

**BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
**Policy Committee**  
**Minutes of December 14, 2022 Meeting**

VOTING MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Mallory Avis, Deb Belles, Harry Burdett, Carl Fedders, Jeff Franklin, Derek King, Annjanette Kremer, Barb Darlington (for Kevin Leiter) and Brian Kernstock (for John Midgley)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: None

VOTING MEMBERS NOT PARTICIPATING: Joni Jones and Laveta Hardish

NON-VOTING MEMBERS NOT PARTICIPATING: Andrew Sibold (FHWA) and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council

OTHERS PARTICIPATING: Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Chair Burdett called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Council Room of the Susan L. Anderson Municipal Building (Springfield City Hall), 601 Avenue A, Springfield, MI 49037.

**ROLL CALL**

All in attendance introduced themselves and their affiliations. It was determined that there was a quorum of voting members.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

Res.  
**22-53**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**It was moved by Fedders, supported by Belles, to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2022 meeting, as presented, subject to any additions, corrections or changes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Res.  
**22-54**

## COMMUNICATIONS

Karr reported the following items of communication:

- The FY 2022 audit is substantially complete, with Karr waiting on a draft from Rehmann to review
- BCATS received the 2023 State of Good Repair targets from Battle Creek Transit. This item is on the agenda for today.
- The public notice for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #3 was published in the Battle Creek Enquirer on November 30, 2022. This item is also on the agenda today.
- There was a MDOT Open House last Thursday regarding the closure of the Capital Avenue bridge over I-94 when the bridge is being replaced by MDOT. There were a lot of MDOT staff on hand at the meeting to explain the maps and charts and to answer questions.
- BCATS staff participated in a Teams meeting with MDOT about the Planning Environmental Linkages study of I-194 in the BCATS area. The study is expected to take about a year and is being conducted primarily by consultants. Improvement of I-194 is a long term prospect, likely in the neighborhood of ten years or more.
- Karr submitted the FY 2022 Final Acceptance Report for BCATS to MDOT and has already received an approval letter back from the Department.
- Tilma has provided guidance to the consultant firm working with the City of Springfield on the additional road project added to this year's program so that the consultant can move forward with the process of project submittal to MDOT.
- BCATS staff is working on the Obligated Projects Report for FY 2022, another year-end requirement for the federal planning regulations. This is an annual report and must be completed and published by the end of December. The report is almost ready for publication.
- Karr thanked the local units of government which have passed the December Holiday Season National Enforcement Mobilization Campaign resolution related to impaired driving.
- The host agency for the 2023 Michigan Transportation Planning Association conference (Ann Arbor), scheduled for this coming July, is asking that expected attendees reserve rooms at the conference hotel now. Unless the Policy Committee has an objection, Karr and Tilma will go ahead and do this. The reservations can be cancelled if plans change. Official approval to attend the conference will be sought from the Policy Committee closer to the event date.
- The U.S. Census Bureau has announced release of the new urbanized area boundaries on December 29<sup>th</sup>. These boundaries are based on the results of the 2020 U.S. Census. The establishment of those boundaries sets the level of population utilized by many programs for funding distribution. This boundary is vitally important to the BCATS program. The boundary also establishes the distinction between urban and rural roadways.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

## NEW BUSINESS

### A. Policy Committee Meeting Schedule for 2023

Karr indicated that the meeting schedule for the BCATS Policy Committee was provided in the advance material. The dates are shown for both the Technical Committee and the Policy Committee on the schedule. The Technical Committee approved the dates for its 2023 meetings at its December meeting last week. As usual, the November and December meetings are moved up due to the holidays.

**It was moved by Kremer, supported by Belles, to approve the BCATS Policy Committee meeting schedule for 2023. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
22-55**

### B. FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #3

Tilma distributed a listing of the projects presented for this December TIP amendment. The material had also been provided in the advance materials. The listing includes projects which have been impacted by additional 2023 federal project funding, as well as a change from MDOT.

Tilma discussed some of the proposed projects on the list for the amendment. The BCATS Technical Committee recommends approving this amendment.

**It was moved by King, supported by Belles, to approve Amendment #3 to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
22-56**

### C. Performance Measures - Battle Creek Transit (BCT) State of Good Repair Targets for 2023

Karr indicated that there is a resolution prepared for this item. Battle Creek Transit updates its State of Good Repair Targets each year. Although BCATS does not have to update its planning documents with the new targets, BCATS does officially recognize the new BCT targets each year. Avis explained how the figures on the table are determined.

**It was moved by Fedders, supported by Kernstock, that the BCATS Policy Committee adopt the resolution for the BCT State of Good Repair targets, which will be signed by Chair Burdett, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.  
22-57**

**D. Election of 2023 Policy Committee Officers**

Avis reported that the Nominating Committee had met and has submitted a slate of officers for the BCATS Policy Committee for 2023 as follows:

Harry Burdett, Chair  
John Midgley, Vice-Chair  
Mallory Avis, Secretary-Treasurer

**It was moved by Fedders, supported by Belles, to elect the slate of 2023 Policy Committee officers as presented by the Nominating Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Res.**  
**22-58**

**COMMENTS****A. Next Meeting**

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 25, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

**B. Committee Member Comments**

Kremer provided comments about the Capital Avenue Open House meeting noted under Communications. Resident concerns included traffic cutting through local neighborhoods. This has been addressed with the project contractor. There was interest in a noise wall on the north side of I-94 in that general area, but the nature of this project does not trigger a noise assessment at this time. The current MDOT director is retiring at the end of the year and the interim director is a former Marshall Transportation Service Center Manager. Kremer added that the Columbia Avenue bridge project was bid and the bids came in 18% over estimates. Therefore, that bridge project is not going to move forward and is being delayed until 2025 or 2026. This is a project where the City of Battle Creek is paying for a customized graphic on that bridge.

Kernstock reported that bids were received for the Morgan Road Phase 2 project for 2023. The bids came in only 1% over the estimate. The County has other projects scheduled for the January 2023 letting.

Belles announced that Emmett Charter Township's lead water service conversion is now completed and that the Township is many years ahead of other areas on this topic. The local road work is completed. She expressed appreciation for the moving up of the S. Wattles Road project in the time schedule. Emmett is also working on water main projects.

Fedders indicated that the Union Street Bridge project will be in the January 6<sup>th</sup> letting. He stated that the City has received word that funds for a 20<sup>th</sup> Street project have been received through the state's Economic Development Fund. This project was originally included in a multi-road project in 2024 with federal funding in the BCATS' TIP. The City will identify a new road segment to replace the 20<sup>th</sup> Street project in the federally funded item. These changes will potentially be addressed in a January 2023 TIP amendment.

Avis gave an update regarding Battle Creek Transit's news release that will detail reductions in transit service that are necessary due to staffing shortages. Saturday service will be suspended at this time as part of the service reductions. These changes will be in place until at least April 1, 2023. Avis indicated a need for more coach drivers.

King indicated that MDOT did a nice job with the Open House meeting. He heard the same concerns about cut-through traffic as mentioned by Kremer.

Tilma stated that the entrance and exit signs that the new Taco Bell in Urbandale has put up (for example Do Not Enter signs) can be confused with official road signs. Kremer indicated that she would look into this situation.

Karr added that the ramps at the Helmer Road interchange will be signalized during the Capital Avenue detour situation.

Belles asked when new street signs will be installed in Emmett Charter Township by the County Road Department. Kernstock indicated that he could not provide an answer to that question at present. Kremer added that there is a shortage of the posts necessary for sign replacement that may delay the replacement process.

### **C. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Burdett adjourned the meeting at 2:02 p.m.