

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Technical Committee Minutes – December 9th, 2025

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Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Jim Lillo at 10:10 a.m.

Those Present Were:

Kailey Mize, BCATS Staff; Jim Lillo, BCRC; Larry Beson, Bay County 4th District Commissioner; Craig Goulet, Essexville; Cody Bodrie, EMCOG; Terry Moulane, Bay City; Eric Sprague, BMTA; Steve Katenhus, MDOT; John Tervo, MDOT; Jay Reithel, MDOT. Also, by Call-In, Rachel Phillips, Bay City; and Max Gierman, MDOT.

Introductions & Roll Call:

Introductions were made around the table of those present.

Minutes from October 14th, 2025, BCATS Technical Meeting:

A motion was made by Terry Moulane and seconded by Jay Reithel, to approve the minutes from October 14th, 2025, BCATS Technical Committee. Motion carried.

Public Comment Period:

Terry Moulane asked if there was a subcommittee set up within MDOT to discuss the ROW phase for JN#218823 & 218827, the TIP Amendments that were approved at the technical meeting held in October. Discussion ensued and it was found that analysis was done on these projects many years ago, but there has been no recent subcommittee.

Legislative or MDOT Updates:

EMCOG:

Cody Bodrie announced EMCOG has a new interim director, Jane Fitzpatrick. He also put out a reminder that the EMCOG office is moving to the SVSU Business Hall.

BCRC:

Jim Lillo stated that BCRC is still working on how funding will be divided for the upcoming year.

FY2026 Committee Meeting Schedule:

A motion was made by Larry Beson and seconded by Craig Goulet, to receive the FY2026 Committee Meeting Schedule. Motion carried.

MDOT 2026 National Performance Program Safety Targets:

MDOT has shared the 2026 National Performance and Safety Targets. MPOs have the option to adopt the given statewide targets or develop their own; in keeping with the precedent and history of the BCATS planning organization, BCATS staff are seeking to adopt the provided targets to implement benchmarks for 2026.

A motion was made by Craig Goulet and seconded by Cody Bodrie, to receive the MDOT National Performance Program Safety Targets for 2026. Motion carried.

Review Proposed FY2026-2029 TIP Amendments & Admin Mods:

Kailey Mize provided a handout on the FY2026-2029 TIP Amendment/Administrative Modifications for review and recommendation to the Policy Committee for approval. The following is the TIP Amendment/Administrative Modification requested:

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

A motion was made by Eric Sprague and seconded by Terry Moulane, to receive the FY2026-2029 TIP Amendments & Admin Modifications. Motion carried.

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Review Proposed 2025 BCATS Bylaw Amendment:

Jim Lillo explains that he has begun the process of updating the BCATS Bylaws, however he has some confusion on how voting members were originally chosen and asked the committee for input on what should be updated in the document.

Terry Moulthane asks what statute the voting members chosen is based on. The original document has not been updated in many years, meaning we don't have much information on how membership has been decided in the past. Jim Lillo asks if the committee believes membership changes should be made to allow policy committee to hit quorums easier, and discussion ensued.

Jay Reithel recommended looking at Saginaw and/or Midland's Bylaws, as they have been recently updated, and making some updates based off their new bylaws. Steve Katenhus agrees, but points out that what we have currently is working, and we probably shouldn't make too many changes.

Committee recommends a few edits to the document and requests that BCATS Staff investigate previous Bylaw and Rules documents and how membership has been decided previously. Committee is asked to send comments or any other recommendations to either Josh VanderLaan or Kailey Mize. BCATS Staff also plan to contact Midland and/or Saginaw MPOs to get information on their Bylaw updates and how they decide on who is a voting member.

Review any Additional Projects to the Policy Committee:

There were no recommendations brought before the committee.

Agency Reports & Project Updates:

MDOT:

Steve Katenhus provided updates for MDOT explaining that they are still working on Lafayette Bridge repairs, however work has slowed down due to the weather changes. He also announces that work on Veterans Bridge will start soon, explaining that all work will be done at night (about 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.) to avoid peak traffic.

BMTA:

Eric Sprague provided updates for Bay Metro explaining that they are still working on reconstruction of their parking lot discussed in the BCATS October Meeting. He also announced that BMTA will be receiving a computerized service to be used for dial rides.

Eric also explains that BMTA is in the middle of negotiations with bridge partners to set up a plan for paying tolls during the upcoming year. Larry Beson asks about negotiations occurring with Bay County as a whole. Other committee members explain there are not any negotiations occurring currently, but the hope is to come to a compromise in the future.

Rachel Phillips explains that there is currently a traffic study being researched to implement light timing with the bridge going up and down in hopes of lowering the amount of traffic jams.

BCATS:

Kailey Mize provided updates for BCATS explaining that they plan to hold discussions on regional topics and plan development procedures for the 2050 Long Range Plan to ensure regional priorities are on track and add any projects that have been programmed since the 2045 Plan Update in 2022.

Kailey also explains that the field verification of the Highway Performance Monitoring System will be delayed until spring due to the weather changes but assures that they are still on track to complete the data collection by April of 2026.

The status of the 2025 BMTA Agreement was brought up, and Eric Sprague explains they are planning on approval of the agreement on December 18th.

Kailey announces that the BCATS Final Acceptance Report and Obligation Report are available to view on the Bay County Transportation Planning website and explains that if anyone would like a copy, to email either herself or Josh VanderLaan and they can send it out.

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BCRC:

Jim Lillo provided updates regarding the project for Midland Road from Carter to 11 Mile, explaining it is still not done, and it will now be finished sometime next year due to delays with the weather changes.

Jim also explains there will be an MTF reduction of about 20% for the month of December, but it should return to normal after the new year.

City of Bay City:

Rachel Phillips provided updates for the City of Bay City regarding the following projects:

McKinley, Smith and Truman/Tiernan projects are all completed.

Rachel also states they are currently working on applying for a few grants to be used on future projects.

Other/New Business:

There was no additional business brought in before the committee.

Motion for Adjournment:

As there was no further business, a motion was made by Craig Goulet and seconded by Terry Moulane to adjourn the December 9th, 2025, BCATS Technical Committee meeting at 11:14 a.m. Motion carried.

The next BCATS Technical Committee Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 10th, 2026**, at 10:00 a.m. in the 1st floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Kailey Mize, BCATS Transportation Planner
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