

BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

Minutes of December 6, 2023 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Voting: Mallory Avis, Jarret Geering, Kristine Parsons, Travis Sullivan, and Chaz Wilkey

Non-voting: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: Voting: Heather Bowden, Josh Grab

Non-voting: Jenny Staroska and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Franklin, Pat Karr, and Andrew Tilma

Chair Parsons called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. in the Springfield City Hall Council Chambers, 601 Avenue A, Springfield MI.

ROLL CALL

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 Geering, to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-30**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Avis, supported by Sullivan, to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2023 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-31**

COMMUNICATIONS

Franklin shared the following communications:

- The BCATS 2023-2026 TIP Amendment #7, reviewed by Tech Committee at the November meeting, has been submitted for FHWA approval.
- BCATS FY2023 Obligated Projects Report has been distributed to all member agencies, with positive feedback received from FHWA and MDOT.
- 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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. BCATS Joint Committee Meeting Schedule for 2024

Franklin presented the proposed BCATS Joint Committee Meeting Schedule for 2024. The Technical Committee meetings would remain the second 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 Wilkey, supported by Geering, to approve the BCATS Technical Committee Meeting Schedule dates for 2024, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-32**

B. Performance Measures – Safety Targets for 2024

Parsons indicated that the information for this item was posted in advance of the meeting. Franklin discussed the annual targets for the Safety Performance Measures. The request is to recommend BCATS' Policy Committee approve the Resolution to Support MDOT's State Targets for Safety Performance Measures, as has been done in the past.

It was moved by Avis, supported by Wilkey, to recommend BCATS' Policy Committee approval of the Resolution to Support MDOT's State Safety Targets for 2024, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-33**

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 Wilkey, supported by Geering, to recommend BCATS' Policy Committee acceptance of the Battle Creek Transit (BCT) State of Good Repair Targets for 2024, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Res.
23-34**

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

Avis reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee recommended Geering to serve as Chair and Kernstock to serve as Vice-Chair in 2024 for the Technical Committee. Kernstock is expected to assume Parsons' position representing the Calhoun County Road Department (CCRD) on BCATS' Technical Committee beginning January 2024.

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

**Res.
23-35**

COMMENTS

A. Next Meeting

Chair Parsons announced that, with the adoption of the 2024 meeting schedule, the next meeting of the BCATS Technical Committee is scheduled for January 10, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

B. Committee Member Comments

Avis shared that Transportation Authority of Calhoun County (TACC) did not receive a Technical & Rural Assistance Program grant to fund an implementation plan for the transit authority. TACC will now go back to the Cities involved to split the costs of the intended project. The TACC intends to apply for further grants. TACC has new appointed board members, and intends to start meeting this month.

Wilkey reported City of Springfield received a significant grant for water infrastructure upgrades – water mains; lead service line replacements, etc. The City of Springfield is pleased to be a TEDF Category F recipient for the section of Avenue A (noted under Communications).

Parsons reported that tree cutting along Wattles Road is about to start. Both Wattles Road projects are let now. All 2024 projects are obligated, and came in under bid. CCRD is working with consultants on Verona Road conditions with regards to the Blue Oval Battery Park project. CCRD is also working to establish all of its 2024 township projects.

Geering reported that the Skyline Dr/Hill Brady Road roundabout is completed, and adjacent business owners are happy with it. The roundabout won an American Public Works Association Southwest Intergovernmental Cooperation award. The City of Battle Creek also received a significant grant for water infrastructure upgrades.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.