

2011 Annual Report of the Bay City Area Transportation Study (BCATS)

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING & SAFETEA-LU

On August 10, 2005, President Bush signed the \$244.1 billion, five-year federal transportation funding bill as passed by Congress which is known as SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users). SAFETEA-LU succeeds the expired Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21).

SAFETEA-LU re-authorizes the federal highway, public transportation, highway safety, and motor carrier safety programs through Fiscal Year 2009, which ended on September 30th, 2009. To continue funding transportation projects, Congress has passed an extension of SAFETEA-LU into 2012. However, a new Transportation Funding Bill is expected to be passed in 2012. The Bay City Area Transportation Study (BCATS) is designated to carry out the transportation planning process required by TEA-21 and now SAFETEA-LU as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Establishment of this process enables BCATS and other transportation agencies in the BCATS area to receive federal funding for a variety of transportation projects including reconstruction and resurfacing of roads & bridges, purchase of transit vehicles, highway & transit safety improvements and non-motorized projects that will efficiently maximize the mobility of people and goods within and through the Bay City urbanized area. It is possible that in the new Transportation Funding bill, the smaller MPOs (fewer than 200,000 urban area population) such as BCATS may be removed as MPOs and the transportation planning functions transferred to the state level.

Currently, the BCATS area includes the cities of Bay City and Essexville and the townships of Bangor, Kawkawlin, Monitor, Frankenlust, Portsmouth, Hampton and Fraser. This is known as the urban transportation planning area.

BCATS COMMITTEES

The Bay City Area Transportation Study (BCATS) is composed of two committees: the Policy Committee and the Technical Committee. The Policy Committee is made up of mostly elected officials from township, city, and county government. The Technical Committee is comprised of transportation planning and engineering professionals from the community. Both committees also have representatives from the Michigan and U.S. Departments of Transportation. The Technical Committee provides valuable expert advice to the Policy Committee on various matters which it must address. The Policy Committee must give final local approval to all plans and projects in the Bay City urbanized area which use federal funding.

The Policy Committee usually meets on the third Wednesday of every other month at the Bay County Building, 515 Center Ave, Bay City, Michigan. The Technical Committee meets at the same location, usually on the second Tuesday in the same months as the Policy Committee.

Interested persons are always welcome to attend the meetings or call one of the following Technical Committee members to discuss transportation issues of interest:

David Engelhardt, BCATS Director (989) 895-4064
Bay County Transportation Planning Division
engelhardt@baycounty.net

Michael Stoner, General Manager (989) 894-2900
Bay Metro Transit
mstoner@baymetro.com

Jack Hofweber (989) 671-1555
Michigan Department of Transportation
Bay City TSC Manager
Hofweberj@michigan.gov

The County of Bay will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing upon ten (10) days notice to the County of Bay. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aides or services should contact the County of Bay by writing or calling:

Michael Gray, Executive Assistant
Office of the Bay County Executive
515 Center Avenue - Suite 403
Bay City, MI 48708
(989) 895-4130
(989) 895-4049 TDD
graym@baycounty.net

BCATS ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Michigan Asset Management Council was created by Public Act 499 of 2002. To meet the requirements of the Act, the ninth year of a statewide review of paved federal-aid roadways was conducted using resources of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and other local agencies. This year, the state elected to collect data on the remaining half of the federal aid system after collecting half in 2010. In Bay County, BCATS teamed with the City of Bay City, MDOT and the Bay County Road Commission to inventory the surface condition of 275 miles of streets and highways. Of the roads rated in the ninth year, the data indicates that 11% of the federal-aid roadways in Bay County were rated in excellent condition, 28% in good condition, 32% in fair condition, and 29% were rated in poor condition.

BCATS FOUR YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM



MIDLAND RD. BEFORE



MIDLAND RD. AFTER

This year marked the first year of the BCATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the fiscal years of 2011/12/13/14. The program includes approximately \$84.5 million in transportation and transit projects that will be completed over the four year period. It lists all of the federally funded transportation projects within the Bay City Area that will enhance the safety and efficiency of the transportation system, from I-75 reconstruction to Bay Metro Transit bus replacement to transportation enhancement projects. The 2011/14 TIP was initially prepared by BCATS staff during 2010 with input from the local implementing agencies (Bay City, Bay County Road Commission, Bay Metro Transit Authority and Essexville), MDOT, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the public and has been amended since for the addition or adjustment to various projects. The TIP is available for viewing on the Bay County Transportation Planning website or at the BCATS office.

Projects that were constructed in 2011 utilizing federal funds:

Michigan Department of Transportation

- Completion of I-75 Reconstruction from Crane Rd to Squaconning Creek
- Completion of M-84 Reconstruction from Hotchkiss Rd to Euclid Ave
- Phase One of I-75 Rehabilitation and resurfacing from Linwood Rd to Pinconning Rd

Bay County Road Commission

- Midland Road Reconstruction from 2 Mile Rd to 3 Mile Rd

City of Bay City

- Concrete Rehabilitation and Preventative Maintenance on the Liberty Bridge and Independence Bridge (to be completed through the Winter of 2011-12)

Upcoming 2012 Projects:

Michigan Department of Transportation

- Completion of the I-75 Rehabilitation and resurfacing from Linwood Rd to Pinconning Rd

City of Bay City

- Johnson Street Reconstruction from Center Ave to Columbus Ave

Bay County Road Commission

- Salzburg Road Resurfacing from 3 Mile Road to 4 Mile Road

Bay Metro Transit Authority

- Continue Bus and Van Replacement program

A complete listing of FY 2011 obligated projects and the full version of the approved 2011/14 TIP can be viewed on the BCATS website.

