

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Technical Committee Minutes - February 11, 2014

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Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

Introductions were made around the table as there were new faces at the meeting. Engelhardt gave a brief explanation about the difference between the BCATS Technical Committee and the BCATS Policy Committee.

Those Present Were:

Dave Engelhardt, BCATS staff; Jim Lillo, Bay County Road Commission; Jim Koenig, MDOT Lansing; Jason Garza, MDOT Bay City TSC; Kurt Hausbeck, City of Bay City; Terry Moulthane, City of Bay City; Jay Reithel, MDOT; Eric Sprague, BMTA; Jay Anderson, BCATS staff, and; Cyndi Gaul, Secretary, BCATS Staff.

Minutes from December 10, 2013 BCATS Tech Meeting:

It was moved by Reithel, seconded by Lillo, to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2013 meeting. Motion passed.

Public Comment: None

Legislative Update:

Engelhardt said that there was nothing new to report. Reithel mentioned the new state law that would allow ORVs on state trunklines. The use of ORVs on state trunklines would still have to be approved by the local municipality. Reithel is still awaiting more clarification on the law.

Governor's Regional Prosperity Initiative:

Engelhardt said that East Central applied for the first round and they were denied, they have since re-applied and should receive notification by March 1st. Jackson County has conditional approval. Traverse City went through too. Koenig said that out of the eleven applications received, seven were accepted and made it through. People that were denied the first time are encouraged to re-apply.

2014-17 TIP Amendments - MDOT:

Engelhardt provided everyone with a handout of the TIP Amendments being requested. The **East Salzburg Road Project** (4 Mile to Mackinaw Road) should be a project in 2015 not 2014. We need to double check the project cost to make sure it is accurate in the TIP. The **M-13 Project** (Zilwaukee Bridge to Bay City south of city limits) is in both Bay County and Saginaw County. Reithel will need to allocate the costs for this project. The **Bay City Rest Area Project** (#605) is a new addition to the TIP and we need to verify if the project should be in 2015 or 2016. Nothing will be done with this project at this time. The **M-25 Project** (M-13/M-84 over the Saginaw River) should be ignored from the snapshot provided as it's already in the TIP for 2014. The **CPM CSM Bridge Trunkline GPA Project** (Region-wide) needs to reflect that it is a GPA Project in the TIP, it's already shows it's a GPA project in the snapshot. The **Transportation Alternative/Enhancement Trunkline GPA Project** (Region-wide) needs a change in the federal funding code from STE funds to TA funds with a comment that it was a "former STE Funds" project. The **Pre-Construction**

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Phases GPA Project (Region-Wide) for park and ride has been suspended. Nothing will be done with this project at this time. We need to add an increase in funds for the **Woodside Project** in Essexville to the list as it was not included in the snapshot, yet it is in the TIP. The increase in funds for this project is due to the addition of handicap accessible sidewalks. There was also an increase in the local match for this project.

A motion was made by Lillo, seconded by Moulthane, to favorably recommend the approval of the various MDOT 2014-17 TIP Amendments listed above to the BCATS Policy Committee. Motion passed.

Traffic Count Program:

Engelhardt discussed the future direction of the Traffic Count Program. Historically we have done pretty good at getting the information on traffic counts on a three-year rotation. We've been doing the counts county-wide. We need to make sure we aren't duplicating the traffic count efforts of Midland County and Saginaw County. Currently we use a spread sheet and data base to track the traffic counts and we aren't looking to change our system right now. However, in the future it may be possible to use the RoadSoft system to track our traffic counts. RoadSoft is able to capture traffic count data and views it as an asset in the software. Engelhardt wondered if there would be a benefit to knowing the exact traffic count location for the data. Lillo said that the Bay County Road Commission has a set of parameters for establishing traffic count locations. Traffic counts are basically taken in the same location, so that similar location information is available. Bay City will work on transition of a new person to oversee traffic counts in the city.

Euclid Avenue/Wilder Road Access Management Update:

Reithel was working with the Road Commission to get the narrative and finally got it. The narrative still needs to have dates and times added, along with the crash history of the corridor. Having this as an overlay district would be best in order to identify the information for specific corridors. That way the ordinance will work better. They are very close on the final RFP to having something to submit for processing.

