

2012 Annual Report of the Bay City Area Transportation Study (BCATS)

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING FROM SAFETEA-LU TO MAP 21

On July 6, 2012, President Obama signed into law PL 112-14, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). This new transportation bill authorizes and funds federal surface transportation programs for two years, taking effect on October 1, 2012 and expiring on September 30, 2014. MAP-21 succeeds the expired transportation bill SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users).

MAP-21 re-authorizes the federal highway, public transportation, highway safety, and motor carrier safety programs through Fiscal Year 2014. The Bay City Area Transportation Study (BCATS) is designated to carry out the transportation planning process required by SAFETEA-LU and now MAP-21 as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Establishment of this process enables BCATS and other transportation agencies in the BCATS area to receive federal funding for a variety of transportation projects including reconstruction and resurfacing of roads & bridges, purchase of transit vehicles, highway & transit safety improvements and non-motorized projects that will efficiently maximize the mobility of people and goods within and through the Bay City urbanized area.

Currently, the BCATS area includes the cities of Bay City and Essexville and the townships of Bangor, Kawkawlin, Monitor, Frankenlust, Portsmouth, Hampton and Fraser. This is known as the urban transportation planning area.

BCATS COMMITTEES

The Bay City Area Transportation Study (BCATS) is comprised of two committees: the Policy Committee and the Technical Committee. The Policy Committee is made up of mostly elected officials from township, city, and county government. The Technical Committee is made up of transportation planning and engineering professionals from the community. Both committees also have representatives from the Michigan and U.S. Departments of Transportation. The Technical Committee provides valuable expert advice to the Policy Committee on various matters which it must address. The Policy Committee must give final local approval to all plans and projects in the Bay City urbanized area which use federal funding.

The Policy Committee usually meets on the third Wednesday of every other month at the Bay County Building, 515 Center Avenue, Bay City, Michigan. The Technical Committee meets at the same location, usually on the second Tuesday in the same months as the Policy Committee.

Interested persons are always welcome to attend the meetings or call one of the following Technical Committee members to discuss transportation issues of interest:

David Engelhardt, BCATS Director (989) 895-4064
Bay County Transportation Planning Division
515 Center Avenue, Bay City MI, 48708
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Eric Sprague, Manager (989) 894-2900
Bay Metro Transit Authority
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Jack Hofweber (989) 671-1555
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The County of Bay will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing upon ten (10) days notice to the County of Bay. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aides or services should contact the County of Bay by writing or calling:

Michael Gray, Executive Assistant
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515 Center Avenue - Suite 403
Bay City, MI 48708
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BCATS ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Michigan Asset Management Council was created by Public Act 499 of 2002. To meet the requirements of the Act, the tenth year of a statewide review of paved federal-aid roadways was conducted using resources of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and other local agencies. This year, the state elected to collect data on the remaining half of the federal aid system after collecting half in 2011. In Bay County, BCATS teamed with the City of Bay City, MDOT and the Bay County Road Commission to inventory the surface condition of 296 miles of streets and highways. Of the roads rated in the tenth year, the data indicates that 20% of the federal-aid roadways in Bay County were rated in excellent condition, 28% in good condition, 34% in fair condition, and 18% were rated in poor condition.

SALZBURG AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION

Beginning in March 2013, the Michigan Department of Transportation will begin the reconstruction of Salzburg Avenue (M-13/M-84) in Bay City from Euclid Avenue to the Lafayette Bridge. The project will be completed in several phases, beginning with the intersection at Wenona Avenue and one block of Wenona Avenue north of Salzburg Avenue then continuing to the west. The final phase is expected to be completed by November 2013. During construction, access to all the businesses along the corridor will be open.

BCATS 4 YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM



I-75 PINCONNING

This year marked the second year of the BCATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the fiscal years of 2011/12/13/14. The program includes approximately \$87 million in transportation and transit projects that will be completed over the four year period. It lists all of the federally funded transportation projects within the Bay City Urbanized Area that will enhance the safety and efficiency of the transportation system, from I-75 reconstruction to Bay Metro Transit Authority bus replacement to transportation alternative projects. The 2011/14 TIP was initially prepared by BCATS staff during 2010 with input from the local implementing agencies (Bay City, Bay County Road Commission, Bay Metro Transit Authority and Essexville), MDOT, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the public and has been amended since for the addition or adjustment to various projects. The TIP is available for viewing on the Bay County Transportation Planning website or at the BCATS office.

