

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Policy Committee Minutes - August 18, 2010

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Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m.

Those present were: Dave Engelhardt, BCATS staff; Dale Majerczyk, City of Essexville; Jim Lillo, Bay County Road Commission; Vaughn Begick, Bay County; George Augustyniak, Fraser Township Supervisor; Dennis Bragiel, Kawkawlin Township Supervisor; Mike Stoner, Bay Metro Transit; Brandon Wilcox, MDOT; Dirk Westbury, BCATS staff, and; Cyndi Gaul, EA&CD.

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved by Majerczyk, seconded by Bragiel, to approve the minutes from the June 16, 2010 meeting. Motion Passed.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

Update From Bay Metro Transit:

Stoner told the committee that Bay Metro Transit provided 30,000 rides during the Tall Ships Festival weekend in Bay City. Rides were provided to and from parking lots and across the river. Stoner received several positive comments about the bus service, staff and the City. Stoner heard from people that aren't from Bay City, some people were from other countries visiting, about what a great place our city was to visit. Bay Metro Transit in partnership with Meijer will begin providing rides from the Monitor Township Meijer parking lot to SVSU and Delta College in order to help with campus parking. The buses will be running every half hour. If the pilot program goes well, it is anticipated that the services will begin at the Hampton Township Meijer. The cost for the bus service will be 75¢ for students one way, \$1.00 for Adults, and 50¢ for seniors and disabled persons. Benches and bicycle racks are being installed at the Meijer lot for the passengers and the buses will be equipped with bike racks for those who will be riding the bicycles. Stoner also provided the committee with a breakdown of the millage renewal election result.

BCATS 2011-14 TIP Status Report:

Engelhardt provided Wilcox with copies of the BCATS 2011-14 TIP in color and bound (as requested). Engelhardt explained that the FY 2011 has to match the existing TIP, and per MDOT's request, an Administrative Modification to the M-13 Bridge Project in 2011 is needed. It will be advanced into 2010 in order to get the project obligated in time to be in the correct bidding cycle. No funding changes or scope changes will occur.

A motion was made by Majerczyk, seconded by Stoner, to authorize BCATS staff to make the Administrative Modification for the M-13 Bridge project to the 2008-11 TIP and to be reflected in BCATS 2011-14 TIP. Motion Passed.

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BCATS 2011-2012 Flexible Match:

Engelhardt discussed that since the City of Bay City reduced their engineering staff, it's unsure what will happen with their portion of Flexible Match for this year and next. Engelhardt discussed the possibility of having participating agencies pay some sort of dues based on mileage of federal aid eligible roads and to use that money to pay them for their contributed services, with each agency billing BCATS to get reimbursed from the pot of money they paid. The cap on reimbursement for any services would be the amount each participating agency pays into the fund. Majerczyk believes that dues could be paid from Act 51 funds. Majerczyk said there would need to be an invoice for services. Engelhardt said he will look back into the original agreements to see what is specified. Engelhardt thought that the earliest we could start the payment of dues and services reimbursement, rather than the Flexible Match system currently used, would be in FY 2012. Discussion ensued.

Legislative Updates:

Engelhardt provided members with a copy of PA134 (HB 6152) and PA135 (HB 6151) of 2010 regarding Complete Streets and House Bill 6342 regarding STP funds available to local agencies. These were given as informational items. Engelhardt discussed that the State may not have any funds to cover their match for future federal funds. This bill would allow the disbursement of state STP funds to MPO's allowing local agencies access to the STP funds providing match is available. This would be preferable to returning the funds to the Federal Government. He suggested that local DDAs may be able to provide matching funds. There was a question about whether or not Urban STP Funds can be used for Rural Projects, with the understanding that the project would have to meet MDOT rules and regulations. Majerczyk stated that the ultimate goal is to keep funds in our area no matter what. Wilcox wasn't sure and would look into the matter. Discussion ensued.

BCATS Non-Motorized Plan Update:

Westbury gave an update and let everyone know that the next meeting for the BCATS Non-Motorized Plan Update would be taking place on Tuesday, September 14th in the afternoon at the MSU-Extension Conference Room, 3rd Floor of the Bay County Building. If you're interested in attending, please contact Dirk Westbury. There is a strong desire to create trail connectivity, especially between Bay, Saginaw and Midland counties. It is believed that this trail connectivity will enhance the quality of life and create a new mobility within the community.

Project Updates:

The **Borton Avenue Project** has been completed with the exception of the "No Parking" Signs and the ARRA funds are coming in slowly for this project as only one payment has been received. The **Seven Mile Road Project** (Hotchkiss to Salzburg) is almost complete. The **Safe Routes to School Project** will have a bike lane on Two Mile Road and sidewalks on Kiesel. The bid for the **Bay Arenac Dr Project** came in at 16% under engineers estimate and is expected to start towards

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the end of September. Work of the ***Wilder Rd/Woodside/Truman Joint Project*** is progressing and the intersection of Woodside and Truman will be closed for 2 weeks and starting work on Wilder Rd after the intersection is reopened.

Other/New Business:

Additional STP Funding:

After receiving the Local Agency Balance report a few days ago from MDOT, BCATS was made aware of an additional \$96,050 of STP funds being available in FY 2010. This leaves approximated 45 days to take advantage of the funds with a possible forced account project. Any additional project would require a TIP amendment, but could be done at a special joint Tech and Policy Committee meeting. Lillo will see if the Road Commission has a project that could use those funds. MDOT is in the process of determining if these funds will be affected by the FY2010 Recision and if there is obligation authority available.

Asset Management Plan:

Engelhardt informed the committee that in Dec. or Jan., the TAMC (Transportation Asset Management Council) will provide templates to local agencies for development of an Asset Management Plan.

Michigan State Rail Plan:

Engelhardt stated that the state is putting together a passenger and freight State Rail Plan. There are currently 4 meeting throughout the state (Grand Rapids, Detroit, Traverse City and Marquette) but they are working to get a closer location to Bay City. Engelhardt feels that this provides a good opportunity for BCATS to engage the railroad operators and owners to incorporate them into the BCATS transportation planning process.

As there was no further business, the August 18, 2010 BCATS Policy Committee meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Engelhardt
BCATS Director

Transcribed by C. Gaul