

# Midland Area Transportation Study (MATS)

## Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

*Pursuant to the Michigan Open Meetings Act, as amended, as well as the local State of Emergency declared by the City of Midland, this meeting was held virtually via Zoom and, for the purposes of public involvement, Facebook Live video feed.*

### 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM by Russ Inman. All members participated via Zoom link or phone, and during the roll call each member provided name, agency represented and physical location.

Those who participated were: Russ Inman (Midland County Road Commission, from Sanford MI), Amy Bidwell (DART, from Midland, MI), Gary Rogers (County Connection of Midland, from Midland MI), Jay Reithel (MDOT Bay Region, from Saginaw Twp, MI), Shane Bjorge (City of Midland, from Midland, MI), Maria Sandow (Larkin Township, from Larkin Twp, MI), Dave Haag (City of Auburn, from Auburn, MI), Dan Armentrout (Saginaw County Road Commission, from Saginaw, MI), Thor Brecht (NMT Representative, from Larkin Twp, MI), Mitch Huber (MDOT–Statewide Planning, from College Park Maryland), Steve Van Tol (Williams Township, from Auburn, MI), Bryan Gillett (MATS, from Midland, MI), Maja Bolanowska (MATS, from Midland, MI).

### 2. Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

### 3. Approval of March 17, 2021, Minutes

A motion was made by Gary Rogers and seconded by Dan Armentrout to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

### 4. Reports of officers

Shane Bjorge stated that the City of Midland's Saginaw Road project is expected to begin in early June, also that the Sugnet Road project is in the design phase and expected to be constructed in 2022.

Jay Reithel reported that a consultant is now under contract for the Indian/Buttles project.

Gary Rogers announced that the New Freedom veteran's transit assistance program is finally underway, and requested that Maja forward his email address to all on our meeting contact list due to the need for volunteer drivers for the program.

Amy Bidwell from City of Midland Dial-A-Ride Transportation introduced herself, noting that there had been a reorganization of the DART management with her becoming the DART Manager as of 4/19/21.

Dan Armentrout noted that there are no urban projects pending, but that the Emergency project for Freeland Road will be completed during 3 weeks of August 2021.

Russ Inman reported that they have now started work on the Cole Road Bridge project over the Chippewa River, and that the Freeland Road roundabout bids were 22% under the engineer's estimate. In addition, the Poseyville Road project is scheduled for a June letting, resulting in a construction start near the beginning of July. Finally, Midland Township has submitted a DNR Trust grant application for an extension of the NMT trail along Poseyville Road.

Dave Haag announced that this summer's project would be the repaving of North Auburn Road from Midland Road to West N. Union Road.

## **5. Agency Reports**

Maja reported that recent staff efforts included work on the long range transportation plan, and collaboration with MDOT SUTA staff on the Great Lakes Bay Regional Model. As well, addressing project changes via both TIP amendments and administrative modifications (where allowed and warranted). The FY 2022 Unified Work Program report due to MDOT by June 1) has been completed. Finally, staff has resumed extensive planning work on the 2021 MTPA Conference, which will be held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Maja ended her report with an update regarding format of upcoming MATS meetings and recent developments. At the April 6<sup>th</sup> Policy Committee meeting, Chairman Kaye raised a point of legality of that meeting. Since the amendments to the existing Michigan Open Meetings Act that broadly permitted virtual meetings expired on March 31, 2021, a locally declared State of Emergency must be utilized as the authority to hold this virtual meeting. In the opinion of the City Attorney, the existing language in the Midland County State of Emergency Declaration was too narrow to be utilized by MATS in holding April 6<sup>th</sup> Policy Committee meeting. Thereafter, it was agreed by consensus that the meeting should not be held as an official meeting, and furthermore that the City Attorney's concerns will be satisfied by the City of Midland issuing a broader State of Emergency Declaration later that day. In addition, it was agreed that MATS should re-advertise and hold a special meeting of the MATS Policy Committee on April 22. Per City of Midland Declaration, MATS can hold virtual meetings through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

## **6. Unfinished and New Business**

### **A. MATS TIP Amendment (FY 2021-2023)**

Maja explained the proposed change for the FY 2020-2023 MATS TIP, consisting of the addition of a right of way phase to the programmed MDOT M-20 project. The attached table shows a summary of the proposed project amendment.

A motion was made by Dan Armentrout and seconded by Russ Inman to approve the TIP changes and recommend same to the Policy Committee. Motion carried.

**B. MATS Unified Work Program – FY 2022 UWP**

Maja introduced the FY 2022 Unified Work Program, which contains projections and breakdown regarding the next year's federal and state funding, budget, indirect cost rate and local match requirements, in addition to time and cost projections for individual work tasks. She explained that by and large it was very similar to previous years, with the exception of the elimination of the work efforts related to the MTPA conference as well the DART Pass-through agreement. This last is only due to the projected amount of the pass-through being much less than the threshold of \$25,000 necessary for a formal agreement. The major work items for the year related to the update of the MATS Long Range Plan and the upcoming new Transportation Improvement Program for 2023-2026.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Jay Reithel and seconded by Dan Armentrout to approve the FY 2022 MATS Unified Work Program and recommend same to the Policy Committee. Motion carried.

**C. FY 2021 PASER Data Collection**

Maja reminded the committee that this year's PASER data collections efforts would begin soon. 100% of the federal-aid network expected to be collected this year. Due to the change in data collection policy and the unavailability of MDOT staff/vehicles, only two people are required to be in the vehicle instead of three, one representing the MPO and the other the implementing agency. Arrangements have been made to utilize a vehicle from the City of Midland for their data collection effort, expected to occur in May. For the Midland County Road Commission, with data collection occurring later in the season MDOT staff and vehicles may be available. If not, a County Road Commission vehicle may be used.

**7. Public Comment**

No public comments were received via the Facebook Live video and comment feed.

**8. Adjournment**

There being no further items for discussion, the April 21, 2021 MATS Technical Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maja Bolanowska  
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**MATS FY 2020-2023 TIP Amendment for April 2021**

Fiscal Year	Job no.	Amendment # (CR #)	Phase	County	Responsible Agency	Project Name	Limits	Length	Primary work Type	Project Description	Federal Budget	Federal Fund Source	State Budget	Local Budget	Total Phase Cost	Amendment Type	General Program Account	Comments	Total Job Cost	Job Type
2021	204408		5 ROW	Midland	MDOT	M-20	M-30 to east of Currie Parkway	5.674	Road Rehabilitation	Milling and two course HMA overlay	\$16,370	NH	\$3,222	\$408	\$20,000	PHASADD	Not Applicable		\$20,544,757.00	Trunkline