

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Technical Committee Minutes – May 13, 2025

Page 1

Call to Order:

The BCATS Technical Committee meeting was called to order by Jim Lillo at 10:03 a.m.

Those Present Were:

Jim Lillo, BCRC; Terry Moulthane, Bay City; Cameron Hoard, MDOT; Cody Bodrie, EMCOG; Joshua VanderLaan, BCATS Staff; Jay Reithel, MDOT; Kathrine Shelton, MDOT; and Eric Sprague, BMTA.

Introductions/Roll Call:

Jay Reithel introduced Kathrine Shelton, who is interning with MDOT, and requested any opportunities for Kathrine's involvement be forwarded to him. Subsequently, introductions were made around the table of those present.

Minutes from April 13, 2025, BCATS Technical Meeting:

A motion was made by Eric Sprague, seconded by Jay Reithel to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2025, BCATS Technical Committee.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment brought before the committee. Eric Sprague provided information about BMTA's involvement in the Bay City Concerts in the Park series, for which they will be providing citizens with transit to and from Wenonah Park, starting on the 11th of June. Busing for the series will operate on both the east and west side of the river.

Legislative Updates:

MDOT:

Jay Reithel provided an update on the ongoing delay in FTA/FHWA submission review times. STIP review for both agencies can now be submitted together, but staffing changes at FTA may reduce review times.

BMTA:

Eric Sprague provided an update for the BMTA TIP projects, which are fully funded for 2025. Eric also provided an update to the FTA delay, as their liaising Project Manager was part of recent staff dismissals.

Review any Additional Projects to the Policy Committee:

Jay Reithel opened discussion on the change to the Veteran's Memorial Bridge project, JN#211561, which has had a phase moved to 2026, including approximately \$2.1 million for mechanical parts repairs. Reithel stated a further update would be made at Policy on May 21st.

Jim Lillo provided information about the Independence Bridge, which was closed for repair, resulting in increased traffic on the Liberty and Vets Memorial Bridges. In the end of FY25, Vets Memorial Bridge will be closed for the repair mentioned earlier, although repairs at night and with reduced lanes should diminish the impact to traffic on Independence and Liberty. Euclid Avenue backups are causing difficulty for drivers making left-hand turns, as the shorter turn lanes do not provide enough space for several cars lined up.

Public Comment Draft of BCATS 2025 Public Participation Plan:

Joshua VanderLaan presented a copy of the draft BCATS 2025 Public Participation Plan for review and discussion. The document outlines opportunities for public interaction within the MPO transportation planning process. The draft PPP is subject to an upcoming 45-day public comment period, which is planned to occur from May 28th, 2025, to July 12th, 2025.

A motion was made by Terry Moulthane, seconded by Jay Reithel to favorably recommend the public comment draft of the BCATS 2025 PPP to the Policy Committee for receipt.

Agency Reports & Project Updates:

BMTA:

Eric Sprague stated that BMTA is in the process of drafting a proposal for a new IT services provider, following the end of their partnership with the Bay County ISD department.

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Technical Committee Minutes – May 13, 2025

Page 2

BCRC:

Jim Lillo updated the committee on the Monitor Road project, which will include updates to the signage and Cold Milling from Midland to Wilder, beginning on June 27th and ending one month later, on July 27th.

Progress on the Wilder Rd. construction began on April 28th at Tiernan Rd. and is expected to last through April and May. When that section is complete, the construction will move to the Marquette intersection and continue through May and parts of June. Then, construction on the Patterson Ave portion will begin through July, and finally the project will finish with Harry S Truman Pkwy in August. Single lane closures are expected for the concrete patching on Harry Truman Pkwy.

Lillo announced that the let for Youngs ditch/M15 construction bidding will occur in August, with late fall season work beginning in September and continuing through October, possibly November.

Additionally, Crush & Shape work is being done on approximately 12 miles of BCRC roads throughout Bay County.

Other/New Business:

Present MDOT staff inquired as to the status of the Bay County Transportation staffing shortages, as well as the status of the BCATS FY2026 Unified Work Program. Joshua VanderLaan stated that hiring is in progress for the administrative position, and that the FY26 Unified Work Program document would be in a presentable draft format in time for Policy Committee on the 21st of May.

Motion for Adjournment:

As there was no further business, a motion was made by Terry Moulthane and seconded by Cameron Hord to adjourn the May 13th, 2025, BCATS Technical Committee meeting at 10:29 a.m. Motion carried.

The next BCATS Technical Committee Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 10th, 2025**, at 10:00 a.m. in the 1st floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua VanderLaan, BCATS Transportation Planner
Bay City Area Transportation Study
515 Center Ave., Ste. 504
989-895-4243