



“The Signal” 2023-2026 TIP

BCATS

February, 2022

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All BCATS Committee meetings are open to the public. Contact the staff office for details.

BCATS Is Developing A New FY 2023-2026 TIP

The Battle Creek Area Transportation Study (BCATS) has started the process of developing a new four-year document for the programming and implementation of transportation projects in the greater Battle Creek area. The document is called the **Transportation Improvement Program**, or **TIP** for short. In order for any of the state or local agencies, including transit, to receive Federal funding for a transportation project on a federal-aid eligible facility, it must be included in this TIP document.

The projects considered for the document are first drawn from existing transportation plans prepared by BCATS and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). In addition, general road, safety, maintenance, transit, and non-motorized projects are all considered.

Representatives of all of the local implementing agencies for potential projects meet to discuss possible projects and their relationship to each other. Opportunities for collaborating, combining, or complementing each other's proposed projects are explored as well. The funding for future improvements is very limited, so coordination is important. Some of the road projects currently being **proposed** in the BCATS area for the 2023-2026 TIP are listed below (note - transit operating and capital funds will also be included in each year's program, as well as these road-related projects). MDOT has some preliminary engineering projects and other general work activities not represented in the list below and may add additional projects to this list before it is finalized. **Please provide any comments about this preliminary listing to the BCATS staff office before March 9, 2022.**



Public input is welcomed at each phase in the development of the new TIP document. Please contact the BCATS office for further details, or speak directly to the responsible road agency personnel in your area.

This listing is subject to change/addition/deletion as development of the TIP continues.

- 2023 -**
 - Capital Avenue SW and NE**, multiple segments (resurface with ADA ramp upgrades)
 - North Avenue**, from E. Roosevelt Ave. north to Morgan Road (resurface with ADA ramps as necessary)
 - Morgan Road**, from North Avenue east to M-66 (Capital Ave. NE (mill and resurface)
 - I-94**, within the BCATS area (install 17 new cameras on existing dynamic message signs)
 - Sections of M-37 (Bedford Rd. N), M-66 (Capital Ave. NE) and M-78** (chip seal with fog seal)
 - Union Street Bridge**, over the Battle Creek River (major bridge rehabilitation)
 - M-89 (Washington Avenue) Bridge**, over GTW RR and Kalamazoo River (bridge rehabilitation)
 - M-96 (Columbia Avenue) Bridges**, over I-194 (major bridge rehabilitation)
- 2024 -**
 - Capital Preventative Maintenance Project.**, various eligible roadways in the City of BC (chip seal with fog)
 - N. Wattles Road**, from Michigan Ave. to Verona Rd. (resurface)
 - Watkins Road Bridge**, over Minges Brook (bridge rehabilitation)
 - Golden Avenue at Riverside Drive Intersection** (signal modernization)
 - I-194 Bridges**, over Kalamazoo River (bridge replacements)
 - I-94 Rest Area**, eastbound west of Capital Ave Exit (reconstruct rest area)
 - M-66 northbound**, from Beckley Rd. north to I-94 eastbound ramp (construct auxiliary right lane)
 - M-96 (Dickman Road)**, from Kalamazoo Co. line to Helmer Rd. (resurface with sidewalk ramp improvements)
- 2025 -**
 - Rehabilitation Project.**, various eligible roadways in the City of BC (resurface with ADA ramp upgrades)
 - S. Wattles Road**, from B Drive North to G Drive North (pulverize existing roadway and resurface over)
 - M-96/M-37/I-94BL (Helmer Road)**, between Territorial and I-94BL Dickman (convert 4 lane to 5 lane section)
 - McCamly St. at VanBuren St. Intersection** (signal modernization)
 - MDOT Non-freeway routes**, (signing upgrades on non-freeway state routes within the BCATS area)
- 2026 -**
 - Rehabilitation Project.**, various eligible roadways in the City of BC (resurface with ADA ramp upgrades)
 - Raymond Road**, from Golden Ave. to E. River Rd. (pulverize and resurface over)
 - Avenue A**, from Helmer Rd. to 20th Street (resurfacing)
 - I-94 Crash Investigation Sites**, along I-94 eastbound and westbound between Exit 100 and 9 Mile Road

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide the public with information regarding the activities of the Battle Creek Area Transportation Study (BCATS). The public is encouraged to contact BCATS at the above address or telephone (269) 963-1158, fax (269) 963-4951 or e-mail: bcats@bcatsmpo.org concerning issues in *The Signal* or other transportation matters.

Schedule for the Development of the 2023-2026 TIP

Feb.
2022

The process for developing a new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) extends over many months. After preparing a preliminary project list for the four-year program, BCATS requests public comment on the proposed list.

At the present time, the list of projects will have to undergo an assessment related to air quality impacts for ozone. While the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek area is currently considered in attainment for air quality issues, a federal court case has required the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to require areas designated as non-attainment under the 1997 ozone standards to conduct air quality conformity on their project lists. The financial soundness of the total TIP is also required to be evaluated. In addition, BCATS must consider federally identified performance measures and state set performance measure targets for safety, pavement and bridge condition, and others.

In addition, BCATS reviews the project list to see if there will be any disproportionate impacts on areas of the community which are designated as "environmental justice" areas. These are areas where there are higher than average percentages of persons who are considered low income or traditionally underserved, such as minority communities. Once all of the reviews are complete, an updated final project list and all supplemental materials are compiled into a draft, final TIP document. In spring 2022, this final draft document will be available for public review and comment.

Please offer any comments on the preliminary list of projects shown on the front of this sheet before March 9, 2022. In May or June, 2022, it is expected that the BCATS Committees (the Technical and the Policy Committees) will formally act on adopting a finalized new TIP document with all of the necessary supporting information, including project lists for 2023 to 2026. As noted above, comments are solicited throughout the process and there will be an opportunity at the May or June BCATS Policy Committee meeting when action is scheduled for final comments to be offered.

Following action by the BCATS' Policy Committee, the new TIP will be submitted to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the federal funding agencies for their review and approval. This process takes several months. Once approved, the FY 2023-2026 TIP is scheduled to be effective as of October 1, 2022 (which is the start of the 2023 fiscal year).

May -
June
2022

Maintaining the 2023-2026 TIP After It is Adopted

The process for maintaining the new Transportation Improvement Program is ongoing. The document is currently being fully updated every three years, but changes occur between updates. Projects can change, be removed and/or new projects added. Certain categories of federal funding are only awarded on an annual basis. In order for the funds to be spent, the projects selected for those funds need to be added to the existing TIP. All of these types of changes are done through "amendment" or "administrative modification" processes. The more formal amendment process requires a re-evaluation of financial soundness (called fiscal constraint), a double check of environmental justice issues, and a review of air quality impacts (if required, depending upon the type of project). Amendment details are published in the local newspaper and posted to the BCATS website prior to BCATS' Committee action and subsequent state and federal review. The administrative modification alternative does not require state and federal review and approval and is for changes that are less significant and do not meet the threshold or definition of a formal amendment.

Reminder: Public input is welcomed at each phase in the development of the new TIP document. Please contact the BCATS office for further details or see the BCATS' website at <https://www.bcatsmpo.org>



BCATS

