

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Technical Committee Minutes – April 13, 2021

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Meeting Via Microsoft Teams Meeting – Meeting was recorded

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Those Present Were:

Ryan Smith, BCATS Staff; Jack Hofweber, MDOT BCTSC; Donald Matula, MDOT BCTSC; Brian Stark, MDOT; Eric Sprague, BMTA; Terry Moulane, City of Bay City; Mitch Huber, MDOT Statewide Planning; Tina Makarewicz, MDOT OPT; and Rachel Phillips, City of Bay City.

Minutes from December 8, 2020 BCATS Technical Meeting:

It was moved by Sprague, seconded by Huber, to approve the minutes from the December February 9, 2021 BCATS Technical Committee Meeting. Motion passed.

Public Comment: There was no public comment brought before the committee.

Legislative Update: There was nothing new to report at this time.

- MDOT staff continues to work from home due to COVID-19 with an earliest return to office date of July 12, 2021.

FY2020-2023 TIP Amendments, Administrative Modifications:

Smith provided a handout of the FY 2020-2023 TIP Amendment/Administrative Modification for review and recommendation to the Policy Committee for approval. The following is the TIP Amendment/Administrative Modification requested:

FY 2021 Amendments:

1. Transit Capital FY21 Section 5307 – Facility improvements, computers (hardware and software), bus terminal facility improvements, and lift van replacement.
2. Transit Capital FY21 Section 5339 – Administrative vehicle and computers (hardware and software).
3. Transit Operating Assistance FY21 Section 5307.

FY 2022 Administrative Modifications:

1. Reconstruction of US-10 WB, location description wording change.

FY 2022 Administrative Modifications:

1. Addition of M-25 Bridge Rehabilitation, substructure repair, to Trunkline Bridge GPA.

A motion was made by Moulane, seconded by Huber, to favorably recommend the FY 2020-2023 TIP amendment be moved forward to BCATS Policy Committee for approval. Motion Passed.

Great Lakes Bay Region Travel Demand Model Update:

Ryan Smith provided an update on behalf of Jon Roberts from MDOT Planning – Urban Travel Analysis unit, regarding the Great Lakes Bay Region Travel Demand Model. The base year of the model (2017) has been calibrated. MDOT has met with all three of the GLBR MPOs to relay the initial base year results and receive feedback. MDOT is now working to incorporate capacity changing projects into the future year model networks and run the model for the future years. MDOT should rollout the forecasted model results sometime this summer.

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Recommended Approval of 2021 BCATS Non-Motorized Transportation Plan to Policy Committee:

Smith provided a new draft of the 2021 BCATS Non-Motorized Transportation Plan to the Technical Committee members which incorporated the feedback and comments that have been received.

A motion was made by Sprague, seconded by Moulthane, to favorably recommend the 2021 BCATS Non-Motorized Transportation Plan be moved forward to BCATS Policy Committee for approval. Motion Passed.

COVID-19 HIP Funds:

Smith provided information regarding new COVID-19 Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) funds that have become available to the MPO. These funds can be used 100% federal, meaning there is no match required. It was briefly discussed at the February BCATS Committee meetings that the funds should probably be applied to the Wenona Street Reconstruction project. After further discussion, Phillips has requested the funds be moved to the 2023 phase of Wenona Street Reconstruction. If additional funding can be secured for the 2023 phase of the project, then the COVID-19 HIP funds can be applied elsewhere.

A motion was made by Moulthane, seconded by Sprague, to favorably recommend the COVID-19 HIP funding of \$478,409 being applied to the Wenona Street Reconstruction Project in FY2023 be moved forward to BCATS Policy Committee for approval. Motion Passed.

Surface Transportation Reauthorization Legislation (Transportation and Infrastructure or “T&I”):

Smith provided a brief update to the group regarding the new transportation and infrastructure funding opportunities for the region. These funds are newly available originating from the congressional earmarks. The Bay County Road Commission has applied for the T&I funding for the State Park Drive Reconstruction Project. The City of Bay City has also applied for T&I funding for Smith Street. The MPO’s role in these applications has been to send a letter to both applicants detailing the ease at which these projects that are applying for funding can be added to the BCATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Smith has sent a letter to both the Bay County Road Commission and the City of Bay City with these details.

Bay City Bridge Discussion:

Jack Hofweber provided a brief update regarding Independent and Liberty bridges. There was a meeting regarding the Bay City bridges on March 23, 2021. The environmental studies are set to be conducted by the U.S. Coast Guard. Construction on Independent and Liberty are set to begin sometime this year. The appropriate legislation to allow for the sale of the bridges and lease of the public land that they are on has moved forward and been approved.

Asset Management Updates:

Due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements, PASER Training has been conducted virtually. There will be one more PASER Training taking place June 15-17, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. each day. 2-person teams will be allowed for the collection of data this rating season. BCATS plans to collect data from all Bay County and Bay City federal aid eligible roads this year. The requirement to have a representative from MDOT along during the data collection has been waived for 2021. Smith has reached out to both the City of Bay City and the Bay County Road Commission regarding plans to rate the entire federal aid system this season. It will be a big task but will hopefully be easier when the BCATS Transportation Planner position is filled soon.

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Project Updates

Bay City:

The Wenona Street Reconstruction project is set to begin with milling and utility work starting this coming Monday, April 19th. There will be a full detour running until September, 2021. A flag control project on Lafayette Avenue will begin in May. A flag control project on Marquette is set to begin in June. Capital preventative maintenance (CPM) projects will take place towards the end of the year.

MDOT:

The I-75 Reconstruction Project from Beaver Road to Cottage Grove began yesterday. This project should be completed around October, 2021. A nightly full lane closure (9pm – 5am) will begin April 19th on I-75 at the Parish Road Bridge. There is an open house tonight at 5pm regarding the 2023 US-10 WB Reconstruction Project. The M-247 Railroad Crossing improvement in Bay City will be taking place this summer from June 21st to August 27th. The Signal Modernization Project at Salzburg (M-84) and Euclid (M-13) will take place this October – November, 2021. The Signal Modernization Project at M-13 and Beaver Rd will begin this summer and re-establish the left-turning lane SB on M-13 and create a cul-de-sac on Old Kawkawlin Road.

BMTA:

Johnson Street is being reconstructed this summer which leads directly to the BMTA administrative offices and main bus garage/maintenance facility. BMTA is in the process of procuring a lot of the purchases made recently.

Other/New Business

Transportation Planner/GIS Technician Position

The Environmental Affairs and Community Development Department posted the Transportation Planner/GIS Technician position. The Department will be conducting interviews soon.

As there were no further business, a motion was made by Sprague, seconded by Moulthane, to adjourn the April 13, 2021 BCATS Technical Committee meeting at 10:40 a.m. Motion Passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Smith

Ryan Smith
BCATS Staff

Transcribed by C. Gaul