

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes – March 18, 2026

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Those Present Were:

Joshua VanderLaan, BCATS; Kailey Mize, BCATS; Jim Lillo, BCRC; Larry Beson, 4th District Commissioner; Terry Moulthane, City of Bay City; Eric Sprague, BMTA; Richard Bayus, MDOT SPS; and Craig Goulet, Essexville Twp. Norm Engel, MDOT; and Jay Reithel, MDOT joined by Call-in.

1. Call to Order:

The BCATS Policy Committee Meeting was called to order by Jim Lillo at 1:30 p.m.

2. Changes to the Agenda

No changes to the agenda were requested.

3. Minutes from February 18th, 2026, BCATS Policy Committee Meeting:

A motion was made by Eric Sprague, seconded by Terry Moulthane to approve the minutes from the BCATS Policy Committee Meeting held on February 18th, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment Period:

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

5. Legislative or MDOT Updates:

MDOT:

Richard Bayus explains they don't have any new updates other than construction is beginning on many projects now that spring is approaching. He also brings up some construction taking place in Midland on US-10 due to a washed-out culvert.

BCRC:

Jim Lillo asks about the tax being implemented on Marijuana sales and when they can expect this money to start coming in. He explains they are down by about 1 million in funds and they expected state funding to cover this. Richard Bayus explains that marijuana sales are down by 18%, meaning less money is coming in than expected, but says he will investigate it.

6. BCATS Public Hearing on 2026-2029 TIP Amendment/Administrative Modification:

The Public Hearing was called to order at 1:36 p.m. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to discuss proposed changes to the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program. A handout of the TIP Amendment/Administrative Modifications was passed out at the meeting for review and discussion.

- 1. Job #202649** – MDOT: Traffic and Safety Signs, M-84 Signing Upgrade, CON Phase
- 2. Job #223963** – Bay County: Shady Shore Dr – Road Rehabilitation, Phase Abandonment due to ROW conflict

Four draft jobs were presented at the tech meeting earlier this month to utilize unprogrammed transit funding and Advance Construction obligation from JN223963, Shady Shore Dr. The tech committee received these jobs for approval at today's policy committee, and they were added to the handout of the TIP Amendments.

- 3. Job #226568** – BMTA: Transit, SP1405 – Communication Equipment, Areawide, NI Phase
- 4. Job #226571** – Bay County: Mill and One Course Overlay, Midland Rd from 4 Mile to 3 Mile Rd, CON Phase
- 5. Job #226572** – Bay County: Mill and One Course Overlay, Salzburg Rd from 3 Mile to 2 Mile Rd, CON Phase
- 6. Job #226573** – Bay County: Mill and One Course Overlay, Kiesel Rd from 2 Mile to Euclid Rd, CON Phase

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Job #223379 was also included in the TIP Amendment/Administrative Modifications. This job needs to be brought before the tech committee in April before the policy committee can approve it.

Richard Bayus explains that FTA staffing is down, causing review time for amendments to increase. This means that this month's amendments cannot be submitted until last month's amendments are approved.

The Public Hearing on the TIP Amendments and Administrative Modifications to the BCATS 2026-2029 TIP was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

7. Fiscal Year 2026-2029 TIP Amendments & Administrative Modifications

The regular BCATS Policy Committee Meeting was reconvened at 1:41 p.m.

A motion was made by Eric Sprague and seconded by Larry Beson to approve the FY 2026-2029 TIP Amendments as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Agency Reports and Project Updates:

BMTA:

Eric Sprague announced BMTA is wrapping up infrastructure plans and explains that Job #226568 is for the lease of a radio tower.

BCRC:

Jim Lillo announced there have been no changes outside of their Midland project, which is planned to start around April 1st, with bids out in April for contractors in May. He also announced they are starting designs for State Park Drive.

Jim explained that prices of asphalt may increase due to the conflict with Iran, this could cause issues with BCATS area projects.

CoBC:

Terry Moulthane says to watch out for potholes in Bay City and explains that Rachel Phillips (CoBC) had a meeting with DPW on the 16th and claimed asphalt plans are in flux right now.

Jay Reithel explains he will have a meeting with Rachel Phillips soon to discuss Vets Bridge and M-25 east of the 1-ways.

9. Other/New Business

No new business was shared.

10. Motion for Adjournment

As there was no further business, a motion was made by Eric Sprague and seconded by Richard Bayus to adjourn the March 18th, 2026, BCATS Policy Committee meeting at 1:49 p.m. Motion carried.

The next BCATS Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for **April 22nd, 2026, 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,

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