

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes – April 23, 2025

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Those Present Were:

Jim Lillo, Bay County Road Commission; Laura Ogar, BCATS; Michael Losey, EA&CD; 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; Rachel Phillips, City of Bay City; Terri Close, Hampton 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 Glenn Rowley, seconded by Larry Beson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Minutes from March 19th, 2025, BCATS Policy Committee Meeting:

Motion made by Glenn Rowley, seconded by Larry Beson to approve the minutes from the BCATS Policy Committee Meeting held on March 19th, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment Period:

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

5. Legislative or MDOT Updates:

Richard Bayus stated that recent significant staffing changes at FTA are causing significant delays. Due to losses in staff, MDOT and MPO submissions to FHWA and FTA should be separated.

FHWA recently submitted a final rule repealing the requirement for Carbon Emission Reduction and Greenhouse Gas Reduction standards from National Road Performance Measures at the State and MPO level. This repeal goes into effect May 19, 2025.

Further update was provided regarding the MDOT DUI second offender legislative appeal. Since the appeal was denied, MDOT is required to reallocate \$24-50 million from Road Projects to Safety Projects.

6. Agency Reports and Project Updates

Bay City

Rachel Phillips provided several updates at the meeting, including: the bid to Dan's Excavation for the 5th St & Smith St construction, removal of pavement scheduled for May 15th from Joseph to Patterson, and patching work on Wilder and Tiernan. Harry Truman Dr. (Water Street Bridge) is closed now through May 13th. Work is starting on McKinley Rd. from Trumbull to Park next Wednesday.

BMTA

Eric Sprague announced that progress on facility improvements at BMTA are continuing, with renovations of the maintenance facilities flooring, lighting, and parking lot improvements in the coming weeks. Eric also said a presentation to the Bay County Commission about BMTA services and routes will occur at their May 20th, 2025, meeting.

BCRC

Jim Lillo stated that intermittent closures or detours may be expected on 2 Mile Rd, provided further information about the project at 3 Mile & North Union. Lillo also outlined plans to increase the future scope of the State Park Drive project, and to replace the sanitary sewer under I-75.

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

The Public Hearing was called to order at 2:32 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 #202649** – MDOT: Traffic & Safety - Signing Upgrade on trunklines in Bay Region. Phase budget amendment needed.
2. **Job #224444** – Statewide: Bridge Bundle, Fraser Street Bridge Replacement (1st CON Phase), Fraser Street Bridge over the Kawkawlin River. Phase added.
3. **Job #224444** – Statewide: Bridge Bundle, Fraser Street Bridge Replacement (2nd CON Phase), Fraser Street Bridge over the Kawkawlin River. Phase added.

The Public Hearing on the TIP Amendments and Administrative Modifications to the BCATS 2023-2026 TIP was adjourned at 2:43pm.

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

The regular BCATS Policy Committee Meeting was reconvened at 2:43 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 FY2026-2029 BCATS Draft Transportation Improvement Plan

The Public Hearing was called to order at 2:44 p.m. The purpose of the public hearing was to approve the 2026-2029 BCATS Draft Transportation Improvement Plan for release to public comment. The document outlines planned road jobs and funding for the upcoming TIP cycle.

Also provided were a copy of the Draft Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process Certification and the Draft Public Notice for the upcoming public comment period, which is to occur from April 28th, 2025, to May 28th, 2025.

The Public Hearing on the MDOT 2025 Safety, Pavement, and Bridge Condition Standards was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

10. Fiscal Year 2026-2029 BCATS Draft Transportation Improvement Plan

The regular BCATS Policy Committee Meeting was reconvened at 2:45 p.m.

Discussion occurred regarding the recommended inclusion of the State Park Drive project by the BCATS Technical Committee, which was determined to be a regionally significant project which merits inclusion into the 2026-2029 Draft TIP at their April 15th meeting.

A motion was made by Eric Sprague and seconded by Glenn Rowley for approval to include the State Park Drive project as regionally significant to the FY2026-2029 BCATS Draft Transportation Improvement Plan for public comment. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Other/New Business

No new business was shared.

12. Motion for Adjournment

As there was no further business, a motion was made by Craig Goulet and seconded by Terri Close to adjourn

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the April 23rd, 2025, BCATS Policy Committee meeting at 2:47 p.m. Motion carried.

The next BCATS Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for May 21st, 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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