

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Policy Committee Minutes – October 19, 2016

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Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Those Present Were:

Jay Anderson, BCATS Staff; Laura Ogar, Bay County Environmental Affairs & Community Development; Vaughn Begick, Bay County Commissioner; David Engelhardt, EMCOG; Dan Hansford, City of Essexville; Terry Moulthane, City of Bay City; Gary Brandt, Monitor Township; Brian Stark, BCATS staff, and; Cyndi Gaul, Secretary/BCATS Staff.

Introductions were made.

Minutes from August 17, 2016 BCATS Policy Meeting:

It was moved by Moulthane, seconded by Hansford, to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2016 BCATS Policy Committee Meeting. Motion passed.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

Bay Metro Update:

There was no update for Bay Metro brought before the committee.

Legislative Update:

Anderson said that there wasn't a lot to report. At the October MTPA Meeting there was discussion about the Detroit Free Press article about Act 51, however nothing has been set regarding the changes yet. There's a lot of speculation as to what the formula changes will be (if any) in regards to funding. There has been discussion that funding will be based on Road Mileage instead of Population. Ogar mentioned having a resolution in place at the county level.

Begick mentioned Senate Bill 627, sponsored by Mike Kowall, as a bill to authorize the state and certain public authorities to develop certain eligible projects and to enter into certain agreements, to impose certain powers and duties on certain state and local official and employees regarding financing of projects.

Urban Recreation Heritage Route to the Bay:

Ogar discussed the importance of the Heritage Route to the Bay as a place making component for future area planning, including transportation planning. This Urban Recreation Heritage Route to the Bay would provide much needed scenic access as well as enhancement of this recreation area along N Henry Street from Historic Downtown Bay City and along State Park Drive to the Bay City State Recreation Area. Both Bangor Township and the City of Bay City support this worthwhile effort and plan to have a local designation adopted in their Master Plans.

A Motion was made by Begick, seconded by Hansford, to support a resolution for the creation of the Urban Recreation Heritage Route to the Bay. Motion Passed.

EMCOG Update:

Engelhardt provided an EMCOG update on the Regional Traffic Safety Plan and the Rural Transit

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Mobility Study. There will be two more meetings on the Regional Traffic Safety Plan, the second meeting will be in the beginning of December 2016. Data will be sent out prior to the meeting for review. Phase 2 of the Transit Coordination Plan will be done by RPI boundaries instead of RPO boundaries. Phase 3 will be to analyze the Transit Coordination Plans and have some independent meetings (more of a one-on-one with MPOs).

EMCOG Letter of Support:

Anderson provided a handout of the draft EMCOG Letter of Support to be signed by the BCATS Policy Committee Chair for the EMCOG 2017 application for continued funding of the Regional Prosperity Initiative.

A motion was made by Ogar, seconded by Hansford, to approve and have the Chair sign the letter of support for the EMCOG 2017 application for the continued funding of Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI). Motion Passed.

FHWA Notice of Proposed Rule Making:

Anderson said that the MPO Coordination Discussion deadline for comments to FHWA has been extended to October 24, 2016. There was a resolution by the Bay County Board of Commissioners, The City of Bay City Commissioners, and the Bay County Road Commission saying they do not support the proposed rulemaking. The resolutions stated that there would be more additional costs involved with merging the MPOs. BCATS will definitely be providing comments to FHWA on estimated costs of merging with the neighboring MPOs and exemptions that should be granted based on the proposed rule.

Approval of Capacity Projects List for the 2015 LRP:

Anderson provided a copy of the Capacity Projects List for the 2045 Long Range Plan (LRP) for review and approval.

A motion was made by Begick seconded by Brandt, to approve the Capacity Projects List for the 2015 Long Range Plan (LRP). Motion Passed.

2045 LRP Update:

Anderson said that the Finance Growth Rate has just been approved and we will be looking for projects. We hope to get MDOT approval by February 2017 of the Long Range Plan (LRP), and FHWA approval by March 2017.

BCATS Annual Report:

Anderson mentioned that it was time to work on the 2016 BCATS Annual Report that will be printed in the local newspaper. He asked for pictures of projects from the City of Bay City and the Bay County Road Commission. Please submit your pictures and project information to Jay Anderson by no later than Monday, November 7, 2016.

Project Updates:

The City of Bay City **Madison Avenue Project** is underway. There will be a MDOT Open House on October 24, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Community Center for the City of Bay City **Midland Street/Vermont Street Project**. The **Lafayette Bridge Project** will be a complete tear down in 2020. This will be a 2-year project and MDOT will be looking at alternative routes. Additional open house meetings will be scheduled soon.

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Other/New Business:

ESRI Connect ED Workshop:

Engelhardt discussed the ESRI ConnectED workshop being held in Midland tentatively November 2nd & 3rd from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. The location in Midland is not confirmed as of this time. This program is aimed at teachers, students, and GIS professionals. This training opportunity should help set the stage to use GIS as an instructional tool in the classroom and give students the opportunity to use GIS and provide them with paid or volunteered internship opportunities as high school students.

As there were no further business, a motion was made by Engelhardt, seconded by Hansford, to adjourn the October 19, 2016 BCATS Policy Committee meeting at 2:33 p.m. Motion Passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Anderson
BCATS Director