

2009 Annual Report of the Bay City Area Transportation Study (BCATS)

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING & SAFETEA-LU

On August 10, 2005, President Bush signed the \$244.1 billion, five-year federal transportation funding bill as passed by Congress which is known as SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users). SAFETEA-LU succeeds the expired Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21).

SAFETEA-LU re-authorizes the federal highway, public transportation, highway safety, and motor carrier safety programs through Fiscal Year 2009, which ended on September 30th. To continue funding transportation projects, Congress has passed an extension of SAFETEA-LU, however a new Transportation Funding Bill needs to be passed in 2010. The Bay City Area Transportation Study (BCATS) was designated to carry out the transportation planning process required by TEA-21 and now SAFETEA-LU. Establishment of this process enables BCATS and other transportation agencies in the BCATS area to receive federal funding for a variety of transportation projects including reconstruction and resurfacing of roads & bridges, purchase of transit vehicles, highway & transit safety improvements and non-motorized projects that will efficiently maximize the mobility of people and goods within and through the Bay City urbanized area.

Currently, the BCATS area includes the cities of Bay City and Essexville and the townships of Hamgor, and Frawler. This is known as the urban transportation planning area.

BCATS COMMITTEES

The Bay City Area Transportation Study (BCATS) is composed 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 comprised 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 Ave, Bay City, Michigan. The Technical Committee meets at the same location, usually on the second Tuesday in the same months as the Policy Committee.

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

David Engelhardt, BCATS Director (989) 895-4064
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Michael Stoner, General Manager (989) 894-2900
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Michigan Department of Transportation
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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 aids or services should contact the County of Bay by writing or calling:

Michael Gray, Executive Assistant
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515 Center Avenue - Suite 403
Bay City, MI 48708
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BCATS ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Michigan Asset Management Council was created by Public Act 499 of 2002. To meet the requirements of the Act, the seventh 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 the first half in 2008. In Bay County, BCATS teamed with the City of Bay City, MDOT and the Bay County Road Commission to inventory the surface condition of 276 miles of streets and highways. Of the roads rated in the seventh year, the data indicates that 5% of the federal-aid roadways in Bay County were rated in excellent condition, 27% in good condition, 41% in fair condition, and 27% were rated in poor condition.

BCATS FOUR YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM



HARRISON ST. BEFORE

This year marked the second year of the new BCATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the fiscal years of 2008/09/10/11. The program includes approximately \$128 million in transportation 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 bus replacement to transportation enhancement projects. The 2008/11 TIP was initially prepared by BCATS staff during 2007 with input from the local implementing agencies (Bay City, Bay County Road Commission, Bay Metro Transit 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 TIP is available for viewing on the Bay County Transportation Planning website or at the BCATS office.

Projects that were constructed in 2009 utilizing federal funds included:

Michigan Department of Transportation

- M-25 (Center Ave) reconstruction in Bay City from Johnson St to Livingston St
- M-25 streetscape improvements and decorative lighting to enhance the Heritage Route from Madison Ave to Livingston St.
- Addition of Paved Shoulders for Non-Motorized use on M-13



CENTER AVE.

CENTER AVE. RECONSTRUCTION

In 2009, Center Ave between Johnson St and Livingston St was rebuilt. The Michigan Department of Transportation completed this concrete reconstruction project in November 2009 after six months of being closed. This project also included streetscape work which included new lighting, stamped and colored center turn lane and burial of overhead wiring. Part of this project improved the turning radius at the intersection of Center and Trumbull to allow for safer turning movements, especially for trucks.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to spur the nation's economic recovery. Included in the Act was approximately \$30 billion in funding for the country's transportation infrastructure. BCATS received \$1.9 million for construction on local roads eligible for federal funds. Those local projects include the Marquette Ave. Connector of Walnut and Ohio Streets (completed Nov. 2009), concrete joint repairs to Wilder Rd, Truman Pkwy, Marquette Ave and Woodside Ave (to begin in the spring of 2010), and intersection improvement to Woodside Ave and Truman Pkwy (to begin in the spring of 2010).

In addition to the local ARRA projects, MDOT has several of their own projects in the Bay City Area. Those projects are M-84 (Westside Saginaw Rd) reconstruction from south of Delta Rd to Euclid Ave, include the I-75/M-84 Interchange, I-75 reconstruction near the interchange (to begin in 2010), bridge repairs over US-10 (completed fall 2009) and added paved shoulders to M-13 (completed fall 2009).

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO BE UPDATED

In 2010, BCATS will begin updating our long range transportation plan which will be known as the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The plan will use a new peak period travel demand model that will be able to provide BCATS with more precise traffic forecasts that will allow for better traffic data analysis and project planning. This model requires accurate employment totals, number of households, population, and traffic volumes. The plan will identify projects that will be needed over the next 30 years which will include more than just roadwork. It will also address needs in non-motorized transportation, transit options, air and water travel, railroad, as well as the movement of freight.



HARRISON ST. AFTER

from M-247 into Arenac County

- US-10 Bridges including US-10 at I-75, 3-Mile Rd, and Mackinaw Rd

City of Bay City

- Painting and rehabilitation to both the Liberty Bridge and the Independence Bridge
- Reconstruction and safety improvements to the Marquette Connector of Walnut St
- Reconstruction of Harrison St from 32nd St to 38th St

Upcoming 2010 Projects:

Michigan Department of Transportation

- I-75 Reconstruction from Crane Rd (in Saginaw Co.) to south of M-84
- Begin the M-84 Reconstruction from Delta Road to Euclid Ave including reconstruction on I-75 at the M-84 Interchange
- Acquisition of the Bay-Zilwaukee Trail

City of Bay City

- Concrete Joint Repair to Truman Parkway, Marquette Ave, & Woodside Ave - Including upgrades to the Woodside/Truman Intersection

Bay County Road Commission

- Concrete Joint Repair on Wilder Rd

A complete listing of FY 2009 obligated projects can be viewed on the BCATS web site.

BAY METRO TRANSIT

Bay Metro Transit Authority (BMTA) has transported about 25 million passengers since 1974. In 2009, service was provided to 63,000 seniors and 285,000 passengers with disabilities with an overall ridership of 546,000. Ridership for Dial-A-Ride Transportation (DART), demand-response service for seniors and disabled was 53,000 in 2009. Bay Metro Transit operated over 1.4 million service miles during the year.

BMTA also subcontracted 13,000 additional rides to local, private carriers, which 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. 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 2009, the local carrier provided over 10,000 JARC rides. This program has quickly expanded. BMTA applied for and received an increase in the funding for the continued operation of this program. BMTA will also be purchasing an addition vehicle to increase capacity.

In 2009, BMTA received ARRA funding for three replacement buses, two lift vans, communications equipment, a back-up generator, upgrades to computer hardware and software, and various security projects. About \$1.6 million in funding has been received for these projects and another \$570,000 in pending grant funds may yet be made available.

I-75 RECONSTRUCTION

The first phase of I-75 reconstruction in Bay County was completed in 2008. The second phase will start in 2010 which will include total reconstruction and the addition of a travel lane in each direction. This phase will run from Crane Rd (in Saginaw Co.) to just south of M-84. This project, coupled with work on the I-75 interchange, at M-84, will complete the reconstruction of I-75 south of US-10 in Bay County. The result of the project will reduce the congestion on I-75 during the peak travel times of vacationers heading north.

WEBSITE UPDATES

BCATS has recently updated our website. Available for download on the website are the most recent 2008-09-10-11 TIP and 2035 MTP, Technical and Policy Committee meeting minutes & agendas, traffic counts, various maps, and assorted transportation related links.

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