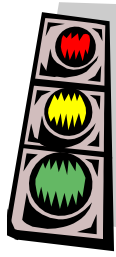




BCATS

July, 2021



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“The Signal” BCATS’ 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

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

BCATS Provides Update on 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 has a horizon year of 2045. The 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is an update to 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.



BCATS has looked at the Plan's goals and objectives, developed projections of future population, employment, and traffic levels, and is determining what levels of funding may be available to address future transportation needs. The development of a final 2045 Plan document over the next several months will complete the update process. In March 2021, the BCATS Policy Committee officially reaffirmed the goals to guide the development 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.

Public input is welcomed in the development of the updated 2045 MTP. CHECK OUT THE BCATS WEBSITE at <https://www.bcatsmpo.org> for further information.

In the last newsletter it was noted that almost all of the 2016-2020 projects that were identified in the previous Plan have been implemented. FY 2021 projects are underway this construction season as well. This includes road, transit, non-motorized, bridge and safety projects in the BCATS area.

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. The best contact method currently is using the e-mail address.

2045 Plan - Proposed Projects

Major Road, Transit, Non-Motorized, and Other Projects included in the proposed listing for the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan update at the present time are as follows (this listing only reflects the major projects of a larger project list and is subject to change in the final Plan document - see the BCATS website for a more extensive draft list):

- 2022 -**
 - Washington Avenue** (from Goodale Ave. southward to Michigan Ave. - mill and resurface)
 - Beadle Lake Road** (from B Drive N northward to exit/entrance ramps at I-94 - resurface)
 - F Drive North** (from Wattles Road east to approx. Flex-n-Gate drive - crush and shape and asphalt resurfacing)
 - K Drive S** (from 6 Mile Road eastward to 7 1/2 Mile Road—crush and shape and asphalt resurfacing)
 - Raymond Road N Bridge** (bridge over MDOT rail line - bridge rehabilitation)
 - 6 1/2 Mile Road @ Harper Village Drive** (signalized intersection upgrade/modernization, including video detection system)
 - I-194/M-66 Bridges** (over I-94—full paint and other rehabilitation efforts)
 - I-94 Rebuilding Michigan Project** (west of Helmer Rd. east to 6 1/2 Mile Rd. resurface; bridge replacement and interchanges at Capital Avenue and M-294; bridge replacement at 6 1/2 Mile Rd., 9 Mile Rd., and over Kalamazoo River; and bridge rehab at F Drive N)
 - I-94** (from Exit 104 to BCATS boundary at 12 Mile Road - asphalt mill and overlay as part of a larger project to 17 1/2 Mile Rd.)
 - I-94 Bridges** (over Riverside Dr. - bridge rehabilitation)
 - M-37 (Helmer/Bedford Road)** (from Dickman Road to Creekview Dr. - resurface)
 - I-94BL (Michigan Avenue) Bridge and M-311 (11 Mile Rd.) Bridge** (both over I-94 - barrier replacement and other maintenance work)
 - M-66** (from L Drive South north of D Drive South - mill and asphalt overlay)
- 2023 -**
 - Capital Avenue SW and NE** (multiple segments mill and asphalt resurface)
 - Skyline Drive and Hill Brady Road Intersection** (change “T” intersection to roundabout in conjunction with Air National Guard project)
 - Union Street Bridge** (over the Battle Creek River - bridge rehabilitation)
 - Morgan Road** (from North Ave. east to M-66 (Capital Avenue NE - mill and asphalt resurface)
 - I-194 Bridges over the Kalamazoo River** (bridge replacements, including approaches)
 - M-89 (Washington Avenue) Bridge** (over the Grand Trunk Western RR and Kalamazoo River - bridge rehabilitation)
 - M-96 (Columbia Avenue) Bridges** (over I-194 - major bridge rehabilitation)
- 2024 -**
 - I-94 Battle Creek Rest Area** (southside of I-94 eastbound between exits 95 and 97 - reconstruct rest area building)
 - M-66** (from Beckley Road north to I-94 - construct auxiliary lane on M-66 northbound for traffic from Beckley Road)
- 2025 -**
 - M-66** (from Glenn Cross Road south to Athens Township border - fixed object removal)
 - M-96/M-37/I-94BL (Helmer Road)** (from Territorial Road north to Dickman Road - convert a less than 1 mile segment from 4 lanes to 5 lanes to add a center left-turn lane)
 - Trunkline Non-Freeway Signing** (various non-freeway routes in the BCATS area - signing replacement/upgrade)
- 2026 -**
 - I-94 Crash Investigation Sites** (construct crash investigation sites eastbound and westbound between Exit 100 and the 9 Mile Rd. bridge)
- 2022-2045 Numerous transit capital projects** (to replace transit vehicles and equipment as items are eligible for replacement)
- 2022-2045 Annual Operating Assistance for transit** (federal, state and local amounts for transit operating assistance)
- 2022-2045 MDOT Annual Pavement Preservation Projects** (capital preventative maintenance type projects - resurfacing and reconstruction)
- 2022-2045 Annual Transit Security Projects** (for Battle Creek Transit - security related projects of at least 1% of federal operating assistance)
- 2022-2045 Annual Specialized Services Transit Operating Assistance** (for local human service agencies - state operating assistance)
- 2022-2045 Annual Specialized Services Transit Capital Assistance** (for local human service agencies - federal w/ state match capital assistance)
- 2024-2045 Local Road Agency Annual Pavement Preservation Projects** (capital preventative maintenance type projects - resurfacing and reconstruction) (**NOTE:** project specifics for the 2024 to 2026 time frame will be identified within the development of the next Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) cycle, which is to begin in the fall of 2021, with new TIP approval in May 2022)

July
2021



Oct. -
Nov.
2021

Remaining Schedule for Development of the 2045 Transportation Plan

The process for developing an update to the BCATS long range transportation plan has extended over the past year. Since conditions in the BCATS area have not changed dramatically, this update did not involve a total “start from scratch” process for the Plan update. Information was updated as needed, and the new federal requirements associated with Plan updates have been incorporated. BCATS also needs to develop a System Performance Report as part of the new requirements. That report will be completed in association with the new MTP. The list of projects in the MTP will undergo an assessment related to air quality impacts based on the Kalamazoo/Calhoun County status as a Limited Orphan Maintenance Area, or LOMA, which resulted from a court case involving the Environmental Protection Agency. Local approval of the final 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan is expected this fall. The BCATS Technical and Policy Committees meet the second and fourth Wednesdays, respectively of each month - the meeting schedules, as well as details about participating in those meetings, are available on the BCATS website.

Reminder: Public input is welcomed in the development of the updated Plan document. Please contact the BCATS office for further details (269) 963-1158 or email: bcats@bcatsmpo.org



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