

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Policy Committee

Minutes of December 13, 2023 Meeting

- MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Deb Belles, Heather Bowden, Harry Burdett, Derek King, Annjanette Kremer, John Midgley, and Steve Skalski
Non-voting: None
- MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: Laveta Hardish, Kevin Leiter, and Dennis McKinley
Non-voting: Jenny Staroska and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)
- OTHERS PRESENT: Chris Dopp, Carl Fedders, Sarah Fedders, Jeff Franklin, Lindsay Franklin, Donna Hutchison, Andy Karr, Pat Karr, Andrew Tilma, and Kim 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

Burdett asked all members and staff 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 Belles, supported by Midgley, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-56**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Skalski, supported by Avis, to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2023 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-57**

COMMUNICATIONS

Franklin shared the following communications:

- The BCATS 2023-2026 TIP Amendment #7, approved by Policy Committee at the November meeting, has been approved by FHWA.
- The State Transportation Commission approved MDOT's 2024-2028 Five Year Transportation Program, available for view online. Highlights already within the BCATS 23-26 TIP include: I-194 bridge replacement over Kalamazoo River; M-89/Washington bridge overlay over Grand Trunk Western Railroad and Kalamazoo River; I-94 Rest Area improvements; M-96/Helmer from Territorial to Dickman minor widening/left turn lane. Highlights beyond the BCATS current TIP include M-89/Washington bridge superstructure replacement over Battle Creek River; I-194 bridge overlay over Golden Avenue; M-89/Michigan over Waubascaon Creek deck replacement.
- MDOT Local Agency Programs released their 2026 Local Bridge Program, and City of Battle Creek has three bridge Preventative Maintenance jobs – Angell St, Kendall St, McCamley St, all over Kalamazoo River. CCRD has two jobs on the list outside of the BCATS area (L Drive South and 25.5 Mile Road near Homer, over S. Branch Kalamazoo River).
- MDOT Office of Economic Development released their 2025 Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF) Category F program, with City of Springfield as an award recipient for road rehabilitation work on Avenue A between M-96 (Dickman Road) and M-37 (Helmer Road).
- BCATS staff attended the first Beckley Road Corridor Redevelopment Steering Committee meeting on December 5th. Further meetings are scheduled through September 2024.
- The MDOT NFC Planner has advised BCATS staff that the National Functional Classification change for 6 Mile Road from B Dr N to B Dr S, meets standards and is currently in MDOT management review.
- MDOT reports there will not be a Federal Aid Buyout Program for 2025. The 2024 program is unaffected. MDOT is unsure about 2026 and beyond. MDOT's analysis for 2025 determined an inability to "match all federal aid including reapportionments, redistributions, or other awards of federal aid obligation authority."
- The current federal legislature continuing resolution goes through January 19th, 2024. Obligation authority is historically low right now – 84% instead of a more typical 93-96%. August Redistribution of obligation authority nationwide is expected to once again be high this year, to make up for this historically low amount early on. The advice for BCATS' local agencies is to submit your project packets to MDOT Local Agency Programs (LAP) soon. LAP has taken a loan of obligation authority from the Trunkline project pot in order to keep the Local project program going.
- Greenhouse Gas Performance Measures are forthcoming. MPOs will be required to individually establish their own targets for this Performance Measure. The target is required to be declining. The MPO will have 6 months after the State sets their own State target to establish an MPO target. The MPO methodology for establishing MPO individual target(s) has to be quantitative, and is allowed to be different than the State's own methodology. FHWA indicated, minimally,

the MPO could both copy the State methodology, and the State target(s), and report that to MDOT/FHWA as satisfying the MPO requirement.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. BCATS Policy Committee Meeting Schedule for 2024

Karr presented the proposed BCATS Joint Committee Meeting Schedule for 2024. The Policy Committee meetings would remain the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at Springfield City Hall. November and December meeting dates are moved one week earlier due to holidays, which is typical each year.

