



# Chapter Eleven

## Consultation Efforts

**Documentation of consultation and public participation efforts during the drafting and public review period of the Bay City Area Transportation Study (BCATS) 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan**



## Section 1

### **BCATS 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Description**

The Bay City Area Transportation Study (BCATS) is the principal public agency, as per Section 134 (a), conducting regional transportation studies for the Bay City Urbanized Area. BCATS, through an agreement with the Bay County Board of Commissioners, provides management and policy functions for the transportation planning program as required by the Fixing Americas Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act). BCATS provides transportation planning services on behalf of the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the cities of Bay City and Essexville and the townships of Bangor, Monitor, Hampton, Portsmouth, Kawkawlin, and Frankenlust. The MPO is established by federal law in all urbanized areas of the nation to carry out the "3C" (continuing, cooperative and comprehensive) transportation planning process. This process is required for the area to continue to receive U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) funding. Extensive USDOT funds are spent annually in the Bay City area for highway, bridge, transit, transportation enhancement and safety projects and improvements.

One major function of BCATS under federal law is to produce a transportation plan for the area. The transportation plan is used as a basis to guide the decision of where federal transportation funds should be spent. The transportation plan identifies the area's transportation needs through the year 2045 as well as projects, both funded and unfunded and policies to meet those needs. The plan shall include both long-term and short-term strategies/actions, including but not limited to, operations and management activities that lead to the systematic development of an integrated intermodal transportation system that facilitates the safe and efficient movement of people and goods in addressing current and future transportation demand. The transportation plan shall be reviewed and updated every five years in air quality attainment areas and at least triennially in non-attainment areas to confirm its validity and consistency with current and forecasted transportation and land use conditions and trends and to extend the forecast period. In updating a plan, BCATS shall base the update on the latest estimates and assumptions for population, land use, travel, employment, congestion and economic activity.

There was considerable and numerous discussions with city and township staff, airport staff, various DDA staff, and other community agencies during the course of the traffic demand model creation and development of the BCATS 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Many of these efforts will be ongoing even after the BCATS 2045 MTP is adopted. This chapter is designed to discuss those outreach and consultation efforts and detail what response or action was taken in regard to the comment.



## Section 2

### Public Involvement and Consultation Efforts

During the development of the Great Lakes Bay Region Travel Demand Model, which occurred from May 2014 through January 2017, nearly every city and township was contacted directly. These efforts included personal visits with every township and city offices in the BCATS study area, and at least a phone conversations with representative staff in townships and cities outside of the BCATS study area. The tabulation of building and demolition permits in the various units of government, as well as, verification of existing business locations required lengthy discussions with local supervisory, assessor, and/or building and zoning officials, as well as future development sites and an estimated time frame of the site development. Transportation issues were a main component of these data gathering discussions. These efforts were instrumental in analysis of the ongoing shift of persons and businesses which indicate shifting demands on the transportation system. This shifting demand of goods and services are reflected in the Travel Demand Model in future years by changes in the estimated traffic flows in those future years.

Those contacted include:

Within the BCATS Study Area

Bangor Township – Dennis Kula, Township Supervisor and Dan Darland, Township Assessor

Frankenlust Township - Ronald Campbell, Township Supervisor

Fraser Township – George Augustaniak, Township Supervisor

Hampton Township - Tom Foret, Township Supervisor

Kawkawlin Township – Dennis Bragiel, Township Supervisor

Monitor Township - Gary Brandt, Township Supervisor

Portsmouth Township – Bob Pawlak, Township Supervisor

City of Bay City - Terry Moulane, Planning Department

City of Essexville - Dan Hansford, City Manager

The building and demolition permit data will be a continuous data gathering effort over the life of the 2045 Plan. Additionally, the review of business locations within the BCATS study area will be an ongoing effort. Through this continuous social and economic data update process BCATS will maintain an open communication regarding transportation issues with the townships and cities within the BCATS area and within Bay County in general.



### **Bay County Offices**

BCATS staff had numerous and continuing contact with Mosquito Control, Bay County Drain Office, Bay County Soil Erosion Office, Bay County Environmental Affairs and Community Development Office, Bay County Equalization Office, Bay County Emergency Services, Bay County 911 and the Bay County Health Department. Each of these offices has their own unique and specific transportation related interests.

### **MBS Airport Contact**

There were contacts with MBS International Airport staff during the drafting of the BCATS MTP. Existing Long Range Plans for BCATS and MBS International were exchanged in the past with MBS. BCATS along with MATS and SMATS have held discussions with MBS that involved the traffic patterns that may result from the new terminal, Garfield Rd expansion and safety issues at the US-10/Garfield Rd interchange, and possible freight and manufacturing projects at the site.

### **Newspaper Contact**

Contact with the local newspaper, the Bay City Times - MLive, was conducted initial with the public outreach letter. An ad was posted on the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan public comment period in the Bay City Times on January 20, 2017. A copy of this article is included in the Appendix.

### **Other Contacts**

In the effort by BCATS to fully engage the public, BCATS sent out a letter informing various agencies, governments, and organizations in the area to solicit comments on the on the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the candidate projects. A copy of this letter and a list of the recipients are included in Appendix.

### **BCATS 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Public Review and Comments**

At the BCATS 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Public Review session held on February 7, 2017 at the Alice & Jack Wirt Public Library, 500 Center Ave, Bay City, MI 48708. A copy of the sign-in sheet and any submitted comments are included in the Appendix.