

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes – December 17, 2025

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Those Present Were:

Joshua VanderLaan, BCATS; Kailey Mize, BCATS; Jim Lillo, BCRC; Larry Beson, 4th District Commissioner; Craig Goulet, Essexville Twp; Terry Moulane, City of Bay City; Eric Sprague, BMTA; Richard Bayus, MDOT SPS; and Terri Close, Hampton Twp. Paige DeHate, MDOT; and Cody Bodrie, EMCOG joined by Call-in.

1. Call to Order:

The BCATS Policy Committee Meeting was called to order by Jim Lillo at 1:40 p.m.

2. Changes to the Agenda

No changes to the agenda were requested.

3. Minutes from October 22nd, 2025, BCATS Policy Committee Meeting:

A motion was made by Craig Goulet, seconded by Terri Close to approve the minutes from the BCATS Policy Committee Meeting held on October 22nd, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment Period:

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

5. Legislative or MDOT Updates:

MDOT:

Richard Bayus announces that MDOT has released the Federal Aid Buyout program for 2027 and explains that the FHWA will release the NOFOS 27' program soon.

BCRC:

Jim Lillo starts a discussion on the Neighborhood Fund, which gives about 6 million for transit and local roads. Jim Lillo also explains how local roads differ for the levels of government, saying MDOT Local roads are the Counties Primary roads.

BMTA:

Eric Sprague announces the 45 million CTF reimbursement rate restoration cost for BMTA, stating it is probably earmarked and not accessible to the agency.

CoBC:

Terri Close asks for information about lost funding for the Lafayette Bridge project, discussion ensues, however this issue is at the federal level, not local.

6. FY2026 Committee Meeting Schedule:

No changes to the meeting schedule were requested. A motion was made by Eric Sprague, seconded by Larry Beson to approve the schedule as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

7. MDOT 2026 National Performance Program Safety Targets:

No changes to the safety targets were requested. A motion was made by Eric Sprague, seconded by Craig Goulet to approve the safety targets as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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8. BCATS Public Hearing on 2026-2029 TIP Amendment/Administrative Modification:

The Public Hearing was called to order at 1:58 p.m. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to discuss proposed changes to the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program. A handout of the TIP Amendment/Administrative Modifications was passed out at the meeting for review and discussion.

1. **Job #225355** – MDOT: Mill and Overlay on M-84 from Freeland Road to Delta Road., PE/CON Phase
2. **Job #225636** – Bay County: Geometric Safety Improvements on S 2 Mile Road at Baxman County Drain Crossing, CON Phase

Terry Moulthane asked if Job #225355 is part of Saginaw Counties MPO instead of Bay County. It was discussed that the job was most likely split at the dividing line, and part of the construction was given to each MPO to ensure proper funding usage.

The Public Hearing on the TIP Amendments and Administrative Modifications to the BCATS 2026-2029 TIP was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

9. Fiscal Year 2026-2029 TIP Amendments & Administrative Modifications

The regular BCATS Policy Committee Meeting was reconvened at 2:03 p.m.

A motion was made by Terry Moulthane and seconded by Richard Bayus to approve the FY 2026-2029 TIP Amendments as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Discuss 2025 BCATS Bylaw Amendment:

Jim Lillo reviews some of the information reviewed in the December Technical Committee meeting and asks for any updates or other input for the Bylaw Amendment.

Joshua VanderLaan explains he has reached out to both MATS and SATA for their assistance but has not heard back yet.

Terri Close asks if the bylaws are for both tech and policy committees, committee members explain there is a section in the bylaws for tech meetings.

Committee members recommend some changes to make:

- Terri Close suggests adding members alternates to the bylaws and changing quorum to make it easier to hit voting requirements.
- Richard Bayus suggests making the bylaws more flexible.
- Jim Lillo suggests making them simpler.
- Richard Bayus asks about adding bylaws to allow remote voting

Terry Moulthane asks for BCATS staff to investigate what the policy committee is based off and how members were picked originally. He also asks why two of the original townships were dropped from the committee, Richard Bayus explains that it was due to the census changing.

Discussion of the BCATS Bylaw Amendments ends with committee members suggesting putting together a subcommittee to update the bylaws and sending any suggestions or questions to BCATS staff, Josh VanderLaan and/or Kailey Mize.

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11. Agency Reports and Project Updates:

BCRC:

Jim Lillo announces Lafayette Street Bridge is still on track with the planned completion date as long as no problems occur, and that all BCRC projects are done for the year and they plan to start back up when the weather improves next year.

CoBC:

Terry Moulane explains that the issue with cones blocking the sidewalk on Veterans Bridge has been taken care of.

BCATS:

Joshua VanderLaan explains that the BCATS staff have started working on the Long Range Plan Update that is due in the summer of 2027. Richard Bayus points out that ALL projects need to be included in this plan or funding may be denied, as well as making sure to include public outreach.

12. Other/New Business

No new business was shared.

13. Motion for Adjournment

As there was no further business, a motion was made by Craig Goulet and seconded by Larry Beson to adjourn the December 17th, 2025, BCATS Policy Committee meeting at 2:42 p.m. Motion carried.

The next BCATS Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for February 18th, 2026, at 1:30 pm, and will be held in the 1st Floor Veteran Affairs Conference Room, 515 Center Ave., Bay City Michigan 48708.

Respectfully submitted,

Kailey Mize, BCATS Transportation Planner
Bay City Area Transportation Study
515 Center Ave., Ste. 504
989-895-4243