

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING FROM MAP-21 TO THE FAST ACT

On December 4, 2015, President Obama signed into law PL 114-94, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. This new transportation bill authorizes and funds federal surface transportation programs authorizes \$305 billion over fiscal years 2016 through 2020 for highway, highway and motor vehicle safety, public transportation, motor carrier safety, hazardous materials safety, rail, and research, technology, and statistics programs. The Fast-Act took effect on October 1, 2016 and expires on September 30, 2020. The FAST Act succeeds the expired transportation bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21).

It is also important to note that the emergence of the FAST Act does not represent an abandonment of the programs and planning requirements established under MAP-21. The FAST Act establishes a cooperative, continuous, and comprehensive framework for making transportation investment decisions in metropolitan areas. In fact, many of the same programs and metropolitan planning requirements are continued under the FAST Act. However, the FAST Act establishes new requirements for transportation planning.

It is apparent that **performance measures and targets** are major new items that will need to be addressed in the transportation planning process. Performance measures are noted in the BCATS 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) (see Chapter 2). However, these measures may not be the same as the ones that are eventually approved through the USDOT rulemaking process, and the MTP does not specify performance targets.

The FAST Act language appears to require a collaborative process to establish the performance targets that involves the state, the MPO's, and the transit operators after the final rule to establish the performance measures is put in place by USDOT. Therefore, BCATS intends to fully participate in this process with MDOT, the other Michigan MPO's, and the transit operators to establish appropriate performance targets. If this process results in changes that are required in the 2045 MTP, the appropriate additions and changes will be incorporated as a plan amendment in the future

Currently, the Bay City Area Transportation Study (BCATS) area includes the cities of Bay City and Essexville and the townships of Bangor, Kawkawlin, Monitor, Frankenlust, Portsmouth, and Hampton. This is known as the urban transportation planning area.

BCATS COMMITTEES

BCATS is comprised 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 made up 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 Avenue, Bay City, Michigan. The Technical Committee meets at the same location, usually on the second Tuesday in the same months as the Policy Committee. The schedule for the meetings can be found on the Bay County website <http://www.baycounty-mi.gov/Transportation/Default.aspx>

Interested persons are always welcome to attend the meetings or call one of the following Technical Committee members to discuss transportation issues of interest:

Jay Anderson, BCATS Director (989) 895-4064
Bay County Transportation Planning Division
515 Center Avenue
Bay City MI, 48708
andersonj@baycounty.net

Eric Sprague, Manager (989) 894-2900
Bay Metro Transportation Authority
esprague@baymetro.com

Jack Hofweber (989) 671-1555
Michigan Department of Transportation
Bay City TSC Manager
Hofweberj@michigan.gov

Jim Lillo, Engineer – Manager (989) 686-4610
Bay County Road Commission
2600 East Beaver Road
Kawkawlin, MI 48631
jlillo@baycoroad.org

Daniel Hansford, Director (989) 893-6101
City of Essexville Department of Public Works
1500 Pine Street
Essexville, MI 48732
cmanager@essexville.org

Rachel Phillips, Engineering Manager (989) 894-8183
City of Bay City Construction Engineering Services
301 Washington Avenue
Bay City, MI 48708
rphillips@baycitymi.org

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 aides or services should contact the County of Bay by writing or calling:

Amber Davis-Johnson, Corporation Counsel Director
515 Center Avenue – Suite 301
Bay City, MI 48708
(989) 895-4131
(989) 895-4049 TDD
johnsona@baycounty.net

BCATS 4 YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

This year marked the third year of the BCATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the fiscal years of 2014-15-16-17. The program includes approximately \$74 million in transportation and transit projects that will be completed over the four year period. It lists all of the federally funded transportation projects within the Bay City Urbanized Area that will enhance the safety and efficiency of the transportation system, from I-75 reconstruction to Bay Metro Transit Authority bus replacement to transportation alternative projects. The 2014-17 TIP was initially prepared by BCATS staff during 2013 with input from the local implementing agencies (Bay City, Bay County Road Commission, Bay Metro Transportation Authority, and Essexville), MDOT, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the public and has been amended since for the addition or adjustment to various projects. The proposed program of projects will become the final program of projects unless modified and a final notice is published. The TIP is available for viewing on the Bay County Transportation Planning website or at the BCATS office. During 2016 BCATS has been working on and submitted the 2017-20 TIP to the Michigan Department of Transportation to be approved. The 2017-20 TIP document can be found on the BCATS site on the Bay County webpage.

