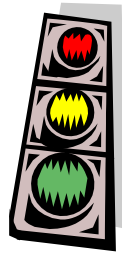
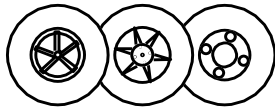


Newsletter of the
Battle Creek Area
Transportation Study



“The Signal” 2020-2023 TIP

BCATS

January, 2019

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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 2020-2023 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. In addition, general road, safety, maintenance, transit, and non-motorized projects are all considered.

Representatives of all of the 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 2020-2023 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 not represented in the list below and may add additional projects to this list before it is finalized. **Please provide any comments about this listing to the BCATS staff office before February 27, 2019.**

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

- 2020 - **N Drive North**, from Bellevue Rd. east to 12 Mile Rd. (reconstruction)
Main St., from Mary St. south to the Battle Creek city limits and from M-66 south to Hamblin Ave. (resurface)
Major Resurfacing Program City of Battle Creek, various road segments (chipseal resurfacing)
I-94 Westbound Entrance Ramp at Exit 104, opposite Wheatfield Parkway (reconstruct ramp)
Main St. at Cliff St. Intersection, (signal modernization)
M-96 (Columbia Ave.), Helmer Rd. east to Riverside Dr. (resurface)
I-94BL (Dickman Rd.), from Helmer Rd. east to I-194/M-66 southbound on-ramp (resurface)
- 2021 - **North Ave.**, from VanBuren St. north to Roosevelt Ave. (resurface)
Territorial Rd., from Capital Ave. east to Riverside Dr. (resurface)
Emmett St. from Hazel St. east to Capital Ave. (chipseal resurface)
Capital Ave. SW, from 1600' north of B Drive South north to City of Battle Creek limits (pavement rehabilitation)
Morgan Rd., from M-37 (Bedford Rd.) east to North Ave. (resurface)
Hamblin Ave., Michigan Ave., and Emmett St. Bridges (bridge deck maintenance)
Capital Ave. NE at VanBuren St. Intersection, (signal modernization)
- 2022 - **Morgan Rd.**, from North Ave. east to M-66 (resurface)
Washington Ave., from Goodale Ave. south to Michigan Ave. (resurface)
McCamy St. at VanBuren St. Intersection (signal modernization)
F Drive N., from Wattles Rd. east to Flex-n-Gate driveway (to tie into previous project) (pavement rehabilitation)
Main St. and Grenville St., both from Columbia Ave. north to Kingman (resurface)
I-94 Bridges under I-194 and over Riverside Dr. (bridge maintenance work)
MDOT Non-freeway routes, (signing upgrades at various locations within the BCATS area)
- 2023 - **Capital Ave. SW 4 segments**, from Dickman Rd., south to Fairfield Ave., from Weeks Ave. north to Rebecca Rd. from Michigan Ave. north to Cherry St. and from Dickman Rd. north to Michigan Ave. (resurface)
K Drive S, from 6 1/2 Mile Rd. east to 7 1/2 Mile Rd. (pavement rehabilitation)
I-94 BL (Michigan Ave.) Bridge over I-94 (Emmett Township), (bridge rehabilitation)



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.

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 2020-2023 TIP

Nov.
2018

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 may 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 computer modeling on their project lists. However, the implementation of this ruling is still under development. The financial soundness of the total TIP is also required to be evaluated. BCATS also 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 early spring 2019, this document will be available for public review and comment.

Please offer comments on the preliminary list of projects shown on the front of this sheet before the BCATS Policy Committee meeting on February 27, 2019. In May or June, 2019, 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, as well as project lists for 2020 to 2023. 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.

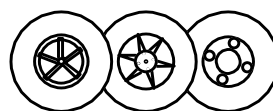
Following action by the BCATS’ Policy Committee, the new TIP will be submitted to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the federal funding agencies for their review and approval. This process takes several months. Once approved, the FY 2020-2023 TIP is scheduled to be effective as of October 1, 2019 (which is the start of the 2020 fiscal year).

May -
June
2019

Maintaining the 2020-2023 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