State & Wilder Road Entrance Addition:

Lillo wanted to give a heads up about the possible upcoming State and Wilder Road entrance addition for the new steak house. There is a big push to create an additional entrance for this establishment and there is a great deal of effort behind this project.

2015 UWP:

Engelhardt mentioned the 2015 Unified Work Program (UWP) and said that the group would talk more about this at the April 2014 BCATS Tech Meeting. Engelhardt would like everyone to consider any specific planning process they might be considering BCATS involvement in before the next meeting to get a jump start on this process.

Expense Billings:

Engelhardt briefly touched on Expense Billings and said that it was important to receive invoices in a timely manner. He will be meeting with the Finance Department to discuss the Expense Billings after this meeting. There is a push for coordinating all expenses and sending the quarterly billings in within 30 days after the quarter.

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Project Updates:

Garza provided a spreadsheet handout of a list of the Bay County five-year projects to give everyone a heads up of what they will be doing. There will be some upcoming **Bridge Projects** on M-25 over the Saginaw River and M-25/M-83/M-84 over the Saginaw River in 2014. There will be two **Road R&R Projects** on I-75 from Cottage Grove Road to Linwood Road and on M-13 from the Zilwaukee Bridge to Bay City SCL in 2017. There will be **T&S Safety Programs** on M-25 from M-25 to the Knight Road intersection in 2018. The **US-10/Mackinaw Road Project** is still on the radar but probably 5-10 years out. The **Saginaw Street Project** is in the process of being revised due to on-street parking concerns. This project was originally going to affect thirty parking spaces on the street, however after several meetings on the subject the plan is being modified. Engelhardt pointed out that if there is a design change to the project, it may require approval. The **Salzburg Road Project** (4 Mile to Mackinaw) is in the design stage and waiting for PE funds to go through. MDOT has already obligated this project. The **Old Kawkawlin Road Project** is in the design phase. There are three **Bridge Projects** that are being planned, two of the projects are in the design phase and the third one may be changed to a bridge replacement due to the age of the bridge. Lillo mentioned that they along with the Bay County Board of Commissioners sent a resolution to the state legislature to ask them to use state surplus funds on transportation projects. Bay Metro has received a \$3 Million **State of Good Repair Grant** for nine buses and has received an extension on this grant. Bay Metro has received approval for \$50,000 for the **Bus Bike Rack Project**.

Other/New Business:

Michigan Tech RoadSoft:

Engelhardt listened to the latest webinar. He reminded anyone involved in PASER Ratings that there are requirements for being a certified Paser rater that involve sitting in on a webinar and one day in class instruction. The next classroom training is on February 26th in Saginaw at the Horizons Conference Center. Engelhardt also mentioned to the group to consider using Roadsoft for tracking historical treatments and ratings which will allow the software to calculate a cost-benefit analysis for road maintenance.

New 2015 Aerial Photography:

Engelhardt mentioned that Bay County will be acquiring new aerial imagery in 2015 and will let potential parterres know of estimated costs going forward.

BCATS Meetings Times and Dates:

Engelhardt mentioned that a BCATS Tech meeting schedule will be sent out and will be held on the Tuesday before BCATS Policy meetings.

Legislature Request for Transportation Projects:

Engelhardt heard from Susan Flowers, Chair of MTPA told him that the Legislature is asking for Transportation Projects. This is just a "heads up".

Email About Bus Rapid Transit (BRT):

Engelhardt handed out a copy of an email he received about Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).

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Three years ago Flint FTA tried to pursue a Rapid Bus Route from Flint to Detroit. In the end it came down to the actual cost for such a program. Sprague said that BMTA would endorse a "feasibility study", but nothing more at this time.

Training Wheels Program:

Reithel discussed the Training Wheels program and indicated that MDOT was getting ready to do more sessions this summer.

Bay-Zil Trail:

Reithel discussed the Bay-Zil trail for the non motorized trail in the Bay County Middlegrounds. Moulthane said that he hasn't heard anything new from the BACF Railtrail committee and current trail efforts are focused on the Uptown development.

As there was no other business, the February 11, 2014 meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Engelhardt
BCATS Director