

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Policy Committee Minutes –April 16, 2014

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Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

Those Present Were:

Dave Engelhardt, BCATS Director; Jim Lillo, Bay County Road Commission; Jay Reithel, MDOT; Dennis Bragiel, Kawkawlin Township; Vaughn Begick, Bay County Commissioner; Eric Sprague, BMTA; Dan Hansford, City of Essexville; Dave Harran, City of Bay City; Terry Moulthane, City of Bay City; Gary Brandt, Monitor Township; Pamela Boyd, MDOT Planning; Jay Anderson, BCATS Staff, and; Cyndi Gaul, Secretary/BCATS Staff.

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved by Begick, seconded by Hansford, to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2014 meeting. Motion Passed.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

Bay Metro Update:

Sprague said that the only update he had would be the BMTA TIP Amendments.

Legislative Update:

Engelhardt said that he had nothing new to report. Boyd said that the \$100 Million was distributed for winter maintenance, so there will be additional formula money to help cover the expenses of snow removal over the past hard winter. Lillo confirmed that the Road Commission already received the special payout. Boyd indicated that the second \$115 Million that is currently earmarked initially had a February 2014 deadline for project submission. To date she hasn't seen a list of projects for this earmark. Boyd heard that there will be a second list of projects for 2015 being released soon. FHWA will be providing updated planning regulations in spring 2014, and MAP21 will need to be renewed by October 2014 as it expires September 30, 2014. Until a new transit bill is adopted, there may be a delay in the project lists. Once funding is authorized for a project it should be all set. The proposed MPO Population Threshold of 200,000 instead of 50,000 is still being discussed. Boyd indicated that the existing MPOs of 50,000 will be grandfathered in.

Regional Prosperity Initiative:

EMCOGG received the Regional Prosperity Grant. However, it was a lower amount than expected. Fortune is on a fast track with this project and has asked to have some key people identified to help coordinate efforts. It's important to identify a transportation liaison person that can be a point of contact for coordination. Engelhardt feels that this contact person could be a MPO person, but there are other transportation agencies beyond MPOs. Boyd reminded everyone that there is an Economic Development focus on this project and transportation is an important component. Boyd also said that MDOT would be taking part in the meetings for this project.

MDOT Access Management Plan:

The MDOT Access Management Plan for the Euclid Avenue and Wilder Road corridor is in the 2014 UWP and has been authorized. The Road Commission is on board with the local match for this project. Engelhardt is struggling with the signature of the documents and the process of

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tracking the contract. Reithel said he has concerns about how the contract will be setup. Engelhardt said that while there's no county general funds to this project, he feels that the county corporation counsel will need to review the final contract document prior to signature by the county.

2015 Unified Work Program (UWP):

Engelhardt discussed the Pre-UWP Meeting that was held in Lansing and said it was a good meeting. PL Funding is down from prior years, in part because of the addition of the new Midland MPO. BCATS still has some prior year PL unspent funds that Engelhardt would like to see used toward 2015 Aerial Photography. Transportation funds have been contributed to this effort in the past and the project cost is traditionally spread out between various departments and agencies. This is a multi-county shared service which includes a contribution from Dow. Right now there are seven agencies willing to participate in the Aerial Photography for 2015. Engelhardt will request \$5,000 of Federal Funds in the UWP for this effort. The deadline for the UWP has changed and BCATS will need to have a draft before June 1, 2014. In our UWP expenses for the cash contribution portion is based on total program costs, and FY 2015 local match cost should be similar but slightly higher than the 2014 UWP match contributions. Engelhardt will look into the actual cost match to let everyone know what to expect by Mid May. Boyd said she thought if we got the UWP to MDOT by July 1, 2014 that we would be good. Engelhardt said that he was still working on the addition of the Performance Measures into the UWP as it is required by MAP21 definitions. He will need some clarification from Federal Highway to complete that portion of the UWP.

