

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Policy Committee Minutes – August 17, 2016

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Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m.

Those Present Were:

Jay Anderson, BCATS Staff; Jim Lillo, BCRC; Jay Reithel, MDOT; Vaughn Begick, Bay County Commissioner; Terry Moulthane, City of Bay City; Gary Brandt, Monitor Township; George Augustyniak, Fraser Township; Dennis Bragiel, Kawkawlin Township; Tom Foret, Hampton Township; Matt Pitlock (*via telephone*), Dave Engelhardt, EMCOG; Brian Stark, BCATS Staff, and; Cyndi Gaul, Secretary/BCATS Staff.

Minutes from June 22, 2016 BCATS Policy Meeting:

It was moved by Foret, seconded by Brandt, to approve the minutes from the June 22, 2016 BCATS Policy Committee Meeting. Motion passed.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

Bay Metro Update:

Sprague was not present at the meeting. There was nothing new to report.

Legislative Update:

Pitlock said that there was nothing new to report. Lillo mentioned the Rural Task Force Projects that are set for any "rainy day" funds. Anderson said that he was told that the Michigan Long Range Plan was adopted by MDOT and under review by FHWA. September 15, 2016 will be the Obligation Authority deadline. There is still about \$18 million available for obligation. MPO UWPs all have been approved and should be receiving project authorization soon.

FHWA Approval of Adding 18th Street Project:

There was discussion about FHWA approval of adding 18th Street (Garfield Avenue/M-84 to Johnson Street) to the NFC System.

FHWA Notice of Proposed Rule Making:

Anderson discussed the FHWA Notice of Proposal Rule Making regarding MPO Coordination and Planning Area Reform discussion that has been taking place. There is a push to combine the Midland (MATS), Saginaw (SMATS), and Bay City (BCATS) MPOs into one MPO. This push is coming from the Federal Highway and aligned with the Governor's work toward making things more regional. We need to show that our MPO is too complex to be combined with another MPO and ask the Governor make us exempt from the combining of the MPOs. There are three options for BCATS: 1.) Merge MPOs; 2.) Re-Draw Boundaries, and; 3.) Stay as we are with but produce unified TIP and LRP documents. MATS and SMATS do not want to merge either, as we all work quite well with each other already and have a very smooth running process for our own MPOs.

There was discussion about creating a combined letter to be signed by all three MPOs involved (Bay City, Midland, and Saginaw) which would show a unified front and make a better impact for FHWA under their comment period. MPO Coordination Discussion comments are due to FHWA by no later than August 26, 2016.

A motion was made by Moulthane, seconded by Bragiel, to have Jay Anderson draft a letter to be

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signed by BCATS, MATS, and SMATS to recommend that these three MPOs not be combined. This letter will be sent to FHWA by the August 26, 2016 deadline. Motion Passed.

EMCOG Update:

Engelhardt gave an update on the EMCOG Regional Safety Plan and the Rural Transit Mobility Study. There will be a Regional Traffic Safety Planning Kick-Off Meeting taking place on September 7, 2016 at the MDOT Bay Region office at 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Engelhardt will send an email out with the details for this event. This will be one of three meetings in a series of meetings. There will also be a Rural Transit Mobility Study Meeting taking place in October with eight counties with a focus on ways to make better connections. Right now EMCOG is trying to engage people in the process.

BCATS Public Hearing on 2014-2017 TIP Amendments/Administrative Modifications:

The Public Hearing was called to order at 2:13 p.m. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to discuss changes to the 2014-17 TIP Amendment and Administrative Modification.

The proposed TIP Administrative Modification includes:

The TIP **Administrative Modification** for **MDOT** includes:

1. Increase in Total Project Cost from \$11,050,000 increased to \$11,935,000 for FY2017 for the I-75 Rehabilitation Project (Cottage Grove Road to Linwood Road) due to ROW phase in FY2016.

The Public Hearing on the TIP Amendments and Administrative Modifications to the BCATS 2014-17 TIP was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

The regular BCATS Policy Committee Meeting was reconvened at 2:15 p.m.

Approval of the BCATS 2014-17 TIP Amendment/Administrative Modification:

A motion was made by Bragiel, seconded by Begick, to approve the above project in the 2014-17 TIP with the approval for any administrative correction or modification that may be required to be made as needed. Motion Passed.

2045 LRP Update:

Anderson discussed the 2045 LRP and said that they are making good headway. Anderson and Stark are splitting up the sections of the 2045 LRP work. The LRP needs to be adopted in the February of 2017. We need to get it to MDOT by March 1, 2017 for review and approval.

Project Updates:

The **Bay City Beautification Committee** is working with MDOT on a potential road diet for the Thomas St & Jenny St Corridor (M-25). The **2 Mile Road Bridge Project** (Train Road Project) is coming along. The Bay County Road Commission **3 Mile Road Project** (M-84 to Amelith Road) is in the design phase. The Bay County Road Commission **Cass Avenue (Jones Rd to Farley Rd) and Farley Road (M-25 to M-138) Projects** have been pushed back to FY 2017. The Bay County Road Commission **Cass Avenue Rubber Tire Grant Project** (M-15 to Jones

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Road) is complete and the road rides very nicely. The Bay County Road Commission **Wilder Road Project Grant** (Euclid Avenue to M-13 Connector) for mill and fill will be a 2017 project. The **7 Mile Bridge Project** has been completed. The Ditch Cleaning Project at 4 Mile and Midland Road is underway due to flooding.

Other/New Business:

Rail Trail Ribbon Cutting:

Anderson said that there will be a ribbon cutting for the Rail Trail on Saturday, October 15, 2016 at Hotchkiss and Brooks. Anderson will send out the flyer to everyone with the details.

Iron Belle Trail:

Engelhardt said that EMCOGG has been asked to participate with looking for locations for the Iron Belle Trail to help develop the trail. Please submit any of your ideas about the Iron Belle Trail and where it should be located in our area to him.

As there were no further business, a motion was made by Lillo, seconded by Engelhardt, to adjourn the August 17, 2016 BCATS Policy Committee meeting at 2:39 p.m. Motion Passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Jay Anderson
BCATS Director

Transcribed by C. Gaul