

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Policy Committee Minutes - August 17, 2011

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Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Those present were:

Dave Engelhardt, BCATS staff; George Augustyniak, Fraser Twp; Jim Lillo, Bay Co. Road Commission; Tom Ryder, Bay Co. Board of Commissioners; Jack Wheatley, Rowe Engineering representing Bay City; Gary Brandt, Monitor Twp.; Eric Sprague, Bay Metro Transit Authority; Dennis Bragiell, Kawkawlin Twp.; Mike Stoner, Bay Metro Transit Authority; Julie Chamberlain, Bay County Health Department; Sue Fortune, EMCOG; Mike Niederquell, Wade Trim; Pamela Boyd, MDOT Planning-Lansing; and Dirk Westbury BCATS staff.

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved by Augustyniak, seconded by Ryder, to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2011 meeting. Motion Passed.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

Building Healthy Communities:

Engelhardt introduced Julie Chamberlain from the Bay County Health Department to talk about the Building Healthy Communities program. Chamberlain discussed the project and how it is trying to get health factors into policy decision making such as how to increase access to fresh produce, encourage more walking and biking. Chamberlain is available to help provide any information on the program and funding opportunities to any township or city within Bay County with ways to Build a Healthy Community.

Update From Bay Metro Transit:

Stoner updated the committee that in September, Bay City will be hosting the 8th annual conference for Michigan Public Transit Agencies at the Doubletree. Stoner also stated that BMTA is looking to update the Central Station on Washington to extend the life on the facility, improve access for inter-city carriers and possibly the addition of bicycle lockers.

TIP Amendments - BMTA:

Sprague discussed the BMTA amendment which is adding the 5311 operation funding (rural transit operation) into the TIP, a requirement from FTA. Engelhardt was also informed that the recent MTPA meeting that FTA is asking that all 5309 projects for FY 2012 through FY 2014 should not be in the TIP, and only be added once the transit agency has received a letter confirming the project has been awarded funding. As BCATS currently has 5309 transit projects in the TIP, they would have to be removed and will be placed in the Illustrative List. Also to be placed on the Illustrative List were projects that were submitted for the FHWA Transportation Community and System Preservation (TCSP) grant. If the projects

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were awarded the grant, then they will be required to be placed in the TIP. The two projects in the area that were submitted were for funding on infrastructure at the RiversEdge site in Bay City and for the Bay-Zil Rail Trail.

A motion was made by Fortune and supported by Boyd to add the 5311 Transit project into the TIP, remove the 5309 Transit projects in the TIP in FY 2012 and move them to the Illustrative List, and add the RiversEdge project and Bay-Zil Rail Trail project that were submitted for a TCSP grant into the Illustrative and give Dave Engelhardt, BCATS Director, the Administrative Modification authority to move those projects from the Illustrative List to the TIP if the grant or funding is awarded. Motion Passed.

Travel Demand Model - Approve S/E Future Data:

Engelhardt discussed the tables that were provided to the committee as part of the agenda packet. These tables represent future projections and are a 'best guess' of future years population and employment. The data was analyzed and reviewed five years ago during the last update of the BCATS Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and will be updated again in five years when the Metropolitan Transportation Plan will be required to be updated again. Westbury stated that the current projections did use the 2010 census population data as the growth base.

The motion was made by Brandt and seconded by Stoner to approve the future S/E data as sent to the committee as part of the Agenda Packet. Motion Passed.

BCATS Self Certification:

Each year, BCATS as a small MPO is required to go through an annual self-certification process. Engelhardt explained that much if this is done during the Pre-UWP process and will need to be signed by the BCATS Policy Chairman, Jim Lillo.

A motion was made by Bragiel and seconded by Wheatley to approve the self-certification and have Jim Lillo sign the self-certification statement. Motion Passed.

BCATS Non-Motorized Plan Update:

Westbury stated that modifications were being made to the draft Non-Motorized Plan, based on feedback obtained from the local implementing agencies. After discussion Engelhardt suggested that at the next meeting, BCATS should adopt the plan. Boyd noted that the road agencies should also adopt it to assist in acquiring grants and enhancement funding.

Westbury also informed the committee of the upcoming 3 Trails in 3 Days event August 19-21 to raise funds to connect the Bay City, Midland and Saginaw Trail systems.

Projects Update:

The **Walnut St Project** from Vermont to the Vet's Bridge is under way and will include work on the underground utilities. The **Adams St Project** between

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Columbus and McKinley is also under way and will convert Adams to a two-way street. The **Bay City Bridges Project**, Liberty and Independence Bridges, will start in September with no bridge closure to occur until the river shipping season is concluded. Neither bridge will require complete closure, but will likely have one lane closed during the projects. The **Midland Road Project** is coming up with some sewer issues, but considering those issues, the project is moving along well. Lillo noted that the public meeting held prior to the construction commencing has really helped the the public's positive reception of the project. The new **Kinney Rd Bridge**, which is outside the BCATS area, is in place, but still needs guard rail installed and will be reopened next week after three years of being closed. It is a 60 foot wood bridge, put together by a BCRC crew for the cost of \$200,000. **BCRC chip and Seal Program** is current underway.

Other/New Business:

Federal Legislation:

Boyd informed the committee that the assumed 2% increase in funding planned for 2012 and 2013 should be held flat. With the continuing resolution on the Federal Transportation Bill set to expire at the end of September 2011, it is unknown if it will be extended again or a new bill will be signed. If an extension is pass, funding will likely hold, if a new bill is signed, unless other funding sources our found by Congress, it is likely a drop of 20-30% in funding will occur. In addition, the Federal Gas Tax authority will expire at the same time. If that lapses, \$0.15 of gas tax may not be collected, and that will certainly impact current funding amounts.

TIP Amendment Schedule:

Engelhardt received the amendment schedule from MDOT and will add BCATS meeting dates to the schedule and provide all with a copy at a later date.

As there was no further business, the August 17, 2011 BCATS Policy Committee meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Engelhardt
BCATS Director

Transcribed by D. Westbury