Projects that were constructed in 2012 utilizing federal funds (but not limited to):

Michigan Department of Transportation

- Completion of the I-75 Rehabilitation and resurfacing from Linwood Rd to Pinconning Rd
- Micro surfacing of US-10 Eastbound in Bay County

Bay County Road Commission

- Salzburg Road Resurfacing from 3 Mile Road to



I-75 PINCONNING

4 Mile Road

- Sign Upgrades with Post Delineators in 276 Locations in Bay County

City of Bay City

- Johnson Street Reconstruction from Center Avenue to Columbus Avenue

Upcoming 2013 Projects:

Michigan Department of Transportation

- Reconstruction of Salzburg Avenue (M-13/M-84) in Bay City from Euclid Avenue to the Lafayette Bridge

Bay County Road Commission

- Salzburg Road Resurfacing from 4 Mile Road to Mackinaw Road
- Resurfacing of Beaver Road from Old Beaver Rd to Fraser Road with safety improvements

- Midland Road Reconstruction from 3 Mile Road to 4 Mile Road with the addition of a center turn lane

Bay Metro Transit Authority

- Continue bus and vehicle replacement program

A complete listing of FY 2012 obligated projects and the full version of the approved 2011/14 TIP can be viewed on the BCATS website.

BAY METRO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

In 2012, service was provided to 83,000 seniors, 268,000 passengers with disabilities, and 270,000 full and student fare passengers for an overall ridership of 621,000. Ridership for Dial-A-Ride Transportation (DART), demand-response service for seniors and disabled was 52,000 in 2012. Bay Metro Transit Authority operated over 1.6 million service miles during the year. Since service began in 1974, Bay Metro Transit Authority has transported over 27 million passengers.

BMTA also subcontracted 23,000 additional rides to local, private carriers. Local, private carriers assist BMTA DART service in daytime "overflow" situations, as well as providing transportation to area agencies representing senior and disabled passengers. BMTA receives funding from the State under the Specialized Services Program to offset a portion of the expense of reimbursing the local carriers for their service. Since the end of 2007, BMTA has supplemented funding and expanded service to individuals in need of transportation to work before and after BMTA service hours under the State's Job Access/Reverse Commute (JARC) Program. In 2012, the local carrier provided over 10,000 JARC rides.

Bay Metro Transit plans on upgrading the Central Bus Station in 2013 using MDOT Intercity Program funds. Upgrades include ADA compliant restroom improvements, energy efficient lighting, security features, and new signage.

2040 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN COMPLETED

In 2012, BCATS completed the update to the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. This plan uses a new peak period travel demand model that is able to provide BCATS with more precise traffic forecasts that will allow for better traffic data analysis and project planning. This model requires accurate employment totals, number of households, population, and traffic volumes. The plan identifies projects that will be needed over the next 28 years and includes all transportation related projects. In the analysis of the expected revenue and the expected cost of maintaining the existing road network, there will be an approximate 50% funding shortfall over the life of this plan if no additional funding source is identified. Please visit the BCATS website for access to the Executive Summary or the full document.

2014-2017 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

During the next year, BCATS will begin the process of creating the new 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The process involves collecting proposed projects from the road and transit agencies, prioritizing them and allocating funds that are expected over the life of the TIP to those projects. The TIP must be financially constrained meaning that all projects included in the TIP must have funding identified and available to complete the project.



JOHNSON STREET

JOHNSON STREET RECONSTRUCTION

The City of Bay City, utilizing BCATS Surface Transportation funding, completed the reconstruction of Johnson Street from Center Avenue to Columbus Avenue in 2012. The project replaced the severely deteriorated pavement along with new sidewalks, ADA ramps and new curb and gutters. The City also replaced the aging underground infrastructure. With proper road maintenance including crack sealing, seal-coating and pavement overlay, the road should last over 30 years before reconstruction will again be needed.

I-75 PINCONNING PROJECT AWARDS

The 2011 I-75 project in northern Bay County was originally scheduled to take two years to complete. However, through partnership cooperation, collaboration, and communication, MDOT completed this project more than a year ahead of schedule and with little disruption to the traveling public. As a result, MDOT received AASHTO's "America's Transportation Award" for Ahead of Schedule, Medium Project in 2012. On top of this award, the contractor, Walter Toebe Construction Co. received the Michigan Concrete Association's Concrete Pavement Award in Overlays for their work on the project.

BCATS WEBSITE UPDATES

BCATS has recently updated their website. Available for download on the website are the most recent 2011-12-13-14 Transportation Improvement Program and 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan and complaint form, Technical and Policy Committee meeting minutes & agendas, traffic counts, various maps, and assorted transportation related links.

The direct web page is available at:
<http://www.baycounty-mi.gov/transportation>.

