

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of December 7, 2016 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Pete Dunn II (for Terry Blaniar), Chris Dopp, Rick Fowler, Angela Kline, Jason Latham, and Glenn Perian
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: Rich Werner
Non-voting: Andy Pickard (FHWA) and SMPC

OTHERS PRESENT: Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Dopp called the meeting to order at 1:33 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 made for the benefit of all in attendance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Res.
16-32

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Kline, supported by Perian, to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2016 meeting, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Res.
16-33

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- Karr noted the flyer distributed about changes to warning lights on service vehicles, including winter plow trucks. This is something that was brought up by MDOT Marshall Transportation Service Center manager Mark Dionise at the last BCATS Policy Committee meeting. There is

a link to access this flyer available from MDOT if others wish to print out copies to post or distribute.

- BCATS staff is working on the "Obligated Projects Report for FY 2016". Copies will be provided via e-mail to members when the report is completed.
- BCATS staff is hoping to find out where the CMAQ Diesel Retrofit Guidelines stand at a meeting of the Michigan Transportation Planning Association next Tuesday. This topic is on the agenda for FHWA to address. A project in Marshall is being delayed due to this issue and additional similar projects are planned in future years by other local agencies.
- BCATS just received notification that a new MDOT SW Region Engineer has been named. Dee Parker will take over for Kim Avery, who was promoted to a position in the central MDOT office in Lansing. Parker will start his duties at the SW Region office on December 19th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. Meeting Schedule for 2017

Karr reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for Technical Committee for the upcoming 2017 calendar year. She noted that the only Technical Committee meeting dates not following the "second Wednesday" format are the November and December meetings due to the holiday schedule. It was noted that the Springfield City Hall Building has recently been renamed the Susan L. Anderson Municipal Building and this will be reflected on BCATS notices.

It was moved by Kline, supported by Perian, to approve the Technical Committee meeting date schedule, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
16-34**

B. Report of the Nominating Committee for 2017 Technical Committee Officers

Kline reported for the Nominating Committee that the recommendation is for the following slate of officers for calendar year 2017 - Chris Dopp as Chair and Angela Kline as Vice-Chair.

It was moved by Perian, supported by Latham, to accept the Nominating Committee report and elect the slate of Technical Committee officers as presented for the upcoming year of 2017. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
16-35**

C. FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Updated Project List and Status Report

Tilma distributed an updated listing of TIP projects for 2017-2020 which included the changes from the November TIP amendment (Amendment #1). He highlighted certain changes. Tilma specifically reviewed the final page of the handout, which has a table that lists projects that are only partly within the BCATS area. These projects will not be included in the formal BCATS TIP or within the fiscal constraint calculation for the BCATS TIP since they are included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program or STIP. The information is being provided in a separate table so that all work being done in the BCATS area is reflected for the public.

Each agency was asked to provide an update as to the status of their 2017 projects. Kline indicated that the project materials for the Calhoun County Road Department's 2017 projects will be submitted to Local Agency Programs (LAP) at MDOT either this month or in January. This would mean a bid letting mid' or late summer, as prescribed by LAP's schedule. It is hoped since the projects are minor in scope that the GI (grade inspection) work will go quickly and an earlier bid letting may be possible. Dopp echoed Kline's report, indicating that the areawide preventative maintenance project would be submitted to LAP in December with the remainder of the City's work scheduled to be submitted to LAP in January. Dopp indicated that the number of propane retro-fit vehicles may be reduced due to an increase in the cost involved for each unit under that project. The City of Springfield has no projects to report for 2017. Battle Creek Transit was not present to report on the transit projects. Tilma noted that it is still unknown as to whether the City of Marshall's vehicle replacement will proceed with CMAQ funds. That project is outside of the BCATS' area, but still within Calhoun County. If the project can not proceed due to FHWA requirements, the CMAQ funds involved would need to be reallocated yet this year.

Latham indicated that the information as presented on the TIP listing is the most up-to-date for the MDOT projects as the Marshall Transportation Service Center has not reported any changes at this point beyond what was reflected in the November, 2016 amendment to the TIP.

Tilma reminded the members that the next scheduled TIP amendment opportunity is coming up in January and any project information for the amendment would need to be provided to BCATS in early January.

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

D. Introduction to Transportation Performance Management (TPM) in BCATS' Planning Process

Karr provided two handouts for this agenda item. The first dealt with the upcoming requirement for extensive data collection on all public roads in every state of the country, this

is termed the “Model Inventory of Roadway Elements” or MIRE data. The information provided to the Committee members indicated the level of data necessary broken down by type of roadway (federal-aid eligible, local or unpaved). There was discussion about the levels of data already available through the State of Michigan’s “framework” and through the PASER asset management tool. The State must have a plan for collecting the data submitted to the federal government by July 2017, but the data collection itself has a deadline of September 30, 2026.

The second handout provided background information about Transportation Performance Management and performance-based planning. Specific performance-based planning processes are a requirement of the federal MAP-21 and FAST Act legislation. Aspects of the performance-based planning requirements are being implemented for various transportation areas including: safety, infrastructure condition, congestion, system reliability and others. Each of the rulemakings regarding these issues has different implementation schedules based on the dates that the rulemaking took effect. The handout included examples of how various states and MPOs are addressing the performance-based planning requirements. There was discussion about the process of moving forward with this topic in the future. Karr noted that MDOT is establishing committees to address each of the performance measure areas and MPOs are being solicited to participate with the state on these committees. The MPOs have 6 months after the state establishes its targets for each measure to establish their own targets or decide to support the state targets. Latham emphasized the cooperative process for setting targets for each subject area. He also pointed out the varying deadlines for the various performance measure areas. Karr noted that the small MPOs in the state are working together to make this process easier for this group of agencies that don’t have the staffing capabilities of the larger areas.

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

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Chair Dopp announced that the next regular Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. at the same location.

B. Committee Member Comments

Dopp announced that the City of Battle Creek’s rail “Quiet Zone” could go into effect as soon as the end of December if all of the final approvals fall into place from the Federal Railroad Administration.

Kline reported that the initial awards for bridge work have been announced from MDOT and Calhoun County was not on the list for small bridges. However, the large bridge list is still pending and the County has one bridge submitted for consideration in that funding pool. She also announced that the County is purchasing new traffic counters that will be the "tube" variety. Due to the number of counters needed and the cost involved, this is the most cost effective approach for the County.

Latham indicated that MDOT is trying again to obtain a "FAST LANE" grant under the FAST Act legislation. The \$80-\$85 million project is for widening of I-94 in the Kalamazoo area that would benefit freight traffic. A "FASTLANE" grant would provide 60% of the project cost. This is the second attempt for this project under this new federal funding source.

Latham indicated that he would like to bring the new SW Region Engineer to a future meeting to introduce him to the BCATS Committees.

Karr asked about the development of the next updated MDOT 5-year Plan. Latham indicated that he could provide an update on this process at the January Technical Committee meeting.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments offered.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Dopp at 2:38 p.m.