

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Policy Committee Minutes – December 20, 2017

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

Those Present Were:

Jay Anderson, BCATS Staff; Jim Lillo, Bay County Road Commission; Vaughn Begick, Bay County Commissioner; Terri Close, Hampton Township Supervisor; Glenn Rowley, Bangor Township Supervisor; Ken Malkin, Monitor Township Supervisor; George Augustyniak, Fraser Township Trustee, and; Cyndi Gaul, Environmental Affairs and Community Development Department. David Engelhardt, EMCOG via phone.

Introductions were made.

Minutes from October 18, 2017 BCATS Policy Meeting:

It was moved by Rowley, seconded by Close, to approve the minutes from the October 18, 2017 BCATS Policy Committee. Motion passed.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

Legislative Update:

There was nothing to report from the state or federal level.

Brian Stark Resignation:

Brian Stark has left his employment with Bay County to take the Saginaw MPO (SMATS) and Saginaw County Planning Director position. Bay County is in the process of filling the Transportation Planner/GIS Technician position.

MATS & SMATS Boarder Issue:

Aaron Dawson from FHWA was at the meeting to discuss the MATS and SMATS boarder issue and the potential implications for BCATS. The border dispute is in the Freeland-Tittabawassee Township area and there will be a MOU done to better define the responsibilities for coordinated transportation planning in this area. There has been talk about merging the three MPOs (Bay, Midland, and Saginaw) into one Transportation Management Area (TMA). Were the three to merge, there would be the potential for additional funding to be available. Most of the additional funding would be National and Federal funds and as a TMA would have to do travel demand modeling and be up to Federal Certification Reviews. None of the MPOs want to merge into a TMA at this time. If the new census comes out and merges the three urbanized areas into one urbanized area then Bay, Midland, and Saginaw will have to merge into one TMA. Lillo said that he would hate to see the three merge because BCATS as a group works very well together. Lillo is concerned that Midland and Saginaw would be the bigger benefactors from this merge as Bay County is smaller in population. Dawson pointed out that the benefit to merging into a TMA would be an increase in funds available. However we would be competing with other TMAs such as SEMCOG (Detroit) for funding.

Safety Performance Measures:

Anderson said that MDOT has set their Safety Performance Targets. BCATS will have until February 27, 2018 to set their targets. A draft of the BCATS Safety Performance Measures

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will be sent out to everyone for review prior to the February 21, 2018 meeting. There will be a vote to support the State target. Anderson's recommendation is to support the State targets and adopt them for BCATS. Several MPOs around the state have already adopted the State targets.

EMCOG Report - Governor's Regional Prosperity Initiative Update:

Engelhardt provided an update on the Governor's Regional Prosperity Initiative. EMCOG has submitted a request for funds through the RPI Grant for FY 2018. This may be the last round of RPI grant funds. EMCOG was successful in securing the RPI Grant last year, and believes they will secure some funding for 2018.

BCATS Public Hearing on 2017-2020 TIP Amendments/Administrative Modifications:

As there were no amendments or administrative modifications to the 2017-2020 TIP, there was no public hearing held.

Approval of the 2017-2020 TIP Amendments/Administrative Modifications:

As there were no amendments or administrative modifications to the 2017-2020 TIP, there was no motion to approve.

2017 BCATS Annual Report:

Anderson told everyone that the 2017 BCATS Annual Report was out on the BCATS webpage and they should check it out. If anyone has any questions about the report, please contact Jay Anderson.

Project Updates:

The Bay County Road Commission ***Old Kawkawlin Road Project*** (Grove Street to 2 Mile Road) is ready to go and will be done in 2019. The Bay County Road Commission ***Old Kawkawlin Road Project*** (Euclid Avenue to 2 Mile Road) will be done in 2020. The Bay County Road Commission ***Patterson Road Project*** has funds that need to be used within a ten year window, and that's coming up fast

The City of Bay City has been looking at selling the ***Independence Bridge*** to a private company who would rebuild it and make it a toll bridge. Aaron Dawson from FHWA said that if the bridge is used as a toll bridge, it can never receive Federal funds again for the life of the bridge. Furthermore, if Federal funds were used to build the bridge, the City of Bay City may have to pay back some of that money if they don't keep the bridge.

Other/New Business:

There was no other or new business brought before the committee.

As there were no further business, a motion was made by Lillo, seconded by Anderson, to adjourn the December 20, 2017 BCATS Policy Committee meeting at 2:28 p.m. Motion Passed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jay Anderson

Jay Anderson
BCATS Director

Transcribed by C. Gaul