

# Midland Area Transportation Study (MATS)

## Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Josh Fredrickson, Vice-Chair.

Those present were: Eric Mullen (MDOT–Lansing), Jay Reithel (MDOT-Bay Region), Matt Pitlock (MDOT-Statewide Planning), Janet Yuergens (Midland Dial a Ride Transit), Russ Inman (Midland County Road Commission), Joshua Fredrickson (City of Midland), Gary Rogers (County Connection of Midland), Jim Lillo (Bay County Road Commission), Dave Waite (Non-motorized Representative), Dennis Borchard (Saginaw County Road Commission), Maja Bolanowska (MATS), and Bryan Gillett (MATS).

### 2. Changes to the Agenda

There being no changes to the agenda, a motion was made by Jay Reithel and seconded by Matt Pitlock to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

### 3. Approval of August 16, 2017 Minutes

Maja Bolanowska suggested a small change to clarify the minutes, specifically to state that new Vice-Chair Joshua Fredrickson shall have “all the duties as previously performed by Brian McManus”. With that change, a motion was made by Matt Pitlock and seconded by Russ Inman to approve the August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

### 4. Public Comment

There were no public comments brought before the Committee.

### 5. Reports of officers

#### A. Project Updates

Russ Inman reported that the Midland County Road Commission has four bridge replacement projects currently out for bid via the FHWA funding process, that are due on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, and expected to be completed by mid-November. Further, MCRC is continuing to work with the townships to seek additional funding, whether through FEMA or elsewhere, to complete additional restoration projects. Additionally, the Airport Road project was let last month, with bids coming in nearly at the engineer's estimate, it will start and be completed in 2018.

Dennis Borchard of SCRC noted that the Hospital Road project was nearly complete. Both culverts are now in, and paving should be complete in the next few weeks. Jim Lillo indicated that although Bay County did not have nearly the damage from flooding that Midland County had, there still were some areas that are currently being repaired. In addition, projects such as corner fills are being completed, to prevent damage from trucks

and school buses taking tight corners on the narrower roads. Lastly, he reported that the Wilder Road project, partially funded with a recycled-tire grant from the MDNR, was now complete.

Jay Reithel (MDOT) provided an update on several projects. Regarding the M-20 Tittabawassee River bridge, final plans will be turned-in for letting in October, with Consumers Energy discussions ongoing for the electric line relocation. The design work is underway for the CPM mill/fill projects on M-20 from Geneva Rd to the county line and US-10BR Eastman Ave., from Wackerly to Airport Rd. Maintenance work on US-10BR (Buttles & Indian) and on M-20 (Jerome) will be completed by the end of September. The open house for the Buttles Road Diet project was well attended, with approximate public turnout of 35. There were 4 crashes during the week of the testing phase, but each had extenuating circumstances unrelated to the road diet so overall the test was deemed successful. This project will be going to the Midland City Council at some point for their review and approval. Lastly, the US-10 at Eastman interchange concrete patches are complete.

Josh noted that the Wackerly and St. Andrews projects were successfully completed and that the Main Street project was coming along well. Several major street projects are due to be undertaken next year.

## **6. Agency Reports**

### **A. MATS Work Tasks Update**

Maja presented a brief update on the latest MATS work efforts. The Long Range Transportation Plan is completed and has been submitted to MDOT. (Matt added that it would be sent to the FHWA in the next few days.) The Midland County Public Transportation Study is near completion, with the consultant intending to square away remaining issues with the transit agencies in the near future. Maja will be reviewing the final report to determine if changes made are satisfactory. Also, 4<sup>th</sup> quarter billings will be prepared early in October, as well as other end-of-fiscal-year reports and documentation. Work on performance measures is ongoing and will be discussed later on the agenda. PASER ratings are nearly complete, thanks to assistance from the Midland County Road Commission and the City of Midland over the past month. HPMS training is complete, with attendance from MATS staff, the Road Commission, and the City of Midland. FY 2018 HPMS sample segments have been received from MDOT. These will be forwarded to the local agencies soon for their data review.