BCATS Public Hearing - TIP Amendments:

The Public Hearing was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Lillo, Chairman of BCATS. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to discuss the various MDOT and BMTA TIP Amendments for the BCATS 2014-17 TIP. Engelhardt provided everyone with a handout of the snapshot and possible TIP Amendments being requested. The Bay Metro Transit Authority (BMTA) county-wide JARC Operating program needs to be moved from 2013 to 2014. The 5316 Federal funding is from the prior year from unspent funds allocated to the State. The BMTA replacement project of five (5) 2007 lift vans using unspent Section 5307 STP Flex Funds from FY2006-2009-2011 needs to be moved to 2014. This project will use State Match and there won't be any local match, so "local match" should be removed from the project description. This project came in at a lower project cost, so there will be an adjustment to the project amount. The 2013 Bus Replacement Project of three (3) vans has been carried over into 2014. BMTA needs to have the 2014 Bike Racks for Busses project funding source changed to 5307 funding; the local share for this project is still "State Funds". MDOT has a change to the Midland Road Project. MDOT is also adding an additional line item for sub-phase and construction phase as an Administrative Change to the TIP for the Bridge Project that will be constructed in 2015.

The Public Hearing on the various TIP Amendments to the BCATS 2014-17 TIP was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

The regular BCATS Policy Committee Meeting was reconvened at 2:01 p.m.

Approval of the BCATS 2014-17 TIP Amendments:

A motion was made by Boyd, seconded by Begick, to approve the various BMTA and MDOT 2014-17 TIP Amendments to the BCATS Policy Committee including the Bay Metro Transit

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Authority (BMTA) county-wide 2014 JARC Operating program having a change in federal funding. 5316 Federal funding from the prior year which was unspent be re-allocated instead of using 5307 funds. It also removes the need for local funding. Total project cost remains unchanged; that the BMTA replacement project of five (5) 2007 lift vans using unspent Section 5307 STP Flex Funds from FY2006-2009-2011 be moved to 2014 and that “local match” be removed from the project and that the project amount be changed to reflect the actual grant. MDOT added the Stone Island Rd project to install signals and gates at the Huron & Eastern Railway; The US-10 Bridges over I-75 were broken up into a PE project and a SUB phase project while keeping the total cost the same; The construction phase project for 2015 of the US-10 Bridges over I-75 was added. Motion passed.

Fiscal Year	County	Responsible Agency	Project Name	Project Limits	Length	Primary Work Type	Project Description	Phase	Advance Construct	Federal Cost (\$1000s)	Federal Fund Source	State Cost (\$1000s)	State Fund Source	Local Cost (\$1000s)	Local Fund Source	Total Phase Cost (\$1000s)	MDOT Job No.	Local ID No.	MPO/Rural Action Date	Amendment Type	Air Quality	Comments	Total Project Cost (\$1000s)	x	Local Priority	EJ	Federal Approval Date	Capped Federal Cost (\$1000s)	Date Obligated	Amount Obligated (\$1000s)	Let Date
2014	BAY	MDOT	Stone Island Road	At Huron & Eastern Railway Company, Portsmouth Twp	0.00	Miscellaneous	Install flashing-light signals and gates	CON		180	STRP			20	OLF	200	122591		04/16/14	Add		4/16/14: Project Added	200								
2014	BAY	MDOT	US-10	EB & WB over I-75	0.05	Bridge replacement	Bridge Replacement	PE		112	IM	12	M			124	122868		3/19/14	Cost		10,136			4/17/14						
2014	BAY	MDOT	US-10	EB & WB over I-75	0.05	Bridge replacement	Bridge Replacement	SUB		338	IM	38	M			376	122868		04/16/14	Add		10,136									
2015	BAY	MDOT	US-10	EB & WB over I-75	0.05	Bridge replacement	Bridge Replacement	CON		8,672	IM	964	M			9,636	122868		04/16/14	Add		10,136									
2014	BAY	BMTA	2014 JARC Operating	County-wide		Transit operations	2014 JARC Operating	T-Ops		35	5316	110	CTF			145		30023	04/16/14	Cost		145			4/17/14						
2014	BAY	BMTA	Replace (5) 2007 lift vans	County-Wide		Transit vehicle additions/replacements	Replace (5) 2007 lift vans	T-Cap		204	5307	51	CTF			254		30008	06/19/13	Cost	NA	4/16/14: Unspent Sec. 5307 STP Flex funds from FY2006-2009,2011. Removed \$30,542 of local TRAL funds.	254			11/26/13					

BCATS Self-Certification:

Engelhardt discussed the BCATS Self-Certification process and how the group does this every year. The Pre – UWP meetings are essentially MDOT and FHWA reviews of existing small MPOs programs and operations along with discussions of next FY work programs.