BAY METRO TRANSIT

In 2011, service was provided to 77,000 seniors, 253,000 passengers with disabilities, and 246,000 full and student fare passengers for an overall ridership of 576,000. Ridership for Dial-A-Ride Transportation (DART), demand-response service for seniors and disabled was 53,000 in 2011. Bay Metro Transit operated over 1.6 million service miles during the year.

BMTA also subcontracted 26,000 additional rides to local, private carriers. Local, private carriers assist BMTA DART service in daytime "overflow" situations, as well as providing transportation to area agencies representing senior and disabled passengers. BMTA receives funding from the State under the Specialized Services Program to offset a portion of the expense of reimbursing the local carriers for their service. Since the end of 2007, BMTA has supplemented funding and expanded service to individuals in need of transportation to work before and after BMTA service hours under the State's Job Access/Reverse Commute (JARC) Program. In 2011, the local carrier provided over 12,000 JARC rides.

Bay Metro Transit plans on upgrading the Central Bus Station in 2012 using Michigan DOT Intercity Program funds. Upgrades include ADA compliant restroom improvements, energy efficient lighting, security features, and new signage.

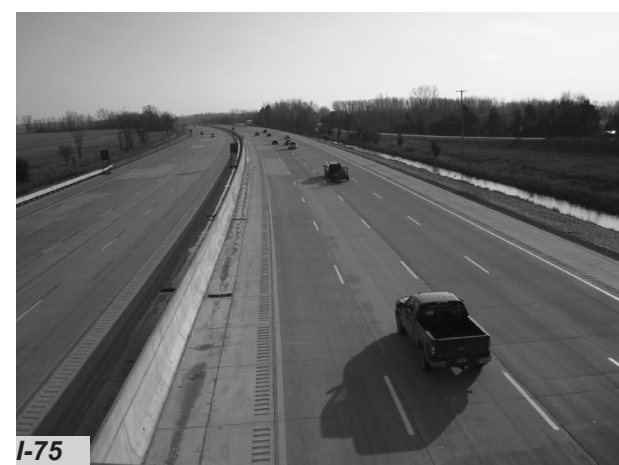
LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO BE UPDATED

In 2011, BCATS continued working towards the update of our long range transportation plan which will be known as the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The plan will use a new peak period travel demand model that will be able to provide BCATS with more precise traffic forecasts that will allow for better traffic data analysis and project planning. This model requires accurate employment totals, number of households, population, and traffic volumes. The plan will identify projects that will be needed over the next 30 years which will include more than just roadwork. It will also address needs in non-motorized transportation, transit options, air and water travel, rail, as well as the movement of freight. The BCATS 2040 MTP will be completed early in 2012 and adopted by June 2012. Please visit the BCATS website for any future open public participation meetings dates that will be held during the plan development process.

WEBSITE UPDATES

BCATS has recently updated the website. Available for download on the website are the most recent 2011-12-13-14 TIP and 2035 MTP, the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan and complaint form, Technical and Policy Committee meeting minutes & agendas, traffic counts, various maps, and assorted transportation related links.

The direct web page is available at:
<http://www.baycounty-mi.gov/transportation>



I-75

I-75 RECONSTRUCTION

The second phase of I-75 reconstruction in Bay County was completed in 2011. In 2010, the northbound lanes from Crane Rd (in Saginaw Co.) to Hotchkiss Rd were reconstructed and a fourth travel lane was added. In 2011, the southbound lanes were reconstructed. This project, coupled with work on I-75 at the M-84 interchange, will complete the reconstruction of I-75 south of US-10 in Bay County. The result of the project will reduce the congestion on I-75 during the peak travel times of vacationers heading north.

NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION PLAN

BCATS has developed a Non-Motorized Transportation Plan to provide the local road agencies, cities, townships, and other officials a guide on methods to develop a comprehensive, connected, usable, and safe transportation system incorporating the use of non-motorized transportation. The plan was completed in cooperation with the cities of Bay City and Essexville, the Bay County Road Commission, Bay Metro Transit Authority and was reviewed by members of the Riverwalk/Railtrail Committee and the Michigan Department of Transportation. Part of the plan includes establishing and prioritizing the routes for a complete network of non-motorized transportation, what the options are for those non-motorized facilities and how best to develop those facilities. With the Non-Motorized Plan in place, BCATS road agencies will be able to leverage more funding sources to incorporate these non-motorized improvements.

TITLE VI NON-DISCRIMINATION PLAN ADOPTED

The Bay City Area Transportation Study (BCATS) is committed to ensuring that the fundamental principles of equal opportunity are upheld in all decisions involving our employees and contractors/consultants, and to ensuring that the public-at-large is afforded access to our programs and services. To that end, no person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any BCATS program or activity on the grounds of race, color, national origin, income, sex, age, disability, or limited English proficiency. BCATS assures all its programs and activities will be free from discrimination, regardless of funding source. The complete Title VI Plan as well as a complaint form is available online or at the BCATS offices located on the 5th Floor of the Bay County Building, 515 Center Ave, Bay City, Michigan.