

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Policy Committee Minutes - February 20, 2013

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Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:34 P.M.

Those Present Were:

Dave Engelhardt, BCATS Director; Jack Wheatley, Rowe Engineering representing Bay City; Jim Lillo, Bay County Road Commission; Dennis Bragiel, Kawkawlin Township Supervisor; Jay Reithel, MDOT; George Augustyniak, Fraser Township; Eric Sprague, Bay Metro; Brandon Krause, Bay County Commissioner; Mike Niederquell, Wade Trim; Jim Bedell, City of Bay City; Dirk Westbury, BCATS Staff, and Cyndi Gaul, Secretary, BCATS Staff.

Introductions were made as there were some new faces around the meeting table.

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved by Krause, seconded by Wheatley, to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2012 meeting. Motion Passed.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

Update From Bay Metro Transit:

Sprague reported that Bay Metro applied for and received a \$3 Million Federal grant in 2012 for the replacement of old buses. Bay Metro had the largest number of buses that were eligible to be replaced due to age in Michigan.

Election of BCATS Policy Chairman and Vice Chairman:

According to the BCATS Bylaws, officers must be elected at the first meeting each calendar year and the group would need to elect the Policy Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman.

A motion was made by Bragiel, seconded by Bedell, to nominate Jim Lillo as the BCATS Policy Chairman. Lillo accepted the nomination. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Sprague, seconded by Bragiel, to nominate Jim Bedell as the BCATS Policy Vice Chairman. Bedell accepted the nomination. Motion passed.

MAP-21 and STP Funding for FY2013 and FY2014+:

Engelhardt said that the new MAP-21 two year Transportation bill decreases our STP funds by 32% from previous years. Small MPOs took the largest brunt of the reductions due to changes in the funding formula. Engelhardt, on behalf of the small MPOs, is looking for a way to eliminate the C & D Programs and have the funds for those program distributed according to the Act 51 funding formula, making the funds available to all the agencies.

BCATS 2011-2014 TIP Amendments:

Engelhardt provided a handout that lists the BCATS 2011-14 TIP Amendment requests from various agencies. The City of Bay City projects listed are subject to the city's meeting on Friday, February 22nd in order to see if they will be receiving grant funding. Normally, projects aren't placed into the TIP unless funds are identified. However, this is a unique situation and the city project will be included. If the Saginaw Street Project does not get the TEDF grant, the project will not be included in the TIP and the North Union Rd Project will be moved up to 2014. Engelhardt also provided an illustrative list of projects for inclusion in

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the amendment, which includes the removal of the Uptown Site Project previously listed in the Illustrative List. These project are included in case funding becomes available and Engelhardt would be able to administratively modify the TIP to get the project(s) included in the TIP and not have to wait for the next BCATS Policy meeting. The PE projects will be prioritizes base on the planned year of construction.

A motion was made by Bragiel, seconded by Bedell, to approve the 2011-14 TIP Amendments as printed, with the option to replace the Saginaw St project with the North Union Project should the TEDF grant be rejected via administrative modification and include the modified Illustrative List as provided. Should additional funding come forward, or available funds through bid savings, David Engelhardt has Administrative Modification authority to move projects off the illustrative list to utilize those funds. Motion Passed.

BCATS 2014-17 TIP:

Engelhardt provided a handout of the BCATS 2014-17 TIP projects and discussed that there is currently \$55 Million of unobligated funding balance available to local agencies. According to Act 51, MDOT must distribute 25% of all federal funds to the locals, but when locals are unable to obligate all those funds, MDOT has utilized those funds by obligating the funds on trunkline projects in order to not lose the federal funds. MDOT has been accounting for these unobligated funds and would like to bring the total down over three years. There has been discussion of opening up these funds for projects on a first come, first serve basis after all the area's current obligation is used up, so it's important to have projects that are ready to go. At this point, there isn't much information on how the funds will be distributed or the amount that BCATS would be eligible to receive. The draft BCATS 2014-17 TIP has to be approved by the April, 2013 meeting in order to go out for public review. Engelhardt provided a handout of the BCATS 2014-17 TIP projects to make sure the right projects are in place and that the group is ready to vote to approve the TIP at the April meeting.

Adjusted Census Urban Boundary (ACUB):

Westbury provided a map of the suggested ACUB for the Bay City Area and reviewed the changes. The 2000 Census Urban Area went up to Linwood bringing Fraser Twp into BCATS. In the 2010 Census, the Urban Area did not extend that far north, removing Fraser Township from the urban area. Engelhardt has spoken to Fraser Township and they have agreed to be removed from the ACUB. Fraser Township will write a letter that they have reviewed the ACUB Map and have been a part of the process and that they are fine with not being included in the urbanized area. Fraser Township will no longer be voting members on BCATS, and the By Laws will be amended at the next normally scheduled Policy meeting.

A motion was made by Lillo, seconded by Wheatley, to approve the Adjusted Census Urban Boundary (ACUB) and that Engelhardt has the ability to sign on the behalf of BCATS and on behalf of the planning areas including the Saginaw areas in Bay County that the appropriate planning process was followed and that the appropriate jurisdictions were involved in the process. Motion passed.

Midland MPO Status:

The creation of the Midland MPO is complete and the group is moving forward. The Midland MPO has just hired an interim Director (Maja Bolanowska) to get them started in the process. The Midland MPO has both Small Urban and small MPO STP funding in FY 2013

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that they can get allocated, with those projects going into the STIP, until they get some of their required documents in place. The Midland MPO has until 2016 to get their Long Range Plan submitted to the State. There has been no word on when the Technical Committee Meeting or a Policy Committee Meeting will be taking place.

Project Updates:

The Road Commission reported that the **Midland Road Project** will be let April 5th. The **Beaver Road Project** will be let in June, 2013. The City of Bay City reported that the **North Johnson Street Project** is 99% done with a few restoration items left. The **Uptown Bay City Project** is ahead of schedule on removal of the Consumer's Energy towers. MDOT reported that there will be an Open House for project review on Thursday, March 7, 2013 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Bay County Community Center in the back meeting room to review the **Salzburg Avenue Project** (Euclid Avenue to Bridge). Bedell said that he really appreciated and liked MDOT's plan on the **Salzburg Avenue Project** by using the Complete Streets approach.

Other/New Business:

Pre-UWP Meeting:

The Pre-UWP Meeting will be in March or April so Engelhardt wanted to know if there is anything that the group would like him to focus on for that meeting. Lillo mentioned that he would like to see a light timing study or corridor study, maybe even a study that combines the two. There may be some PL Funding to use for such a study. There may be some Access Management funds if we can team up with MDOT for such a study. The FY 2014 UWP needs to be completed by June 2013.

Performance Measures:

Based on the MAP-21 funding, there will be more performance measures reporting requirements in place.

Annual MTPA Conference:

The Annual MTPA Conference for 2013 will be held in the Muskegon area in July.

Cash Contributions:

Engelhardt reminded everyone that when they submit their bills for Cash Contributions that they should send him invoices up to the actual amounts approved for reimbursement and no more. It's important that billed amounts do not exceed the actual amounts or they are viewed as in-kind matches.

Bus Stop Canopy:

Augustyniak asked who decides where a bus stop canopy gets placed in Bay County. Sprague said that Bay Metro receives requests, however mentioned that it's hard to maintain such structures. Bay Metro is responsible for the benches at many of the bus stop sites and they have to maintain them too.

As there was no further business, the February 20, 2013 BCATS Policy Committee meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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David Engelhardt
BCATS Director

Transcribed by C. Gaul

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