

Annual Report of the Bay City Area Transportation Study 2003



BCATS ADOPTS 3 YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

On October 15, 2003, BCATS adopted a new Transportation Improvement Program for fiscal years 2004/05/06. A total of approximately \$46 million in transportation projects is identified in the new 3 year program. The program includes a variety of street, highway, bridge, pedestrian, and transit projects that will upgrade the safety and efficiency of the transportation system. A few of the projects are listed below:

The Michigan Department of Transportation will reconstruct M-13 (Broadway) from Cass Avenue to Lafayette in Bay City, restore the M-13 Connector from I-75 to Grove Street in Kawkawlin, and mill and resurface M-13 (Euclid) from Fisher to Wilder in Bay City and Bangor Township.

The city of Bay City will reconstruct North Union Street from Warner to North Henry and will reconstruct North Henry Street from North Union to Vermont Street.

The city of Essexville will reconstruct with minor widening the Woodside/Borton Avenue intersection.

The Bay County Road Commission will resurface Wilder Road from Euclid to the M-13 Connector in Bangor and Monitor Townships.

Bus, van and trolley replacements as well as maintenance upgrades by the Bay Metro Transit Authority.

In addition, during 2003, MDOT completed the reconstruction of M-15 (Trumbull) from Columbus Avenue to Center Avenue and they also began the widening and boulevard construction of M-84 from Pierce Road in Saginaw County to Delta Road in Bay County. The city of Bay City completed the reconstruction of North Union Street from Woodbridge to Warner Street. The Bay County Road Commission began a bridge replacement project on State Park Drive over the Kawkawlin River. The bridge is expected to be open to traffic in mid December with a completion in the spring of 2004.



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

In 1998, when Congress passed the Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), they deemed it to be in the national interest to encourage and promote the development of transportation systems. These systems are to embrace all modes of transportation in a manner which will efficiently maximize the mobility of people and goods within and through the Bay City urbanized area.

The Bay City Area Transportation Study (BCATS) was designated to carry out the transportation planning process required by TEA-21. Establishment of this process enables BCATS and other transportation agencies within the BCATS area to receive federal funding for a variety of transportation projects including reconstruction and resurfacing of roads and bridges, purchase of transit vehicles, highway and transit safety improvements and pedestrian and non-motorized projects.

Currently, the BCATS area includes all of the city of Bay City, the city of Essexville as well as Bangor, Kawkawlin, Monitor, Frankenlust, Portsmouth, Hampton and Fraser Townships. 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 and the Technical. 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. Department 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 area which use federal funding.

The Policy Committee usually meets on the third Wednesday of every month at the Bay County Building, 515 Center Avenue, Bay City, Michigan.

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

Gary M. Stanley, BCATS Director (989) 895-4110
stanleyg@baycounty.net

Michael Stoner, General Manager (989) 894-2900
Bay Metro Transit
mstoner@baymetro.com

Bob Ranck (989) 671-1555
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 Bay County by writing or calling:

Michael Gray, Executive Assistant
Office of the Bay County Executive
515 Center Avenue, Bay City, Michigan 48708
989-895-4130
989-895-4049 TDD

BAY METRO TRANSIT

Bay Metro Transit has transported over 21.5 million passengers since 1974. In 2003, service was provided to 70,000 seniors and 270,000 disabled passengers with an overall ridership of 630,000. Bay Metro Transit operated over 1.5 million service miles during the past year.

Ridership for Dial-A-Ride (DART), demand-response service for seniors and disabled, increased from 45,000 in 2002 to 49,000 in 2003. Bay Metro Transit also subcontracted 22,500 additional rides to local, private carriers. Of all services provided by Bay Metro Transit, the DART service has continued to show the most significant trend in growth.

Bay Metro Transit has operated from the current administration facility since 1981. In an effort to renovate versus relocate and to make the best use of public transit funds, Bay Metro has replaced the roof, decaying natural light panels, and the parking lot pavement. The cost of these projects was about \$220,000 with 80% of the funds coming from the Federal Transit Administration and 20% from state sources. This ensures that Bay Metro can continue to operate from the same facility for many years to come. Also, to maintain the existing fleet of Metro vehicles and avoid escalating maintenance costs on older vehicles, Bay Metro will be receiving seven new lift vans to replace vans that have reached the end of their useful life.

BCATS HOSTS TRAFFIC SAFETY FORUM

On May 28, 2003 BCATS hosted a traffic safety forum which brought together a variety of traffic safety professionals from across the State. Presentation topics included traffic accident statistics, the Click It or Ticket program, the AAA Michigan intersection improvement demonstration program, students against Drunk Driving, and elderly driver mobility. BCATS was the first transportation planning agency in Michigan to host a safety forum and was used as a template for other agencies in the State. As an outgrowth of the traffic safety forum, AAA Michigan has selected the Bay City area to do a comprehensive traffic safety study. Working with BCATS, the city of Bay City and the Bay County Road Commission, the Wilder Road corridor was selected for additional traffic safety studies.

BCATS COMPLETES ASSET MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF ROADWAY CONDITIONS

The Michigan Asset Management Council was created by Public Act 499 of 2002. To meet the requirements of the Act, a statewide review of all federal-aid roadways was conducted using resources of the Michigan Department of Transportation and other local agencies. In Bay County, BCATS teamed with the city of Bay City and the Bay County Road Commission to inventory the surface condition of 577 miles of streets and highways using the RoadSoft computer program. The preliminary data indicates that over 75% of the federal-aid roadways in Bay County were rated good to excellent.