

# Midland Area Transportation Study (MATS)

## Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

### 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was begun at 10:02 AM by Brad Kaye, Chairman.

Attending were: Karen Murphy\* (DART), Brad Kaye\* (City of Midland), Jonathan Myers\* (Midland County Road Commission), Dennis Borchard\* (Saginaw County Road Commission), Mike Wood\* (Jerome Township), Terry Holt\* (Midland Charter Township), Dave Haag\* (City of Auburn), Gary Rogers\* - via phone, (County Connection of Midland), Maria Sandow\* (Larkin Township), Carl Hamann\* (Village of Sanford), Kim Heisler\* (Ingersoll Township), Phillip Shaver\* (Tittabawassee Township), Terry Hall\* (Edenville Township), Steven van Tol\* (Williams Charter Township), Richard Bayus\* (MDOT Statewide Planning), Jay Reithel – via phone (MDOT Bay Region), Bryan Gillett (MATS).

\*voting members or alternates

Voting members who participated via phone did not count towards the quorum

### 2. Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

### 3. Approval of December 6, 2022 Minutes

A motion was made by Karen Murphy and seconded by Terry Hall to approve the minutes of December 6, 2022. Motion carried.

### 4. Reports of officers

#### Legislative and MDOT Updates

Bryan noted that MDOT had assigned a new MPO Program Manager to MATS, Max Gierman, who would be in attendance at MATS Technical Committee meetings henceforth.

Bryan also briefly reviewed several items including the issuance of a new Section 106 flow chart and Form 5323 from MDOT's Local Area Programs, and also indicated that he would be expanding on the Census Bureau's listing of 2020 qualifying urban areas later on the agenda. Lastly, Bryan noted that a number of Notices of Funding Opportunity have been released, some with increased funding from prior years but all are a part of the BIL. Further information can be obtained by contacting MATS after the meeting.

### 5. Agency Reports

#### A. MATS Administrative Report

Bryan reported that the MATS bank balance is currently at approximately \$64,000, and that checks for DART and MCRC reimbursement were being cut this week. In addition, invoices

for Q1 of 2023 were currently being prepared. Lastly, work has commenced on documentation for the MATS biennial audit.

#### **B. MATS Work Tasks Update**

Bryan briefly updated the committee on the status of work tasks: the pair of reports that need to be completed by the end of every calendar year have been completed, with the Final Acceptance Report having been submitted to MDOT and the MATS Annual Obligation Report having been released publically and available on the MATS website. In addition, the TIP amendment approved in December has been finalized and submitted to MDOT via JobNet. As a final point, Bryan noted that the MATS website remodel was still being finalized, with various edits and content additions underway.

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

#### **A. 2020 Census Qualifying Urban Areas**

Bryan reported that the Census Bureau has released the list of Qualifying Urban Areas as a result of the 2020 Census and the revised criteria adopted accordingly. The good news is that MATS still meets the 50,000 population benchmark for an MPO, although various figures have dropped somewhat. For example, after the 2010 census, the urban area for MATS was comprised of 44.87 sq. miles of area, contained approximately 59,000 persons and roughly 25,000 households. After the 2020 count however, the geographic area classified as “urbanized” dropped to 38.15 sq. miles, and the population was approximately 52,000. Maps, that will more clearly identify which areas suffered the greatest population declines, will be released in the coming weeks and months.

Richard Bayus added that the MPOs in Michigan and MDOT would be meeting next week to start the process of refining the overall funding formula based on these new numbers. Furthermore, Bryan added that despite more stringent urban area criteria, Traverse City urban area has met 50,000 population criteria to form a new MPO.

#### **B. Performance Measures**

Bryan noted that, although DART had provided its State of Good Repair and Safety performance targets to MATS, we had hoped to get, from MDOT, the respective rural versions of group SGR targets prior to this meeting. That way, both could be addressed for acknowledgment and support as appropriate, at the same time. This would follow what had been done in the past. Absent this, and subject to the preference of the committee, this agenda item could be tabled until the February meeting when presumably all targets would be available for review. Short discussion followed. Subsequently, a motion was made by Terrance Hall and seconded by Maria Sandow to table this discussion until the next meeting. Motion carried.

#### **C. January 2023 Elections of Officers/Representatives for MATS Technical and Policy Committees**

Bryan noted that, per MATS’ policy of having elections for all positions every two years, January 2023 is when elections need to take place for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer for the Policy Committee, Technical Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and 3- Small Municipality

Representatives, and Non-motorized Representative. Nominations were made and recorded at the previous meetings of both the Technical and Policy Committees.

Chairman Kaye noted that nominations were still open until the conclusion of voting, and asked what the preference of the committee would be regarding electing individual offices or proceeding with each committee voting for a slate of nominees. By consensus it was determined that a slate would be more efficient, barring any further nominations.

Subsequently, a motion was made by Phillip Shaver and seconded by Dennis Borchard to elect Brad Kaye, Jon Myers, and Karen Murphy to the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer respectively. Motion carried. Thereafter, a motion was made by Karen Murphy and seconded by Terry Holt to appoint Edenville Township, the City of Auburn, and Larkin Township as the 3 small municipality representatives to the Technical Committee, and to appoint Thoralf Brecht as the Non-Motorized Representative to the Technical Committee. Motion carried.

#### **D. Schedule of MATS Committee Meetings for CY 2023**

Bryan presented the schedule of MATS Committee meetings for CY 2023, revised as per recommendations at the previous Policy Committee meeting, also noting that next month's Policy Committee meeting was moved up by one day to February 6<sup>th</sup>, which is a Monday.

#### **7. Public Comment**

There were no members of the public in attendance and no comments were received.

#### **8. Adjournment**

There being no further items for discussion, the January 10, 2023 MATS Policy Committee meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM. The next meeting has been scheduled for February 6, 2023 at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maja Bolanowska, Director  
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