

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Technical Committee Minutes – February 10, 2015

Page 1

Call to Order:

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

Those Present Were:

Jay Anderson, BCATS staff; Jim Koenig, MDOT; Ken Feldt, City of Bay City; Jay Reithel, MDOT; Ryan McDonnell, MDOT; Brandon Lambrix, MDOT; Jim Lillo, Bay County Road Commission; Terry Moulane, City of Bay City, and; Cyndi Gaul, Bay County Environmental Affairs & Community Development.

Introductions were made.

Minutes from October 14, 2014 BCATS Tech Meeting:

It was moved by Reithel, seconded by Feldt, to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2014 BCATS Technical Committee Meeting. Motion passed.

Public Comment: None

Legislative Update:

Koenig didn't have anything new to add. He did want to make it clear that the 1% sales tax (6% to 7%) proposal is an increase that will be increase funds going to the General Fund, not toward Transportation. Tied to the proposal is legislation that will remove the sales tax for fuel and diesel sales and add a whole sale tax to fuel and diesel as well as increase cost in vehicle registration. All taxes on fuel and diesel sales as well as vehicle registration costs will go toward Transportation. There will be a vote about the 1% sales tax increase on May 5, 2015 and if that goes through, the Wholesale Fuel Tax and the Vehicle Registration Increase will go through along with it. There are other pieces of legislation that will also go into effect if the 1% increase in sales tax proposal is passed such as new warranties and competitive bidding rules for road construction and restoring the Earned Income Tax Credit. You can read more about the proposed legislation at:

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2014-HJR-UU>.

TIP Amendment – MDOT:

The MDOT ***I-75 Project*** to restore and rehabilitate the section of road from Cottage Grove Road to Linwood Road needs to have a new Right of Way (ROW) phase project added. Anderson provided a handout of the Snapshot for this new project.

A motion was made by Koenig, seconded by Feldt, to favorably recommend amending the above project to include the addition of a ROW Phase to the 2014-17 TIP to the BCATS Policy Committee with the approval for any administrative correction or modification that may be required to be made as needed. Motion Passed.

Euclid Avenue/Wilder Road Access Management Update:

Anderson provided a handout pamphlet created by the consultant to explain the plan

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Technical Committee Minutes – February 10, 2015

Page 2

for the Euclid Avenue/Wilder Road Access Management project. Reithel anticipates that the plan will be completed by late August of 2015. Koenig said there will be a Pre-UWP Meeting for all 2016 projects and wondered if the Euclid Avenue/Wilder Road Access Management Project would need to be moved into 2016. There will be a project meeting with the consultant and property owners in early March 2015 so it's anticipated there will be more information after the meeting.

GLBR Travel Demand Model – Socio-Economic Data:

A GLBR Travel Demand Model on Socio-Economic Data Review presentation was given by MDOT at the December 2014 Tech Committee meeting. At the presentation there was discussion about providing updates for the socio-economic data. Anderson sent out the Socio-Economic data information he has to the local units for their review. He is willing to go over the information if anyone has questions. He plans to have BCATS approve the data at the April 2015 meeting. It's important to have accurate information on businesses and population as this can have a significant impact on travel so the focus is on businesses that have over 10 employees. Anderson is also interested in information about any larger businesses coming into the area in the future.

PASER Training:

Anderson provided an update on the dates for upcoming PASER Training. There will be free webinars for PASER Training on February 10th, February 12th, March 9th, and March 31st. There will be PASER Training in West Branch on February 24th and in Saginaw February 25th.

Michigan Travel Counts Survey from MDOT:

MDOT and SEMCOG will be sending out surveys to get an idea of the driving habits across the State. The letters to request participation will be sent out randomly. There is a subset of participants that will be using GPS devices to track where participants go in order to collect accurate data.

Project Updates:

The Road Commission **Salzburg Road Project** (4 Mile to Mackinaw) Right of Way (ROW) issues have cleared up and there will be a May 2015 let. The Road Commission **Garfield Road Safety Project** in Williams Twp. by the airport is underway. The Road Commission **Garfield Road Project** moving from two lanes to three lanes from Midland Road to just past North Union will include reconstruction of the Rail Road Crossing and sidewalks. Reithel applied for a TAP grant funds for the MDOT **Bay -Zil Trail Bridge Project** to the Middlegrounds. This project is 1.5 miles of trail and will be reviewed in spring. The **Bay City Center Avenue Project** for mill and resurface from Water Street to Madison has a June 2015 let date. There will be a Kickoff Design Meeting for the MDOT **US-10 Project** coming up soon, there is no start date set for this project. The MDOT **9 Mile/US-10 Project** has a March 2015 let date.

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Technical Committee Minutes – February 10, 2015

Page 3

Moultane asked when MDOT would be placing M-25 on their list of projects, specifically the Jenny/Thomas corridor. Moultane wondered if there were any dates set for improvements. Koenig said that it was not a priority project at this time, so it is not scheduled to be on the MDOT list of project in the near future.

Other:

Transportation Planner/GIS Tech Interviews:

Anderson mentioned that the Bay County Environmental Affairs & Community Development Department would be interviewing potential candidates for the Transportation Planner/GIS Tech this week. He is hopeful that the department will have someone new into the position by April, 2015.

Transportation Meeting:

Reithel said there would be a MDOT Pedestrian and Bike Committee Meeting held on February 25, 2015 at the MDOT Region Office from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Complete Streets:

Moultane said that he was looking for some design criteria/best practices for the non-motorized policy to help with Complete Streets. Moultane wondered if BCATS should provide a Complete Streets component in with the BCATS Non-Motorized Plan. Anderson said that a Complete Streets Policy and updating the BCATS Non-Motorized Plan will be taken into consideration. Anderson mentioned that since BCATS is not county-wide that a BCATS Complete Streets Policy may not be enough. Riethel commented on being careful to consider both urban and rural routes.

Road Diet:

Lillo discussed the Road Commission consideration of a Road Diet. He feels that Midland Road west of Euclid Avenue would be eligible since it should be changed from a five lane road to a three lane road. There is a great need to provide a bike path and have space for non-motorized travel. Lillo feels very strongly about this. Reithel will look into what would need to be done to help make this happen.

Safe Routes to Schools Training:

Reithel distributed a flyer for Safe Routes to School training on May 18, 2015 at the MDOT Bay Region office. The Bay County Health Department is working on part of a Michigan Healthy Communities Grant to identify schools that might be good for a Safe Routes to School program. Anderson is assisting them with this part of the grant.

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Technical Committee Minutes – February 10, 2015

Page 4

As there was no other business, the February 10, 2015 BCATS Technical Committee Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Anderson
BCATS Staff

Transcribed by C. Gaul

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