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

### **A. Pro-Rata versus Lump Sum Presentation**

Eric Mullen, Federal Revenue Supervisor at MDOT was invited to give a presentation on the structure of Federal Aid road funding in Michigan, and to assist in the discussion of the two possible formats for funding to the MPO area. Maja provided a brief background on the history of how MATS chose to receive road funding, first with Pro-Rata method, and starting in FY 2016 with Lump Sum method. At the moment, MATS has a significant amount of carryover funding (almost \$800,000), that is only accessible if the MPO uses the

Pro-Rata funding method. After the presentation, extensive discussion ensued, related to various experiences with, and implications of, both approaches. By consensus, it was determined that this issue would be tabled until the October meeting, and that staff should bring back more information, clarifications and list of potential projects for further discussion of the implications of each method.

#### **B. Complete Street Forms – Review of Proposed NMT Facilities and Exemptions**

Maja provided a brief history of the Complete Streets Policy and the process by which projects slated for inclusion in the TIP are reviewed for compliance. Maja emphasized that from this point forward the complete streets form will need to be submitted, and the project reviewed, prior to TIP amendments being brought before the committees. Maja also reviewed the list of TIP projects and their NMT review status, after which she explained that approval of the list by staff and the committees means both a) projects seeking an exemption are granted that exemption, and b) the NMT scope being proposed for each project is acceptable. At this point, Janet Yuergens from Midland Dial A Ride Transit asked if DART could be granted a categorical exemption for projects funded with FTA 5339, 5311, and 5307 funds, since these are either operating subsidies or capital funding for buses.

After some discussion, it was moved by Russ Inman and seconded by Jim Lillo that the Technical Committee recommends to the Policy Committee approval of the Complete Street list as presented. Motion Passed unanimously.

Furthermore, Jim Lillo moved, and Russ Inman seconded, that while 5339 funding should not be exempt, both 5311 and 5307 funding should be exempt from the Complete Streets Policy, and to recommend same to the Policy Committee for their adoption. Motion Passed (with Dave Waite and Matt Pitlock abstaining).

#### **C. Performance Measures – Safety Targets Discussion**

Maja reiterated the February 2018 deadline for MATS to decide whether to support the MDOT targets or develop our own, for each of the 5 specific safety performance measures. Given this deadline, the staff does not want to back the committee into a decision with too little information regarding both the historical data for the MPO area and the work effort required to develop MPO-specific targets. Therefore, staff would suggest that they gather MPO-specific historical data for the 5 performance measures, and present that data at the next Technical Committee meeting, along with a evaluation as to the work required for the development of targets for those measures. In addition, having this data available could conceivably provide added context for project selection in the future. Discussion ensued regarding this, as well as the difficulties of obtaining data just for the Freeland area. Matt Pitlock added that he would investigate whether the existing MOU between MATS and SMATS would provide guidance in this situation.

It was decided by consensus that staff should gather the required data, and present same at the October Technical Committee Meeting. Jay Reithel indicated that some of the data were readily available and he would forward this to Maja.

#### **D. MATS' TIP**

Maja provided a quick overview of upcoming TIP changes which would be ready for full consideration at the October meeting. She explained that staff is awaiting clarification on 3 of the 5 projects and that Complete Streets forms will need to be submitted for all of these new projects. In addition, Jim Lillo indicated that the Bay County Road Commission and the City of Auburn may flip two projects in terms of construction year, and will bring more information to the committee as it becomes available. Also, Jan Yurgens mentioned that DART may have a TIP change as well due to their 2018 allocation being higher than projected, but that details were still being finalized.

#### **8. Adjournment**

There being no further items for discussion, the September 20th, 2017 MATS Technical Committee meeting was adjourned at 11:53 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Director

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