

2007 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 will be completed in two phases over six years and receive \$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, between N Union St and Wilder Rd, planned for 2008.

Currently, the BCATS area includes the cities of Bay City and Essexville and the townships of Bangor, Kawawlin, Monitor, Frankenlust, Portsmouth, Hampton, 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. While 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

Bob Ranck (989) 671-1555
Michigan Department of Transportation
ranckr2@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
Office of the Bay County Executive
515 Center Avenue - Suite 403
Bay City, MI 48708
(989) 895-4130
(989) 895-4049TDD
graym@baycounty.net

BCATS ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Michigan Asset Management Council was created by the Public Act 499 of 2002. To meet the requirements of the Act, the fifth year of a statewide review of all paved federal-aid roadways was conducted using resources of the Michigan Department of Transportation and other local agencies. In Bay County, BCATS teamed with the City of Bay City, MDOT and the Bay County Road Commission to inventory the surface condition of 580 miles of streets and highways. The fifth year of data indicates that 20% of the federal-aid roadways in Bay County were rated in excellent condition, 40% in good condition, 28% in fair condition, and 12% were rated in poor condition.

BCATS 3 YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM



BEFORE

This year marked the second year of the BCATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the fiscal years of 2006/07/08. The program includes approximately \$60 million in transportation projects that will be completed over the 3 year period. The program includes a variety of street, highway, bridge, pedestrian, and transit projects that will enhance the safety and efficiency of the transportation system.

Projects that were completed in 2007 utilizing federal funds included:

Michigan Department of Transportation

- Restoration of M-84 from the Lafayette Bridge to M-25
- Completion of the M-25 streetscape from Livingston St to Pine Rd
- Rehabilitation of M-13 south of Cass Ave in Bay City
- Restoration of the M-25 Veteran's Memorial Bridge
- Rehabilitation of M-25 Between Henry St and Euclid Ave

Bay County Road Commission

- Start of the Pine Rd reconstruction between Nebobish Ave and M-25, the project will be completed in the spring of 2008.

City of Bay City

- Reconstruction of Wenona Ave between Ivy St and Ionia St
- Resurfacing and rehabilitation of Woodside Ave between Liberty Bridge and Trumbull St
- Beginning of the restoration of the Pere-Marquette Train Depot

Bay Metro

- Continue vehicle replacement program



AFTER

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

- Trail repair and resurfacing to the Anderson Nature Trail

Upcoming 2008 Projects:

Michigan Department of Transportation

- Reconstruction of I-75 between Hotchkiss Rd and 1/2 mile North of Salzburg Rd, this project will also add a fourth lane in each direction
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) permanent message signs on I-75 and US-10 will be installed in Bay County

Bay County Road Commission

- Completion of the Reconstruction of Pine Rd between Nebobish Ave and Center Ave
- 7 Mile Rd Bridge over the Bradford Creek in Monitor Twp. will be replaced and realigned.

City of Bay City

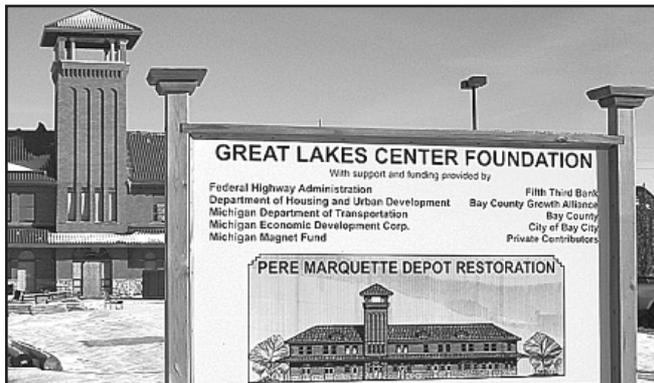
- Reconstruction of N Henry St between N Union St and Wilder Rd (Phases II & III of III)
- Completion of the restoration of the Pere-Marquette Train Depot

Bay Metro

- Continue vehicle replacement program

A complete listing of FY 2007 obligated projects can be viewed on the BCATS web site.

PERE MARQUETTE DEPOT RESTORATION



In March 2007, the Great Lakes Center Foundation began the restoration of the Pere Marquette Depot located in downtown Bay City. Built in 1904 and vacant since 1969, the depot's rehabilitation includes the reconstruction of the 66-foot tower, the porte cochere, replacement of the wrap-around canopy and a new clay tile roof. With the assistance of the City of Bay City, the \$3.4 million restoration project received an MDOT Enhancement Grant of \$706,872. The rehabilitation project is expected to be completed in the spring of 2008.

NORTH HENRY STREET RECONSTRUCTION

North Henry phases II & III from North Union St to Wilder Rd is scheduled to begin on March 10, 2008 with a completion date of November 15, 2008. This project will include new water mains and new sewer mains. In addition the street will be reconstructed with three lanes. There will be one northbound lane, one southbound lane and one dedicated turn lane. New sidewalks will also be installed. This project will include new water and sewer mains funded by the City of Bay City. The road portion of the project is funded from High Priority Project (HPP) and Surface Transportation Project (STP) funds.

NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION EFFORTS & PLANS

On November 1, 2007 a Trail Summit was held in Frankenmuth. It was the "kick-off" in the development of the Bay Region Comprehensive Regional Non-Motorized Trails Plan for the 13 counties that comprise the MDOT Bay Region.

BCATS staff and other Bay City trail advocates attended this trail summit to begin the process of updating the BCATS Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. The plan will identify existing bicycle and pedestrian transportation facilities, indicate what improvements are needed, and how to achieve the ideal Non-Motorized Transportation Network in the Bay City Area.

Future trail development includes the connection of Delta College and Saginaw Valley State University. Bay City, Saginaw, & Midland trail advocates are currently working to identify possible connections of existing trails within the tri-county region.

BAY METRO TRANSIT

Bay Metro Transit Authority (BMTA) has transported about 24 million passengers since 1974. In 2007, service was provided to 67,000 seniors and 280,000 disabled passengers with an overall ridership of 611,000. Bay Metro Transit operated over 1.5 million service miles during the year.

Ridership for Dial-A-Ride (DART), demand-response service for seniors and disabled, increased from 60,000 in 2006 to 62,000 in 2007. 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 Program.

08-09-10-11 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Next year will mark the first year of the new four year BCATS 2008-09-10-11 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This lists all of the federally funded transportation projects within the Bay City Area, 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, MDOT, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the public. The 2008/11 TIP still requires FHWA approval which should occur in early 2008.

2035 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

On June 20, 2007, BCATS approved the new 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan to replace the expired 2027 Long Range Plan. The plan is available on the Bay County Transportation Planning Division's website for downloading. The plan is also available for viewing at the BCATS office located on the 5th floor of the Bay County Building at 515 Center Ave.

This new plan identifies all of the transportation needs for BCATS through 2035. The plan takes into account long and short term strategies/actions that will improve the safety and efficiency of the movement of people and goods though and within the Bay City urbanized area.

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 MTP, Technical and Policy Committee meeting minutes & agendas, traffic counts, various maps, and assorted transportation related links.

The web page is available through Bay County's home page <http://www.baycounty-mi.gov> and is listed as Transportation Planning Division under the Departmental Index link.