

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Policy Committee Minutes - February 15, 2012

Page 1

Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 P.M.

Those present were:

Dave Engelhardt, BCATS staff; Jim Lillo, Bay Co. Road Commission; Jack Wheatley, Rowe Engineering representing Bay City; Sue Fortune, EMCOG; Dennis Bragiel, Kawkawlin Township Supervisor; George Augustyniak, Fraser Township Supervisor; Jay Reithel, MDOT-Bay City; Mike Niederquell, Wade Trim; Rachel Phillips, MDOT Bay City; Pamela Boyd, MDOT; Doug Alexander, City of Essexville; Jim Bedell, City of Bay City; Dirk Westbury BCATS staff, and; Cyndi Gaul, Secretary/BCATS Staff.

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved by Fortune, seconded by Wheatley, to approve the minutes from the December 21, 2011 meeting. Motion Passed.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

Update From Bay Metro Transit:

Sprague was not present and no update was given.

TIP Amendments:

Engelhardt provided a list of TIP Amendments and discussed the MDOT, Bay Metro and the Bay County Road Commission TIP Amendments. MDOT has an advanced construction project listed in the BCATS TIP as it is also included in the STIP, the advance construction conversion should be deleted from the BCATS TIP. The Road Commission has a 2012 signage update with the cost of the project portion within BCATS, which is not the cost of the whole project. Bay Metro has several changes that include updating projects in 2012-13-14, adding new projects and deleting some projects along with cost changes. The 5309 Bay Metro Project should be placed on the illustrative list so that they can be moved later through an Administrative Modification by Dave Engelhardt if the project is awarded.

A motion was made by Boyd, seconded by Fortune, to amend the 2011-14 TIP to include the MDOT, Road Commission and Bay Metro changes/corrections discussed and allowing Dave Engelhardt to make administrative changes to Bay Metro Transit 5309 Projects if the project is awarded. Motion Passed.

Preliminary Engineering (PE):

Engelhardt discussed the using of the BCATS Federal Funds for Preliminary Engineering (PE) in the TIP and placing those projects on the illustrative list to take advantage of any bid savings from road projects, especially near the end of the Fiscal Year. From BCATS perspective, sometimes there's not enough time to re-allocate funds for road projects, so having the PE for a future project in the TIP may help obligate all the federal funds within the Fiscal Year. Engelhardt is looking for any future City or Road Commission projects that might be able to utilize any available funds for PE within the next five years. Boyd explained that funds can be obligated, however the projects must go through the QBS process unless

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Policy Committee Minutes - February 15, 2012

Page 2

the agency already has done so for an engineering firm already under contract. Engelhardt asked if projects would have to go through a second QBS process for the PE. Boyd will look into that matter and report back to the committee. Boyd wanted to let the group know that if Federal Funds are used for the PE Phase, the Construction Phase must be started within 10 years and ideally within five years or FHWA will ask for the funds for the PE Phase to be returned. Engelhardt said that if anyone had PE projects they should submit them to him to be brought into the Illustrative List at the next Policy Committee Meeting in April.

BCATS 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan:

Engelhardt provided the committee members with an updated list and time line for the BCATS 2040 MTP. It will become important for everyone to use the 3.3 % inflation rate for projects submitted. Engelhardt is working on the financial chapter of the BCATS 2040 MTP, so if there is any additional funding being anticipated for projects, he'd like to know immediately. Lillo expressed his concern about having to provide cost estimates for projects that are 10-15 years out. Engelhardt explained that the focus is projects that would be included in the next TIP with less emphasis on projects farther out. And it doesn't hurt to include project estimates for projects that will likely be completed in the next 10-15 years. Those cost estimates will be updated in 5 years when a new plan is completed. The remaining years in the plan, the funding will be going toward maintaining the system. However, Engelhardt wants to be able to show the amount of funding that is needed each year to maintain the system with the expected funding levels.

2012 Transportation Summit:

Engelhardt talked about the success of the 2012 Transportation Summit and explained that a large portion of the meeting was explaining the MPO process. Engelhardt was happy with the turn out and while a large number of attendees were transportation people, there were still non-transportation people from the community that attended. Engelhardt has received some really good feed-back from the summit. There was good public involvement. Engelhardt is planning to coordinate with Doug Bell (SMATS) to discuss the regional MPO issues that concern both Bay City and Saginaw. There are times when projects fall into two or three MPO areas, Engelhardt would like to see better communication so that everyone understands the regional vision. Engelhardt would like to see a regional studies done. Boyd said that if the study is regional, there is no problem with the participation if you're able to make a study contract with the other communities. Engelhardt discussed that he believed that the Saginaw Urbanized Area would extent into Bay County with the 2010 Census Urban boundaries are released in March and asked if this happens would Bay County absorb Saginaw's Urban Area or would Saginaw absorb Bay County's Urbanized Area? Boyd recommended having that discussion now with Saginaw County and to put things in writing. Engelhardt reminded committee members that if they need any maps, to please contact Dirk Westbury.

Project Updates:

The City of Essexville currently has no projects. The **Johnson St** and **Harrison St** Projects in Bay City are set to go in 2012. The **M-47/US-10 Project** will be done in 2014 with the bridge replacement and road work The **Mackinaw Road Study** prompted MDOT to pursue economic development funds in order to move forward. The **Salzburg Road Project** will begin in April 2012. A Transportation Enhancement Grant has been submitted for the **M-84/M-13 - Salzburg Ave Project** to fund the lighting to coincide with the road work

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Policy Committee Minutes - February 15, 2012

Page 3

planned for 2013. Phillips said that they were planning to have a March 20, 2012 public meeting if possible. While MDOT has it's own public notice format, Engelhardt offered to place public meeting notices on the Bay County website, Bay County Facebook and Bay County Newsletter if that would help get the word out for projects in Bay County. Phillips said she would keep that in mind. There were questions about whether sewer was an appropriate cost for projects. Phillips said that if the sewer is in the way of construction, then it is a viable cost for the project. The **Cody/Estey Road Project** is ready to go.

Other/New Business:

Requirement of Project Updates:

Boyd recommended that the BCATS Policy Committee keep the project updates section on their meeting agenda as this will soon become a requirement.

MDOT Allocation No Longer Capped:

Boyd explained that due to ARRA and other agencies not funding certain projects, there is a pot of money that needs to be used so MPO's will not be capped to an obligation amount (~80-85%), but to 100% of their allocation over the next three years.

MPO Let Dates:

MDOT will soon require the submission of the let dates for all projects.

State Bills:

Boyd discussed the 15 new transportation related bills that were introduced. It's not clear which bills will move forward for a vote in two weeks.

State of the Community Luncheon:

Lillo discussed his impression of the State of the Community Luncheon that took place earlier today (02/15/12) and felt that Ron Campbell, Frankenlust Twp Supervisor, did a great job of explaining the transportation side of things from the townships point of view. He also felt that Doug Newcomb summed it up best when he said that the public sector keeps getting cut and when there is less money, there are less staff to do the tasks required and it becomes likely that good staff people will go elsewhere for employment and less likely that good people will even think about going into fields where money is being cut.

As there was no further business, the February 15, 2012 BCATS Policy Committee meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Engelhardt
BCATS Director

Transcribed by C. Gaul

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Policy Committee Minutes - February 15, 2012

Page 4

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