

## BAY COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

515 Center Avenue, Suite 504  
Bay City, Michigan 48708

### JAY ANDERSON, BCATS DIRECTOR

andersonj@baycounty.net

Phone (989) 895-4064

Fax (989) 895-4068

TDD (989) 895-4049

<http://www.baycounty-mi.gov>



## JAMES A. BARCIA

County Executive

### LAURA OGAR, DIRECTOR

ogarl@baycounty.net

Community Initiatives  
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Transportation Planning

# Definition of Regionally Significant Project for the Bay City Area Transportation Study

Adopted August 22, 2018

## Background

The Michigan Department of Transportation has made it a priority for each MPO to define how a project is designated as "Regionally Significant". According to the Federal MPO regulations, this has two primary implications:

- The project must be included in the TIP
- The project cannot be included in a GPA

"Regionally Significant" has not been previously defined by BCATS and was determined by the BCATS Policy Committee on a case by case basis. BCATS has worked with neighboring MPOs (MATS & SMATS) as well as the MDOT Bay Region planner and MDOT statewide planning staff to craft a definition of "Regionally Significant".

## Proposed Definition for a Regionally Significant Project

Due to the unique circumstances in the BCATS planning area, BCATS staff recommends separate criteria for "Regionally Significant" for highway and moveable bridge projects.

*For **highway** projects to be considered "Regionally Significant" a project needs to meet all of the following criteria:*

1. *Be greater or equal to one-half mile in length*
2. *Be greater or equal to \$750,000 in total phase cost*
3. *Be a reconstruction or new facility (includes adding/removing a turn or travel lane).*

*For **moveable bridge** projects to be considered "Regionally Significant" a project needs to meet all of the following criteria:*

1. *Be greater or equal to \$1,000,000 in total phase cost*
2. *Result in the closing of the bridge to road traffic for more than two consecutive weeks*

The rationale for this definition is based on the resulting impact to the MPO planning area either during construction or as a result of the completed project. Capital Preventative Maintenance projects are not intended to be categorized as "Regionally Significant". The BCATS Policy Committee reserves the right to review and adjust the criteria over time.