

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of December 7, 2022 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Heather Bowden, Susan Cronander, Darren Campbell (for Carl Fedders), Josh Grab, Kristine Parsons, and Chaz Wilkey
Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: None
Non-voting: Andrew Sibold (FHWA) and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Carl Fedders, Brian Kernstock, Pat Karr and Andrew Tilma

Vice-Chair Parsons called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. in the Springfield City Hall Council Chambers, 601 Avenue A, Springfield MI.

ROLL CALL

Vice-Chair Parsons 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.
22-32**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Cronander, supported by Wilkey, to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2022 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
22-33**

COMMUNICATIONS

Karr shared the following communications:

- BCATS received the 2023 State of Good Repair target information from Battle Creek Transit and this item is on the agenda for today.

- The public notice for Amendment #3 to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was published in the Battle Creek Enquirer on Wednesday, November 30, 2022.
- There is a MDOT Open House scheduled for tomorrow late afternoon (4-6pm) regarding the closure of the Capital Avenue bridge over I-94 during replacement of that bridge by MDOT. The Open House is being held at the City of Battle Creek Public Works Department on Kendall Street. Information sheets about the Open House were provided to the members. (Later in the meeting Grab reported that Ethan Block is the MDOT contact for this project)
- BCATS staff participated in a virtual meeting about the Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study being conducted for I-194 in the BCATS area. This is roughly from I-94 north to Hamblin Avenue in downtown Battle Creek. The PEL study is expected to take about a year and is being conducted primarily by consultants. Improvement of this section of roadway is a long term prospect, likely about 10 years away.
- The BCATS Policy Committee approved the 2023 safety target resolution and the executed resolution was submitted to MDOT, as required for the performance measure process.
- BCATS received notification that the long awaited release from the U.S. Census Bureau of urbanized area boundaries, which are being re-figured based on the 2020 Census results, is slated for December 29, 2022.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. Meeting Schedule for 2023

Karr indicated that the information for this item was posted in advance of the meeting. The schedule follows the same format as last year. The Technical Committee is being asked to approve its half of the joint meeting schedule for the BCATS Committees.

It was moved by Cronander, supported by Avis, to approve the Technical Committee meeting schedule for 2023, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
22-34**

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

Tilma presented the list of items being proposed for this amendment to the new TIP this month. He noted some of the particulars about two projects included on the list that have information combined for the purposes of the public notice. He added that the next

amendment opportunity in January 2023 requires that all proposed items for the amendment be made available to BCATS by December 22nd.

It was moved by Wilkey, supported by Cronander, to recommend that the BCATS Policy Committee approve Amendment #3 to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
22-35**

C. Performance Measures - Battle Creek Transit *State of Good Repair* Targets for 2023

Karr reviewed the draft resolution prepared for this item. This is in response to Battle Creek Transit identifying its State of Good Repair targets for 2023 in its *Transit Asset Management Summary for FY 22* report submitted to the National Transit Database (NTD) in October 2022. The proposed resolution for BCATS action would have BCATS “support” the BCT targets, as has been done in the past. BCT adopts this category of targets each year for the next calendar year. Avis explained how the figures on the table are determined and that the word “target” is really an indication of the current state of the fleet, not a goal.

It was moved by Cronander, supported by Wilkey, to recommend to the Policy Committee for approval the resolution supporting the BCT *State of Good Repair* targets for 2023. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
22-36**

D. Report of Nominations and Election of 2023 Technical Committee Officers

Parsons indicated that a memo from the Nominating Committee was provided in the advance member materials. The Nominating Committee recommended Parsons to serve as Chair and Avis to serve as Vice-Chair in 2023 for the Technical Committee.

It was moved by Grab, supported by Cronander, to accept the slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Committee and to elect those individuals. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
22-37**

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Vice-Chair Parsons announced that, with the adoption of the 2023 meeting schedule, the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for January 11, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

B. Committee Member Comments

There was discussion about Carl Fedders leaving the City of Battle Creek and taking a position with MDOT as of the first of the year.

Cronander indicated that the non-motorized plan for the City of Battle Creek is at a review stage. Karr requested that she let BCATS know when that plan can be provided to BCATS staff.

Parsons indicated that design for the CCRD federal-aid projects is underway. Parsons is participating in a pilot group for the SHPO review required for projects. The change in how these reviews are done will be effective January 3, 2023.

Bowden indicated that she has reformatted the Local Agency Balance Reports to include additional funding codes if this is of interest to the Committee members.

Grab stated that he is the project manager for the PEL study mentioned under Communications. He also stated that a formal request for reimbursement for Advance Construct projects has to be done for any Rural Task Force project constructed under those provisions as well as for projects under the urban program.

C. Public Comments

Fedders reported that Darren Campbell will be the City of Battle Creek's lead on the Beckley Road study that is still awaiting a formal agreement for the payment of MDOT's share of the consultant contract. This needs to be done in conjunction with the I-194 PEL study.

Parsons provided an added comment about the potential impact of the monarch butterfly being potentially listed as endangered/threatened and that there may be significant restrictions on road work in right-of-ways that would result from such as designation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.