

2008 Annual Report of the Bay City Area Transportation Study (BCATS)

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING & SAFETEA-LU

On August 10, 2005, President Bush signed the \$244.1 billion, five-year federal transportation bill as passed by Congress which is known as SAFETEA-LU, (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users). SAFETEA-LU succeeds the expired Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21).

SAFETEA-LU re-authorizes the federal highway, public transportation, highway safety, and motor carrier safety programs through Fiscal Year 2009. The Bay City Area Transportation Study (BCATS) was designated to carry out the transportation planning process required by TEA-21 and now SAFETEA-LU. 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.

Included in SAFETEA-LU are more than 5000 High Priority Projects throughout the nation. One is located within the BCATS area, the reconstruction of North Henry St from Vermont St to Wilder Rd. N Henry St was completed in two phases over four years and received \$2.16 million in High Priority Project Funds dedicated specifically for this project. Phase one between Vermont St and N Union St was completed in 2006 with phases two and three combined into one final phase, between N Union St and Wilder Rd, completed in 2008.

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 composed 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 comprised 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 Ave, 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
engelhardtd@baycounty.net

Michael Stoner, General Manager (989) 894-2900
Bay Metro Transit
mstoner@baymetro.com

Kurt Coduti (989) 671-1555
Michigan Department of Transportation
codutik@michigan.gov

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 aids 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
(989) 895-4130
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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 sixth year of a statewide review of paved federal-aid roadways was conducted using resources of the Michigan Department of Transportation and other local agencies. This year, the state elected to collect data on half of the federal aid system while collecting the remainder in 2009. In Bay County, BCATS teamed with the City of Bay City, MDOT and the Bay County Road Commission to inventory the surface condition of 305 miles of streets and highways. Of the roads rated in the sixth year, the data indicates that 9% of the federal-aid roadways in Bay County were rated in excellent condition, 57% in good condition, 22% in fair condition, and 12% were rated in poor condition.

BCATS FOUR YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM



PINE RD. BEFORE



PINE RD. AFTER

This year marked the first year of the new BCATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the fiscal years of 2008/09/10/11. The program includes approximately \$92 million in transportation projects that will be completed over the 4 year period. It lists all of the federally funded transportation projects within the Bay City Area that will enhance the safety and efficiency of the transportation system, from I-75 reconstruction to Bay Metro Transit bus replacement to transportation enhancement projects. The 2008/11 TIP was prepared by BCATS staff during 2007 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. The TIP is available for viewing on the Bay County Transportation Planning website or at the BCATS office.

Projects that were completed in 2008 utilizing federal funds included:

Michigan Department of Transportation

- I-75 reconstruction from Detroit to S of US-10 and the addition of a fourth lane in each direction
- Rehabilitation of M-25 Between Henry St and Johnson St

Bay County Road Commission

- Pine Rd reconstruction between Nebobish Ave and M-25
- Realignment of 7 Mile Rd over the Bradford Drain in Monitor Twp.

City of Bay City

- Reconstruction of Henry St from North Union St to Wilder Rd



HARRISON STREET

HARRISON STREET RECONSTRUCTION

In 2009, Harrison Street between 32nd St and 38th St will be rebuilt. The City of Bay City received an Economic Development Grant from the State of Michigan for \$238,488. This grant along with funds from BCATS and the City of Bay City will allow for the reconstruction of Harrison Street that will in turn promote job growth for the businesses located along and near Harrison Street.

NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION EFFORTS & PLANS

BCATS is currently working toward the creation of an updated Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. This plan will focus on ways to improve, enhance, and expand the transportation system and safety in the Bay City area for bicyclist, pedestrians, and other non-motorized modes of transportation.

The first non-motorized specific plan created by BCATS was the 1980 Bicycle Plan. Some of the key elements of the plan involved increased safety with an emphasis on separation of bicyclists from motor vehicles, improvement of street maintenance, and increase motorist's awareness of bicycle paths. The 1980 Bicycle Plan was distributed and approved by BCATS Policy Committee members on November 19, 1980.

The follow up to the 1980 Bicycle Plan was the BCATS 1995 Non-Motorized Facilities Plan, which included a list of existing trails in Bay County, as well as improvement and expansion plans for those trails. BCATS Committee members approved the 1995 Non-Motorized Facilities Plan on May 17, 1995. A culmination of the 1980 and 1995 Bicycle Plans will certainly help devise the 2009 Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.

As part of the non-motorized transportation efforts by BCATS, our staff has been a part of the various trail efforts in the region including the Riverwalk/Railtrail Committee and the Tri-County Regional Path Study looking to connect the trail networks of Bay City, Midland and Saginaw.

– completing the two phase project from Vermont St to Wilder Rd

- Completed the restoration of the Pere-Marquette Train Depot

Bay Metro

- Continue vehicle replacement program
- Begin Job Access Program

Upcoming 2009 Projects:

Michigan Department of Transportation

- Reconstruction M-25 (Center Ave) in Bay City from Johnson St to Livingston St
- M-25 streetscape improvements and decorative lighting to enhance the Heritage Route from Madison Ave to Livingston St.

City of Bay City

- Reconstruction Harrison St from 32nd St and 38th St
- Painting of both the Liberty Bridge and the Independence Bridge beginning Jan. 2nd.

Bay Metro

- Continue vehicle replacement program
- Continue Job Access Program

A complete listing of FY 2008 obligated projects can be viewed on the BCATS web site.

BAY METRO TRANSIT

Bay Metro Transit Authority (BMTA) has transported about 24.5 million passengers since 1974. In 2008, service was provided to 57,000 seniors and 228,000 disabled passengers with an overall ridership of 664,000. BMTA operated over 1.5 million service miles during the year.

Ridership for Dial-A-Ride Transit (DART), demand-response service for seniors and disabled, increased from 62,000 in 2007 to 62,800 in 2008. Of all services provided by BMTA, the DART service has continued to show the most significant trend in growth.

BMTA also subcontracted 19,000 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. At 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 2008, the local carrier provided 2,570 JARC rides. This program has quickly expanded. BMTA applied for and received an increase in the funding for the continued operation of this program. BMTA will also be purchasing an additional vehicle to increase capacity.

I-75 RECONSTRUCTION

The first phase of I-75 reconstruction in Bay County was completed in 2008. This phase stretched from 500 ft. North of Hotchkiss Rd to 0.4 mi. North of Salzburg Rd to the existing stretch of 4 lanes in each direction near US-10. Along with the needed reconstruction, a lane was added in the median and a median barrier was constructed. The second phase is planned for 2011 with the reconstruction to occur from the Bay County/Saginaw County line to just south of M-84. The result of the project will reduce the congestion on I-75 during the peak travel times of vacationers heading north.

WEBSITE UPDATES

BCATS has recently updated our website. Available for download on the website are the most recent 2008-09-10-11 TIP and 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Technical and Policy Committee meeting minutes & agendas, traffic counts, various maps, and assorted transportation related links.

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