

# Midland Area Transportation Study (MATS)

## Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 21, 2019

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Josh Fredrickson.

Those present were: Russ Inman (Midland County Road Commission), Josh Fredrickson (City of Midland), Tom Doyle (MDOT – Statewide Planning Section), Mike Wood (Jerome Township), David Haag (City of Auburn – via phone), Gary Rogers (County Connection of Midland), Dave Englehardt (EMCOG – via phone), Jonathan Myers (MDOT – Mt. Pleasant TSC), Dennis Borchard (Saginaw County Road Commission), Lane Masoud (MDOT Office of Passenger Transportation), Jan Yuergens (Midland Dial A Ride Transit), Bryan Gillett (MATS), Maja Bolanowska (MATS).

### 2. Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda requested.

### 3. Approval of July 17, 2019, Minutes

Motion was made by Russ Inman and seconded by Gary Rogers to approve the minutes of the July 17th, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

### 4. Public Comment

There were no public comments brought before the Committee.

### 5. Reports of officers

#### A. Project Updates

Jan Yuergens announced that the 5310-funded replacement bus would arrive in 6-9 months.

Gary Rogers reported that County Connection remains very busy, and are eagerly anticipating new buses between now and October.

Tom Doyle advised that the MATS 2020 UWP was approved, and that the PL paperwork has been submitted to FHWA and FTA for obligation.

Jonathan Myers indicated that the M-20 Bridge project is nearing completion, currently expected around October 1. MDOT is putting together an emergency maintenance package for the 1-way pair in Midland, for Jerome to Pine along Indian and Haley to Pine along Buttles. In addition, the freeway portion of the BR-10 route is scheduled for resurfacing in 2020, along with the section of M-30 from US-10 to Saginaw Road.

Russ Inman noted that the Saginaw Road project in Sanford is done, the Waldo Road project is complete, the Eastman Road Scrap Tire Project is nearly complete, and various other projects are underway. This includes the first in the nation utilization of recycled plastic bags in a paving project, made possible in part by Dow Chemical. Lastly, the 2020 Eastman project has been submitted for design review.

Josh Fredrickson informed the committee that bids for their portion of Eastman Road were quite high, and therefore the City has substituted the Airport Road project for this year, and will do Eastman another time. Also, the City is holding a meeting of the City Council on September 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Buttles Road Diet.

## **6. Agency Reports**

### **MATS Work Tasks Update**

Bryan stated that work efforts are going well this summer, with July being taken up with PASER ratings and the annual MTPA conference. There were additional PASER ratings done in August, these being within the City of Midland. In addition, time was spent finalizing the 2018 Asset Management Data Report and associated maps, as well as beginning the work efforts for the update of the MATS NMT Plan. Maja reported that the final amendment for the FY 217-2020 TIP has been submitted to MDOT via JobNet.

## **7. Unfinished and New Business**

### **A. Non-Motorized Planning**

Bryan introduced and explained a graphic, produced by the Midland County Road Commission that illustrated several proposed NMT loops throughout the county. These routes were derived after a great deal of effort at outreach and consultation with various stakeholders, and if approved will be integrated into the next update of the MATS NMT Plan. Brief discussion ensued. A motion was thereafter made by Mike Wood and seconded by Russ Inman to approve the proposed NMT routes, and recommend adoption of same by the Policy Committee. Motion carried.

Bryan also explained the proposed addendum to the MATS Complete Streets Policy, which connects the level of traffic on the road with the recommendation for either 3' or 4' paved shoulders to accommodate NMT traffic. The wider paved shoulders would be recommended for routes that are identified as signed NMT routes as presented in the MATS NMT Plan. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Russ Inman and seconded by Mike Wood to approve the proposed policy, and recommend adoption of same to the Policy Committee. Motion carried.

The subject of 1% NMT spending requirement was introduced by Maja and Russ, and followed by a brief discussion.

### **B. Long Term Planning**

Russ presented a draft rendering of a possible alignment for a future Waldo Road/U.S. 10 full interchange. He indicated that full interchange option has been in discussion for many

years, and that little progress can be expected unless action is taken by local agencies. Russ further indicated that the Road Commission is actively soliciting both input and support for full interchange from local agencies and the general public. After significant discussion, it was also noted that MDOT had previously suggested that the first step be looking for scoping funds from MDOT, to update previous studies and identify any potential issues. After further discussion, a motion was made by Russ Inman and seconded by Gary Rogers to indicate to the Policy Committee the consensus that the interchange improvements are needed and that the proposed concept is supported. Motion carried.

### **C. MATS Scheduled Meetings for Calendar Year 2020**

For the Committee's information, Maja introduced and distributed the schedule of MATS meetings for calendar year 2020. Maja further noted that the schedule adheres to the first Tuesday and third Wednesday rule for arrangement of Policy and Technical Committee Meetings.

### **D. MATS TIP Amendment Schedule FY 2020 and FY 2021**

Maja presented the proposed schedule for MATS TIP Amendments for the next two calendar years. Maja also elaborated on the logic behind the proposed months of amendments, being based on a 6-times a year schedule but modified to suit local circumstances. After further discussion ensued, a motion was made by Russ Inman and seconded by Jan Yeurgens to approve the proposed schedule and recommend adoption of same to the Policy Committee. Motion carried.

### **E. JobNet Access for Local Agencies**

Maja announced that JobNet is now accessible by local agencies, with read-only privileges. This access will first require a MiLogin.net account, and then a request to utilize the JobNet platform. Once granted, users will have the ability to view and report on projects and other data in various ways. MDOT is currently working on a manual specifically dedicated to this type of access. MATS will announce this when it is made available.

### **F. Project Programming**

At a previous Policy Committee meeting, it had been determined that discussions of project costs, trends in specific aspects of project costs, and other issues related to this including project selection, must begin at the Technical Committee level. That being the case, a discussion ensued specifically involving the recent experience of both the Midland County Road Commission and the City of Midland on their respective Eastman Road projects. Specifically, it was noted by Russ that the bids for the Road Commission came in at approximately 400% of the estimated cost, while Josh noted that the City's Eastman project was significantly over estimate as well. In response, all agencies are asked to review project costs especially those in MATS TIP (i.e. programmed to utilize federal funds). Maja reminded the agencies that when changes to project costs or scope are needed, it is best to submit those sooner rather than later to MATS, so that TIP amendments can be processed.

On the subject of DNR Rubber Tire grants, Russ noted that the grant funds 50% of costs, and has been used successfully by the Road Commission on a portion of the Eastman Road

project. This has led to further grant applications by MCRC for future projects, and should be treated as a viable additional source of funding in the future by all agencies.

Lastly, Maja distributed and reviewed the document issued by MDOT's Local Agency Programs entitled "Local Agency Program Project Planning Guide". In general, this document makes clear the time frames, data requirements, and work efforts needed in order to successfully meet a desired letting date by the local agency, and allow the project to be obligated successfully. The document also indicated recent additions/changes to the process, like NEPA Requirement Form #5323, which is required after October 1, 2019 with each application. Brief discussion ensued.

#### **8. Adjournment**

There being no further items for discussion, the August 21st, 2019 MATS Technical Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:12 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
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