Projects that were constructed in 2016 utilizing federal funds (but not limited to):

Michigan Department of Transportation

- Preliminary Engineering US-10 resurfacing from Midland/Bay county line to Bay City east bound only
- Preliminary Engineering for bridge replacement on M-13/M-84 over east Channel Saginaw River
- M-25 movable bridge electrical work
- Two bridges restore and rehabilitation projects over the M-13 Connector

City of Bay City

- Madison Avenue Reconstruction from Columbus Avenue to McKinley Street

Bay County Road Commission

- Cass Road resurfacing from M-15 to Jones Road
- Seven Mile Road Bridge Preventative Maintenance over the Kawkawlin River
- Midland Road Bridge replacement over Culver Creek

Bay Metro Transit Authority

- Continue bus and vehicle replacement program
- Purchase of security cameras and concrete drive replacement

Safety Projects

- Upgraded and installed flashing signals and gates on Stone Island Road and South Euclid Avenue

Upcoming 2017 Projects:

Michigan Department of Transportation

- I-75 Restore and rehabilitate from Cottage Grove Road to half mile north of Linwood Road
- Preliminary Engineering M-25 Westbound Pavement Grooving for High Friction Surface
- Preliminary Engineering US-10 Median Guardrail Installation from Flajole Road to I-75
- Preliminary Engineering M-247 resurfacing from M-13 to Bay City State Recreation Area

City of Bay City

- Patterson Ave reconstruction from Smith Street to Marquette Avenue
- Midland Street/Vermont Street Rehabilitation from Wenona Avenue to Dean Street
- Harry S Truman Parkway Bridge (Independence Bridge) Preventative Maintenance

Bay County Road Commission

- Cass Road resurfacing from Jones Road to Farley Road
- Farley Road resurfacing from M-25 to M-138
- Three Mile Road Rehabilitation Project from M-84 to Amelith Road
- German Road resurfacing from Bullock Road to M-15

Bay Metro Transit Authority

- Continue bus and vehicle replacement program
- Purchase of security cameras and concrete drive replacement

A complete listing of FY 2016 obligated projects and the full version of the approved 2017-20 TIP can be viewed on the BCATS website (<http://www.baycounty-mi.gov/Transportation/Default.aspx>).

MIDLAND ROAD BRIDGE OVER CULVER CREEK REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Constructed in 1933, the Midland Road Bridge over Culver Creek, located approximately 600 feet west of Fraser Road in Monitor Township, was replaced during the 2016 construction season. The scope of the project included complete removal and replacement of the two-lane bridge. Construction included, new storm sewer installation, a wider deck, an improved bridge opening to facilitate better water flow, new guardrail and bridge railing. The contractor, Grand River Construction, completed the project ahead of schedule and under budget. By moving the construction start from May to February, the contractor was able to finish prior to Memorial Day, thus Midland Road was not closed over any major holidays. Local businesses that depend on transient traffic were especially thankful. The Bay County Road Commission worked cooperatively with BCATS to secure Local Bridge Funding that provided 95% of the \$1.02 million construction cost of the new bridge. Midland Road connects Bay City and Midland, serving also as an alternate route for US-10 during times of heavy traffic, congestion and highway shutdown due to an accident or snow event. The Road Commission intends to continue to partner with BCATS to rehabilitate the balance of Midland Road within BCATS jurisdiction.



Figure 1: Before picture of Midland Bridge Project



Figure 2: After picture of Midland Bridge Project

MADISON AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The City of Bay City, utilizing BCATS Surface Transportation funding, completed improvements to Madison Avenue from Columbus Avenue to McKinley Street. The work included a full reconstruction of the roadway with curb and gutter, including watermain crossing replacement, storm sewer improvements, and new water service leads. Portions of the sidewalk were replaced, and new ADA-compliant ramps were installed at the intersections. Traffic was detoured throughout the project, but businesses remained accessible from side streets. The federal funds utilized on the project were programmed at \$754,000.00. Shaw Contracting, from Bay City is the prime contractor on the project.



Figure 3: Construction during Madison Road Project



Figure 4: After picture of Madison Road Project

BCATS ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Michigan Asset Management Council was created by Public Act 499 of 2002. To meet the requirements of the Act, the eleventh year of a statewide review of paved federal-aid roadways was conducted using resources of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and other local agencies. This year, the state elected to collect data on the remaining half of the federal aid system after collecting half in 2015. In Bay County, BCATS teamed with the City of Bay City, MDOT and the Bay County Road Commission to inventory the surface condition of 297 miles of streets and highways. Of the roads rated this year, the data indicates that 10% of the federal-aid roadways in Bay County were rated in good condition, 42% in fair condition, and 48% were rated in poor condition.

BAY METRO TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

In 2016, fixed route bus service was provided to over 75,000 seniors, 257,000 passengers with disabilities, and 215,000 full and student fare passengers for an overall ridership of 547,000. Ridership for Dial-A-Ride Transportation (DART), demand-response service for seniors and disabled, was 51,000 in 2016. Additionally, Bay Metro transported more than 24,000 passengers during the Tall Ship Celebration in July 2016. Bay Metro operated over 1.49 million service miles during the year. Since service began in 1974, Bay Metro has transported over 30 million passengers.

BMTA also subcontracted 20,000 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. Since 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 2016, the local carrier provided over 10,000 JARC rides.

BCATS WEBSITE UPDATES

BCATS has recently updated their website. Available for download on the website are the most recent 2017-20 Transportation Improvement Program and 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Public Participation Plan, the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan and complaint form, Technical and Policy Committee meeting minutes & agendas, traffic counts, various maps, and assorted transportation related links.

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

2017-2020 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

During 2016, BCATS begin and completed the process of creating the new 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The process involves collecting proposed projects from the road and transit agencies, prioritizing them and allocating funds that are expected over the life of the TIP to those projects. The TIP must be financially constrained meaning that all projects included in the TIP must have funding identified and available to complete the project. The 2017-20 TIP was adopted and approved June 22, 2016.