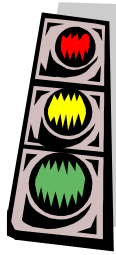


BCATS

February, 2021



“The Signal” BCATS 2045 Transportation Plan

601 Avenue A, Springfield, MI 49037 (269) 963-1158
fax (269) 963-4951 e-mail: bcats@bcatsmpo.org
website: <https://www.bcatsmpo.org>

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

BCATS Works to Develop 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan

The Battle Creek Area Transportation Study (BCATS) is moving forward with the updating of its 20-year long range transportation plan. The current plan, approved in 2016, has a horizon year of 2040. The updated plan will have a horizon year of 2045. The 2045 Plan is an update of the 2040 Plan. The Plan includes anticipated and expected improvements to the roads, transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, safety related projects (such as traffic signal upgrades), and other transportation related areas.

The development of the 2045 Plan document from now until the fall of 2021 will result in the new 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the Battle Creek metropolitan area. The BCATS Policy Committee will be reassessing the current plan's goals in March to guide the next steps of the long range plan update, as follows:

1. **Safety** - to minimize the loss of life, injuries, and property damage resulting from travel on all modes within the BCATS area.
2. **Accessibility** - to provide all travelers in the community with reasonable access to important destinations such as: residence, employment, recreation, community facilities, and commercial centers
3. **Preservation** - to preserve the investment in the area's transportation system
4. **Efficiency** - to achieve maximum efficiency, utilization, and performance from the transportation system
5. **Financial** - to minimize the financial costs of the transportation system to travelers and the community as a whole
6. **Comprehensive Planning** - to coordinate the planning and development of transportation facilities within the metropolitan area and in conjunction with countywide and statewide planning efforts
7. **Public Involvement** - to provide for public involvement in the planning and development of transportation facilities and services
8. **Environmental Mitigation** - to avoid disrupting social and economic life or creating a less attractive or less healthy living environment for Battle Creek residents due to unintended harmful effects of transportation on the immediate and global environment
9. **Community Impact** - to avoid and reduce conflicts between transportation facilities and land use.

Since the last Plan update was adopted in 2016, almost all of the 2017-2020 projects that were identified in the Plan have been implemented. This includes road, transit, non-motorized, bridge and safety projects in the BCATS area. During those years, a total of approximately \$56 million in federal funding, which was matched with state and local funding, was committed to projects within the metropolitan area (see the annual “Obligated Projects Report” for each year on the BCATS' website).



Public input is welcomed in the development of the updated 2045 Plan. CHECK OUT THE BCATS WEBSITE: <https://www.bcatsmpo.org> for further information. Given the current national health crisis, public input is being sought through virtual means.

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.

2045 Plan - Progress To-Date

Feb.
2021

The process of updating the Metropolitan Transportation Plan includes assessing current conditions related to transportation facilities and projecting how those conditions may change in the future. The current, called base year, data involving population, employment and traffic count information has been collected so far for the greater Battle Creek area

From current conditions, projections are made about the same data groups - population, employment, and traffic levels. This data will indicate future conditions requiring the need for certain investments in the transportation system over time. At present, the future needs are being formulated using a computer model incorporating the future condition data.

A large part of the Plan update process is also evaluating what level of funding may be available in the future to fund transportation projects and deciding priorities for those funds.

Also, BCATS has updated its Participation Plan in the early stages of this Metropolitan Transportation Plan process. The Participation Plan was approved by the BCATS Policy Committee in January 2021 and can be found on the home page of BCATS' website - <https://www.bcatsmpo.org>.

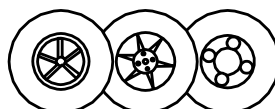
Continuing Development of the 2045 Transportation Plan

The process for developing this update to the BCATS Metropolitan Transportation Plan transportation plan will continue until fall 2021. All of the information included in the Plan is being updated as needed from the 2040 version of the Plan. Since the last Plan was developed, several new requirements have been instituted for these plans.

A major change from the 2040 Plan is the addition of a plan section dealing with performance measures for the transportation system, a requirement from the U.S. Department of Transportation contained in federal legislation. This involves assessing such items as road condition, bridge condition, safety statistics, transit status, and other categories. When a draft list of projects for the Plan is developed, another outreach effort to the public will be made by BCATS. The list of projects will also undergo an assessment related to air quality impacts. Additional evaluation will be done in relation to environmental impacts of the proposed project list, both from a natural environment and environmental justice standpoint. A financial chapter will meet federal requirements that the Plan show "financial constraint" (that project costs will not exceed expected revenues). Once a final draft is completed, the BCATS Policy Committee will act on the Plan, taking into consideration any public comments received.

Reminder: Public input is welcomed in the development of the updated Plan document. Please see the BCATS website for ongoing information about the Plan update. During the continuing COVID-19 health crisis, comments can be provided to BCATS through BCATS' e-mail at bcats@bcatsmpo.org or by sending comments to the BCATS office at BCATS, 601 Avenue A, Springfield, MI 49037.

Nov.
2021



BCATS

