

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Technical Committee Minutes – February 9, 2021

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Meeting Via Microsoft Teams Meeting – Meeting was recorded

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Those Present Were:

Ryan Smith, BCATS Staff; Jay Reithel, MDOT; Jack Hofweber, MDOT BCTSC; Jon Roberts, MDOT SUTA; Donald Matula, MDOT BCTSC; Brian Stark, MDOT; Dave Engelhardt, EMCOG; Eric Sprague, BMTA, and; Cyndi Gaul, Environmental Affairs & Community Development.

Minutes from December 8, 2020 BCATS Technical Meeting:

It was moved by Sprague, seconded by Reithel, to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2020 BCATS Technical Committee Meeting. Motion passed.

Public Comment: There was no public comment brought before the committee.

Legislative Update: There was nothing new to report at this time.

- MDOT staff continues to work from home due to COVID-19.

FY2020-2023 TIP Amendments, Administrative Modifications:

Smith provided a handout of the FY 2020-2023 TIP Amendment/Administrative Modification for review and recommendation to the Policy Committee for approval. The following is the TIP Amendment/Administrative Modification requested:

FY 2021 Amendments:

1. Suspension of the East Salzburg Road Project (Salzburg Road at Fraser Road to 8 Mile Road)

A motion was made by Reithel, seconded by Sprague, to favorably recommend the FY 2020-2023 TIP amendment be moved forward to BCATS Policy Committee for approval. Motion Passed.

Great Lakes Bay Region Travel Demand Model Update:

Jon Roberts from MDOT Planning – Urban Travel Analysis unit provided an update on the Great Lakes Bay Region Travel Demand Model. The schedule has been set for this project and early March 2021 MDOT will release the base year model results for the three MPOs (Bay, Midland, and Saginaw) to be reviewed. This will include all the AM and PM results. Roberts would like to get feedback on any areas that are not showing up on the model, especially areas that will be having future growth that will impact the model. Once the data has been reviewed, MDOT will move forward with the forecast model results. Roberts would like to present (15-20 minute presentation) the forecast model at one of the summer BCATS Tech meetings. People need to start thinking about which capacity projects they would like to see plugged into the model over the next few weeks for the Long Range Plan. MDOT is already planning to run the Bay City bridge scenarios. The model is scheduled to be completed by the end of October 21, 2021. However, the final date for completion is the end of the calendar year 2021 to give us November and December to incorporate any corrections or changes.

2021 MDOT 4-Year Bridge Targets

Smith provided a handout of the adjusted 2021 MDOT 4-year Bridge Targets for review. The adjustments came about due to the outcome of some of the larger bridge projects throughout the state.

A motion was made by Sprague, seconded by Reithel, to favorably recommend the 2021 MDOT 4-Year Bridge Targets be moved forward to BCATS Policy Committee for approval. Motion Passed.

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BMTA Transit Asset Management Plan and Transit Safety Plan

Smith provided a handout of the Bay Metro Transit Authority (BMTA) Transit Asset Management Plan (State of Good Repair Targets) and the Transit Safety Plan (Transit Safety Targets). Sprague discussed both plans and said that there was no federal requirement that the plans be approved by BCATS, however they should be received and acknowledged by BCATS. BMTA has been doing well and working on the repair and replacement of buses. Many of the older obsolete buses will be phased out and replaced on routes with the newer propane buses. A review of both the BMTA Transit Asset Management Plan and the BMTA Safety Plan are reviewed annually.

A motion was made by Reithel, seconded by Engelhardt, to favorably recommend the 2021 BMTA Transit Asset Management Plan (State of Good Repair Targets) and 2021 BMTA Transit Safety Plan (Transit Safety Targets) be moved forward to BCATS Policy Committee for receipt and acknowledgement. Motion Passed.

Draft 2021 BCATS Non-Motorized Transportation Plan

Smith sent a draft copy of the 2021 BCATS Non-Motorized Transportation Plan for review by the BCATS Tech Committee. A link to the document is also out on the Transportation Planning main webpage. This document is still in draft form and will be submitted for approval at the April BCATS Meeting. If you have any comments or changes that should be made to the draft 2021 BCATS Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, please email them to Ryan Smith at smithr@baycounty.net by no later than Monday, April 12, 2021. There was discussion about having the City of Bay City Non-Motorized Plan linked to our online document and that link will be added. Midland County has a check box on project sheets to make sure the projects follow the guidelines of the MATS Non-Motorized Transportation Plan for implementation when possible. The committee felt this is something worth looking into. While it's not a requirement, the BCATS Non-Motorized Transportation Plan will be open for a thirty day public comment period.

Asset Management Updates

Due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements, PASER Training will be conducted virtually. There will be a three day PASER Training taking place February 23-25, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. each day. There will also be PASER Trainings in April and June of 2021. There is discussion that 2-person teams will be allowed for the collection of data, though it's unclear how that will be working. BCATS plans to collect data from all Bay County roads in order to make up for any ratings that were missed in 2020. The requirement to have a representative from the MPO along during the data collection has been waved for 2021. There was discussion about if it would be possible to have one person go out on the roads to rate the roads while relaying the data to a second person that was set up on the computer. This is something worth talking to the State about.

Project Updates

As no one from the *Road Commission* or the *City of Bay City* was present at the meeting, no update was given for projects in these areas.

The **MDOT M-13 Signal Replacement Project** at Beaver Road will have the left turn lane closed off at the signal for the replacement and will be done this summer 2021. The **MDOT I-75 Project** (Beaver Road to Cottage Grove Road) for reconstruction of 4.5 miles of road will be a 2-year project started in 2021 and finished in 2022. The **MDOT M-61 Signage Project** (Standish west to the Gladwin county line in northern Bay County) for sign replacement will be done this summer 2021. The **MDOT M-247 Rail Road Crossing Project** will be constructed in the summer of 2021. The **MDOT US-10 Reconstruction Project** will be underway in 2021. The **MDOT I-75 Project** (southbound lane) has a portion of work within Bay County and will be underway the summer of 2021. The MDOT US-23 Connector Project (eastbound

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and westbound) to rebuild the connector will be constructed in 2021. MDOT will be conducting repairs on 12-13 bridges that cross over I-75 in 2021.

The **BMTA** fixed rate service suspension has been extended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The **BMTA** is still running their demand services and people need to call a day ahead to schedule. BMTA has drivers working two weeks on and two weeks off due to COVID-19 and will reevaluate this practice once all the drivers have been vaccinated. BMTA offered up their facility as a vaccination center for the community.

Other/New Business

Upcoming Pre-UWP Meeting

The Pre-Unified Work Program (UWP) meeting will be held on February 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Ryan will forward the email invitation to Eric Sprague, BMTA.

2021 Aerial Imagery Update

The 2021 aerial initial imagery is being reviewed. Once we receive the final product, it will go live on our website and Fetch GIS Web Viewer. Ryan will let everyone know when it is the aerial imagery is live.

Transportation Planning/BCATS Director Position

The Environmental Affairs and Community Development Department posted Jay Anderson's position as the Transportation Planning/BCATS Director. The Department will be conducting interviews soon. Until that position is filled, Ryan Smith will be handling Transportation/BCATS duties in the interim.

As there were no further business, a motion was made by Sprague, seconded by Reithel, to adjourn the February 9, 2021 BCATS Technical Committee meeting at 10:48 a.m. Motion Passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Smith

Ryan Smith
BCATS Staff

Transcribed by C. Gaul