

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes – March 19, 2025

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Those Present Were:

Jim Lillo, Bay County Road Commission; Laura Ogar, BCATS; Richard Bayus, MDOT Statewide Planning; Larry Beson, 4th District Commissioner; Jay Reithel, MDOT; Cody Bodrie, EMCOG; Eric Sprague, BMTA; Craig Goulet, Essexville Twp; Glenn Rowley, Bangor Twp.

1. Call to Order:

The BCATS Policy Committee Meeting was called to order by Jim Lillo at 1:35 p.m.

2. Changes to the Agenda

No changes to the agenda were requested. Motion made by Craig Goulet, seconded by Larry Beson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Minutes from February 18, 2025, BCATS Policy Committee Meeting:

Motion made by Glenn Rowley, seconded by Cody Bodrie to approve the minutes from the BCATS Policy Committee Meeting held on February 18, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment Period:

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

5. Legislative or MDOT Updates:

Richard Bayus confirmed that FHWA and FTA approvals would continue as normal, with a slight delay in approvals due to recent staffing changes at FTA. For the time being, road and transit projects will continue to be submitted together. An additional update was provided regarding the MDOT DUI second offender legislative appeal. The appeal was denied, requiring MDOT to reallocate \$24-50 million from Road Projects to Safety Projects. A benchmark update was provided announcing 61% obligated funding for Local Road projects and 67% obligation for RTF projects.

Jay Reithel provided an update on the Carbon Reduction Program, which will continue as planned through the end of FY26.

6. Agency Reports and Project Updates

Eric Sprague announced that progress on facility improvements at BMTA are continuing apace, with renovations to the bus station almost complete: and garage, maintenance facilities flooring, and parking lot improvements in the coming months.

Jay Reithel provided an update on the M-15 road project construction from M-25 to Youngsditch Rd, which has been moved from 2026 to 2025.

7. BCATS Public Hearing on 2023-2026 TIP Amendment/Administrative Modification:

The Public Hearing was called to order at 1:52 p.m. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to discuss proposed changes to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. A handout of the TIP Amendment/Administrative Modification was passed out at the meeting for review and discussion. Brief discussion ensued.

1. Job #213337 – MDOT: Traffic and Safety, application of permanent pavement markings (*Preliminary Engineering Phase*) on trunklines in Bay Region.
2. Job #213337 – MDOT: Traffic and Safety, application of permanent pavement markings (*Construction Phase*) on trunklines in Bay Region.
3. Job #213338 – MDOT: Traffic and Safety, application of special pavement markings (*PE Phase*) on trunklines in Bay Region.
4. Job #213338 – MDOT: Traffic and Safety, application of special pavement markings (*CON Phase*) on

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trunklines in Bay Region.

5. Job #**213359** – MDOT: Traffic and Safety: pavement marking retro-reflectivity readings on trunklines in Bay Region.
6. Job #**223963** – Bay County: FY 2026 STP-Small MPO funded road rehabilitation. Crush and shape, Hot Mix Asphalt paving on Shady Shore Road/Shady Shore Drive.
7. Job #**224166** – BMTA: FY2024 Section 5307 funded, Administrative & Maintenance facility improvements.

The Public Hearing on the TIP Amendments and Administrative Modifications to the BCATS 2023-2026 TIP was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

8. Fiscal Year 2023-2026 TIP Amendments & Administrative Modifications

The regular BCATS Policy Committee Meeting was reconvened at 1:53 p.m.

A motion was made by Eric Sprague and seconded by Craig Goulet to approve the FY 2023-2026 TIP Amendments as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

9. BCATS Public Hearing on MDOT 2025 Safety, Pavement, and Bridge Condition Standards

The Public Hearing was called to order at 1:54 p.m. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to discuss changes to the 2025 Safety Performance & Bridge and Pavement Condition Standards. A handout of the MDOT approved targets was passed out at the meeting for review and discussion. Brief discussion occurred about the reasons for MDOT 'acceptance' of a certain number of fatalities and injuries, despite their continued downward trend.

The Public Hearing on the MDOT 2025 Safety, Pavement, and Bridge Condition Standards was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

10. MDOT 2025 Safety, Pavement, and Bridge Condition Standards

The regular BCATS Policy Committee Meeting was reconvened at 1:55 p.m.

A motion was made by Glenn Rowley and seconded by Larry Beson to approve the MDOT 2025 Safety, Pavement, and Bridge Condition Standards as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Bay MTA 2025 Transit Asset Performance Measures and Targets

Eric Sprague introduced the BMTA 2025 Transit Asset Performance Measures and Targets and briefly discussed the sections regarding delays in the Van acquisition project and their 2025 target of 0 fatalities or injuries.

A motion was made by Glenn Rowley and seconded by Craig Goulet to acknowledge receipt of the BMTA 2025 Transit Asset Performance Measures and Targets as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Other/New Business

Joshua VanderLaan announced he had received an email requesting data sharing of ridership origin and destination information for the Bay County area from the Great Lakes Bay Region Alliance, and discussion of demand for intercounty transit opportunities ensued. It was noted that this has been a long-standing goal of the GLBRA, but since STARS (Saginaw Transportation Authority & Regional Service) only serves Saginaw, intercounty bus programs are difficult to coordinate at this time. Eric Sprague recommended the data request be forwarded to BMTA for consideration, as the most relevant source of information.

Cody Bodrie provided a call for any internships and job placements to be sent through him to potential candidates from Saginaw Valley State University.

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13. Motion for Adjournment

As there was no further business, a motion was made by Glenn Rowley and seconded by Craig Goulet to adjourn the March 19, 2025, BCATS Policy Committee meeting at 2:07 p.m. Motion carried.

The next BCATS Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2025, 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,

Joshua VanderLaan, BCATS Transportation Planner
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