

Midland Area Transportation Study (MATS)

Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

This meeting was held at the Midland County Services Building 4th floor Conference Room.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM by Russ Inman. All members participated in person or by phone.

Those who participated were: Russ Inman (Midland County Road Commission), Amy Bidwell (DART), Steven VanTol (Williams Charter Township), Cody Bodrie (EMCOG), Dennis Borchard (Saginaw County Road Commission), Lindsey Dowswell (MDOT Statewide Planning), Anita Boughner (MDOT Statewide Planning), , Brian Stark (MDOT Bay Region), Thoralf Brecht (Non-Motorized Representative), Gary Rogers (County Connection of Midland), Jason Perez (MDOT – OPT – via phone), John Kelly (MDOT Mt. Pleasant TSC – via phone), Bryan Gillett (MATS), Maja Bolanowska (MATS).

2. Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

3. Approval of October 20, 2021, Minutes

A motion was made by Dennis Borchard and seconded by Gary Rogers to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

4. Reports of officers

Russ Inman reported:

All 2021 projects are essentially wrapped up. The Poseyville Road project and the roundabout project for this year are completed. Next year, an additional roundabout and two bridge rehabilitations will be most significant projects.

Dennis Borchard reported:

All 2021 projects are completed. SCRC received safety funding for roundabout projects next year.

Gary Rogers reported:

Rides are increasing significantly compared to last year. The New Freedom program is also gaining steam finally after last year's low activity. Also, they are experiencing tremendous delays in deliveries of new bus vehicles.

Amy Bidwell reported:

Similar to County Connection, rides are up significantly over last year at this point, having given as many rides thus far in 2021 as in all of 2020. DART is experiencing the labor shortages that are prevalent throughout the economy, with difficulty finding new hires. Also similarly to County Connection, bus deliveries are greatly delayed due to the microchip shortage.

Anita Boughner reported:

Anita introduced the new MPO Program Manager for MATS, Lindsey Dowsell who has recently been hired by MDOT. She also briefly reviewed the overall funding amounts included in the recently signed infrastructure bill, the IIJA of 2021, and expects that the funding targets for urban areas will increase.

John Kelly reported:

Design work has commenced for the US-10BR one-ways in Midland, i.e. Indian and Buttles Streets, as well as the Wackerly at Eastman intersection coordinated with the City of Midland, and the M-20 project. This last project is scheduled for next year, with the US-10BR projects currently being tentatively discussed for FY 2024 but classified as a “shelf” projects for the time being.

Maja reported:

The BR-20 Bike Route realignment in Bay and Midland counties has been submitted and approved by AASHTO in Washington DC. Next, all involved local agencies will need to proceed with relocating signage for the route. In addition, discussions have recently begun regarding details of the current bike route in the vicinity of Washington/Lyons/James Savage, specifically the crossings and amount of queuing space at both intersections. According to Brian Stark, the City, bicycle groups, and MDOT have met regarding this situation and discussions are ongoing.

5. Agency Reports

Maja reported on the status of various MATS work tasks:

Update of the 2045 MATS Long Range Plan is underway and proceeding on schedule, with a completed draft expected in 2-4 weeks, followed by a minimum 30 days of public review. Key aspects of the project lists and financial tables will be discussed on today’s agenda.

TIP changes are minimal at this time of year, as expected.

PASER ratings for federal-aid non-trunkline segments within City of Midland and Midland County have been completed, as well as PASER ratings for local segments in Edenville Township, and will be submitted to TAMC shortly.

6. Unfinished and New Business

A. Performance Measures

Maja summarized the annual State of Good Repair performance measures, noting that these are for the entire MATS area and not one transit agency only. Amy Bidwell noted that, due to the delay in acquiring new buses, they would not be able to meet the proposed target in

the near future. She then suggested raising the target for vehicles not exceeding the FTA Useful Life Benchmark to 10% from 5%. This was agreed to by consensus.

After a further brief discussion, a motion was made by Amy Bidwell and seconded by Gary Rogers to support the CY 2022 State of Good Repair Targets and recommend same to the Policy Committee. Motion carried.

B. Long Range Planning

Maja provided a summary of work done in recent weeks on the update to the MATS Long Range Transportation Plan. It is expected that a draft will be ready for public release in two to four weeks.

Maja briefly reviewed Exhibit 33 – Prioritized Projects, and Exhibit 34 – List of Projects Exceeding Available Funding, passing copies of both around for review. Bryan noted that these were both available at the cloud link included with today’s meeting notice. Maja also noted that two projects in particular were moved from “by 2035” to “by 2045” in order to meet fiscal constraint. This was agreed to by consensus.

In conclusion, Maja reviewed the complete package of funding projection tables for each individual program, noting that the Operations and Maintenance dollar amounts seem excessively high and were perhaps double counting some funding. This would need to be reviewed further by the road agencies and MDOT and revised accordingly.

7. Public Comment

No public comments were received and no members of the public were present.

8. Adjournment

There being no further items for discussion, the November 17, 2021 MATS Technical Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:07 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maja Bolanowska
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