It was moved by Belles, supported by Skalski, to approve the BCATS Policy Committee Meeting Schedule dates for 2024, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-58**

B. Performance Measures – Safety Targets for 2024

Franklin discussed the annual targets for the Safety Performance Measures. The request is for the BCATS' Policy Committee to approve the Resolution to Support MDOT's State Targets for Safety Performance Measures, as has been done in the past.

It was moved by Skalski, supported by Avis, to approve the Resolution to Support MDOT's State Safety Targets for 2024, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-59**

C. Performance Measures – Battle Creek Transit (BCT) State of Good Repair Targets for 2024

Franklin outlined the annual State of Good Repair Targets for 2024, provided to BCATS by Battle Creek Transit. Avis discussed the current state of the fleet and BCT trends. The MPO is asked to "support" the BCT targets, as has been done in the past.

It was moved by Skalski, supported by Belles, to approve the Resolution to Support the Battle Creek Transit (BCT) State of Good Repair Targets for 2024, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-60**

D. Report of Nominations and Election of 2024 Policy Committee Officers

Chair Burdett reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee recommended Burdett to serve as Chair, Avis to serve as Vice-Chair, and Skalski to serve as Secretary-Treasurer in 2024 for the Policy Committee. All three persons have agreed to serve as 2024 officers.

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

**Res.
23-61**

E. Study Management Committee Update

Avis reported on a computer asset beyond its useful life cycle, that Pat Karr has been using as her BCATS work computer. Study Management Committee has agreed to sell this computer to Pat Karr for \$1, in lieu of expected disposal of the computer. Study Management Committee requests a resolution for this recommendation.

It was moved by Midgley, supported by Skalski, to approve the sale of a BCATS' computer asset to Pat Karr, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-62**

OTHER BUSINESS**A. Resolution of Appreciation for Patricia A Karr**

Chair Burdett read both a resignation letter from Patricia (Pat) Karr, and a resolution of appreciation for Patricia A Karr.

It was moved by Midgley, supported by Kremer, to accept the resignation of Pat Karr, and to adopt the resolution of appreciation for her 39+ years of leadership of BCATS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-63**

COMMENTS**A. Next Meeting**

Chair Burdett announced that the next meeting of the BCATS Policy Committee is scheduled for January 24, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

B. Committee Member Comments

Kremer reported that construction has wrapped up, and winter maintenance has commenced. The submitted combined safety and operations project for Columbia Ave (M-96) at Beadle Lake Rd and Main St was not chosen due to lack of funding, however will be resubmitted in the next call for projects.

Midgley reported that the County is preparing for winter. Midgley stated this will be his last Policy Committee meeting, and that Kristine Parsons will serve on BCATS Policy Committee for the County Road Department in 2024. All of the local road agreements sent to Townships are due December 14th; the applications will be rated and the results reported out thereafter.

Belles reported gratitude for the County filling a pot hole on 9 Mile Road near the I-94 bridge. Belles expressed gratitude for Pat Karr's leadership of BCATS and wished Pat luck in the future.

Skalski reported that the City of Battle Creek has prepared for winter and snow plowing operations.

Avis reported that all appointees to the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County (TACC) have been made by TACC members (the Cities of Albion, Battle Creek, Marshall, and Springfield). The new TACC board will meet in January. Avis reported that a TACC related millage is scheduled for the August 2024 ballot.

King congratulated Pat Karr on her retirement.

Bowden reported on the status of a forthcoming Memorandum of Understanding between MDOT, BCATS, and Battle Creek Transit.

Franklin and Tilma made a presentation of a crystal timepiece to longtime mentor and boss, Pat Karr, with gratitude for her 39+ years of leadership of BCATS.

Karr thanked everyone present for coming and for the well-wishes. Karr expressed gratitude and memory for departed and deceased individuals important to BCATS.

C. Public Comments

Several members of the public expressed fond memories of Pat Karr's work with BCATS, anecdotes on her exceptional character, and well-wishes for a nice retirement.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Burdett adjourned the meeting at 2:04 p.m.