Mile Road

Franklin discussed the CCRD NFC proposed change for 6 Mile Road between B Drive North and B Drive South from Local Road to Minor Collector. BCATS staff is seeking MDOT NFC Planner concurrence to this proposed change. Parsons commented that this NFC modification aligns CCRD vision for this area.

It was moved by Avis, supported by Bowden, to recommend approval of the NFC Modification for 6 Mile Road by the BCATS Policy Committee, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-29**

C. Appointment of Nominating Committee for 2024 Technical Committee Officers

Acting Chair Kernstock appointed a nominating committee for 2024 Technical Committee Officers. The nominating committee is Avis and Wilkey. The nominating committee will have their slate of officers for approval at the December meeting.

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Acting Chair Kernstock announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for December 6, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

B. Committee Member Comments

Parsons reported that both N Wattles and S Wattles projects are underway – S Wattles is already let, and N Wattles will be in the December or January letting. Tree removal work on Uldricks Road and S Wattles Road starts in mid-November. Notifications have been sent to affected residents.

Bowden reported that the planning Memorandum of Understanding between BCATS, Battle Creek Transit and MDOT has been updated and will be sent out by MDOT soon.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m.