Project Updates:

The City of Essexville will have a pre-construction meeting on April 22, 2014 for the **Woodside Avenue Project**. Construction will start on June 10th and is expected to last 45 days. The Bay County Road Commission **North Union Road Project** will be starting at any time. Consumers Energy is working on the gas lines. As long as the frost warnings are off, the job will begin April 21, 2014 and should be complete by September. The **Old Kawkawlin Road Project** is in the survey phase. The **Wheeler Road/Mackinaw Road Bridge Preventative Maintenance Project** will be let soon. Although it’s outside of the BCATS Area, Lillo mentioned the **Salzburg Road Project** will be let in June, 2014 and the project will begin in July, 2014. The **Saginaw Street Project** will be let in July, 2014 and will begin in July, 2014. This project should be completed by fall 2014.

Other/New Business:

MDOT I-75 Project

The MDOT I-75 Project will start back up again in May with alternate lanes being worked

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on.

Bay-Zilwaukee Trail Project

The pedestrian bridge over the Saginaw River linking the Bay-Zilwaukee trail with the Middlegrounds is near completion.

MDOT GPA Guidance:

Engelhardt had a handout for the draft MDOT GPA Guidance for everyone to read. BCATS only has one or two projects a year that fall under these guidelines. Most GPA funds can be administratively moved. Boyd reminded everyone that it depends on the timing and financial thresholds of the GPA funding movement as to whether or not it can be done administratively.

Overweight/Over Sized on I-75:

Reithel gave an update on the Overweight/Oversized rules and restrictions for I-75. The restrictions are still in place, even though a meeting last year indicated that some restrictions would be removed on a trial basis. Reithel will write a formal request to see if the discussed changes to these restrictions are still an option.

PASER Ratings:

Anderson will be going out and conducting the PASER Ratings with the Road Commission, City of Bay City, City of Essexville, and MDOT. Engelhardt explained that every three years agencies are up for reimbursement for local road ratings, and he will check to see who all is eligible for local road rating reimbursement.

Blueways Water Trail Project:

The Environmental Affairs & Community Development Department along with the Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative (SBCI) have received a grant and have been working on the Blueways Water Trail Project. The County GIS Department has been working on assisting with the mapping portion of this project. This project is moving along and there should be a completed map of the water trail by summer 2014. The Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative (SBCI) meeting on the third Thursday of each month on the 2nd floor of the Bay County Building in the Old Commission Chambers usually has an update on the Blueways project.

GIS Efforts:

Engelhardt discussed the current GIS efforts to coordinate with the City of Bay City and the Bay County Road Commission to create a core GIS data structure of information. Due to the increased interest in GIS development, Engelhardt is considering coordinating at least quarterly GIS meetings in the near future. Lillo mentioned that the Midland County GIS website is really impressive and easy to use.

2016 Safety Grant:

Lillo discussed the 2016 Safety Grant for Garfield Road at Hotchkiss to straighten out the curve in the road as it has been a hazard. This project is outside of the BCATS area.

Airport/Snow Plowing Efforts:

Engelhardt asked the Road Commission how the snow plowing coordination efforts went this past winter. Lillo said that so far they haven't received any complaints.

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Amendments & Administrative Changes:

Engelhardt handed out a draft document that outlines the difference between amendments and administrative changes and when each one is appropriate to use. He would like everyone to review the document and to give him feedback. He would like our administrative modification process to mirror the GPA guidelines for consistency purposes. So he would like to have our existing policy reviewed and any changes approved at the next BCATS Technical and Policy Committee Meetings.

As there was no further business, a motion was made by Moulthane, seconded by Bragiel, to adjourn the April 16, 2014 BCATS Special Policy Committee meeting at 2:43 p.m. Motion Passed.

Respectfully submitted,

David Engelhardt
BCATS Director

Transcribed by C. Gaul

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