

**BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

**Technical Committee**

**Minutes of December 1, 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: Fred Featherly, Jarrett Geering, Corey Hackworth, Brian Kernstock, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Parsons called the meeting to order at 1:30 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 (Marshall Township, MI), Walters (Delta Township, MI), Parsons (Marshall 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 Sanada, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
21-30**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**It was moved by Fedders supported by Sanada, to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2021 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
21-31**

## COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- The TIP amendment schedule indicates that items for the January 2022 TIP amendment are to be provided to BCATS staff by December 22<sup>nd</sup> for processing.
- The timeline for completion of the BCATS 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) was extended until February 28, 2022 by reaffirming the current 2040 MTP through that date. The reaffirmation of the 2040 MTP was approved by the BCATS Policy Committee at its November meeting.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

## NEW BUSINESS

### A. Performance Measures - Battle Creek Transit State of Good Repair Targets for 2022

Karr indicated that Avis has indicated a desire for this item to be tabled until the January 2022 BCATS' Committee meetings. Therefore, this item will be carried forward as New Business in January.

### B. Meeting Schedule for 2022

Karr indicated that the meeting schedule under consideration was posted in the advance materials for members. The Technical Committee meetings will be held on the second Wednesdays of the month except for November and December when they are moved a week earlier due to the holidays.

**It was moved by Cronander, supported by Fedders, to approve the Technical Committee meeting schedule for 2022. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
21-33**

### C. Report of Nominations and Election of 2022 Technical Committee Officers

Parsons indicated that she and Fedders were willing to continue as officers for the coming year and this was discussed with the full Committee at the last Technical Committee meeting. It was presented that Fedders would serve as Chair with Parsons serving as Vice-Chair for 2022. Fedders indicated that he will continue with the Technical Committee for a period of time even though he has now hired a new City Engineer. There was no other interest from members in serving in the officer positions for Technical Committee.

**It was moved by Avis, supported by Wilkey to accept the slate of Technical Committee officers for 2022, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
21-32**

(Note: Items B and C were discussed in order, but voted on out-of-order)

**D. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) - Status Report**

Karr reviewed the changes to the completion schedule for the 2045 MTP and the associated action of the Policy Committee to reaffirm the 2040 MTP. She indicated that additional completed chapters for the 2045 Plan should be available for review at the January 2022 Committee meetings. Karr added that a new requirement for a System Performance Report as part of updating the long range plan will also have to be completed with this project.

Tilma asked Sanada about the 5-Year MDOT Program that Sanada has provided to BCATS and if the PEL study for I-194 that had some preliminary discussions several months ago will be funded within that Program. Sanada indicated that the update from MDOT SW Region Planner Amy Lipset is that the RFP for that study is out for internal comments within MDOT. Therefore, that item can be included in the updated MTP.

## COMMENTS

**A. Next Meeting**

Chair Parsons announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for January 12, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. It is unknown at this time if the meeting will be in-person at Springfield City Hall or still be virtual.

**B. Committee Member Comments**

Parsons reported that the Calhoun County Road Department will be starting federal-aid safety grant tree work in all of the townships in the BCATS area shortly. That work is expected to continue until the end of March 2022.

Walters spoke about the new federal legislation, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and the increase in transportation funding expected for MPO areas that may reach 20-30% above the current level of annual allocation of STP funding. There was discussion about when the amount of any increases will be available and how this will impact the development of the new FY 2023-2026 TIP. Even though there were projects offered for a TIP illustrative list by the BCATS TIP Subcommittee, there may not have been enough projects identified to fill this amount of additional funding. This will be pursued once the actual funding amounts from the new federal legislation are identified. In the meantime, the local road agencies will reconvene to consider how this will impact projects that were initially identified for the new TIP.

Fedders introduced Jarrett Geering as the new City Engineer for the City of Battle Creek. Karr indicated that it will be helpful for him to participate as a guest at the Technical Committee to become acclimated to the MPO planning process.

Fedders asked if the other road agencies are going to do any local road PASER rating this coming year. Parsons indicated that no such work would be done by the County this year. Fedders indicated that the City would be interested in local road rating in 2022. Wilkey indicated that Springfield is hiring a consultant to do local road rating. Karr indicated that there is some funding available for this type of work. She was going to be asking this question after the first of the year. Consultant SME is sponsoring a "lunch and learn" about the new MDOT specs for mix designs.

Sanada indicated that the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is expected for get increased funding from the new federal legislation as well and that there may be some changes in how that program is administered. Walters added that the TAP program will have its own authorization separate from the normal distribution.

Karr reiterated that BCATS staff is still unsure of the format for the January Technical Committee, in-person versus virtual. She advised the members to be sure to check the agenda when it comes out in January.

### **C. Public Comments**

Tilma again noted that the January meeting will have a TIP amendment as there is a change already submitted by MDOT. He noted the December 22<sup>nd</sup> date for any other changes to be included in the amendment.

Hackworth reported that MDOT is busy with the design/build I-94 project that is coming up. There will be a video for the public about that project expected to come out in January. Fedders asked if MDOT will handle the public involvement aspect of certain gateway bridge projects the City is contributing to that are involved with this overall large project. Hackworth stated that he felt this can be rolled into the overall process, but that the City would participate in those meetings.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.