

Midland Area Transportation Study (MATS)

Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

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

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM by Russ Inman. All members participated in person or by phone, and during the roll call each member participating remotely provided name, agency represented and physical location.

Those who participated were: Russ Inman (Midland County Road Commission), Amy Bidwell (DART), Brian Stark (MDOT Bay Region), Shane Bjorge (City of Midland, from Midland, MI), Dan Armentrout (Saginaw County Road Commission), Thoralf Brecht (NMT Representative), Mitch Huber (MDOT–Statewide Planning, from Troy, MI), Mike Wood (Jerome Township, from Sanford, MI), Terrance Hall (Edenville Township), Jonathan Myers (Midland County Road Commission, from Sanford, MI), Jason Perez (MDOT-OPT, from Lansing, MI), Bryan Gillett (MATS), Maja Bolanowska (MATS).

2. Changes to the Agenda

Maja Bolanowska requested the addition of Item 6D, FY 2021 MATS UWP Administrative Modification.

3. Approval of April 21, 2021, Minutes

A motion was made by Dan Armentrout and seconded by Thoralf Brecht to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

4. Reports of officers

Russ Inman reported:

The Freeland/Sasse roundabout will be complete by August 1.

The Coleman Road Bridge will be done by August 31.

The Poseyville Road STUL project will be done in September.

Various RTF projects around the county will be done by September.

Various safety projects around the county will be done by October 15th.

The Monroe/Waldo roundabout will be done next year.

Various bridge projects around the county will be completed next year, some with detours.

Most 2020 Emergency flood projects are either completed or currently underway.

Dan Armentrout reported:

The Tittabawassee Road bridge project is currently under construction.

The emergency project on Freeland Road is scheduled for a July letting.

Shane Bjorge reported:

The Saginaw Road project from Dartmouth to Patrick will begin after July 4th.

The Sugnet Road project is currently in the design phase, to be done next year.

Amy Bidwell reported:

The most recent TRAMS Grant application has been submitted and accepted.

DART took delivery of a new bus yesterday.

Maja noted that MDOT LAP has released FY 2022 Project Planning Guide, and that there has been a staff change at LAP, Michele Zawierucha replacing Lynnette Firman as Urban Project Development Engineer.

5. Agency Reports

Maja noted that starting today MATS meetings are back to the in-person format. Furthermore, due to recent amendments to the Michigan Open Meetings Act, committee members calling in (participating remotely) are unable to vote, nor count towards a quorum in the case of the Policy Committee. (Russ Inman clarified that this would not be the case for committee members who report that they are ill or are in the military and thus unable to attend.)

Maja reported on the status of various work tasks:

Update of the 2045 MATS Long Range Plan is underway and proceeding on schedule.

TIP changes are being processed and brought to the committees where warranted, including on today's agenda.

The FY 2022 Unified Work Program was completed on schedule, and has been approved by MDOT and sent on to the FHWA and FTA.

Work on the 2021 MTPA Conference is continuing, with the conference being held virtually on July 21 and 22. All are invited to attend. Bryan Gillett passed along the URL for the conference website and the registration link.

Work has been done to understand the various performance measures related to transit, and brought to the committees where needed, including those on today's agenda.

PASER ratings for the City of Midland were completed this past week, and ratings for the Midland County Road Commission will be scheduled for later in the summer.

MATS has been facilitating local efforts to relocate the State Bicycle Route BR-20, coordinating and hosting Zoom meetings for all involved agencies.

6. Unfinished and New Business

A. MATS TIP Amendment (FY 2021-2023)

Maja summarized the proposed changes regarding the FY 2020-2023 MATS TIP:

MDOT project - JN 202649 – signing upgrade (M-47) (CON phase delayed to FY 2024 then back to FY 2023 resulting in project addition)

MDOT project – JN207154 – Non-freeway signing upgrade (M-20, M-30, M-18) (PE phase delayed to FY 2025)

MDOT project – JN 211142 – durable pavement markings (US 10) (PE phase abandoned)

Details of the proposed project amendments are shown in an attached table.

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. Approval of MATS Transit Safety Performance Targets

Maja introduced the MATS Transit Safety Performance Targets, explaining that since there is only one urban transit agency in the MATS area these are exactly the same targets adopted by DART and presented in their Transit Safety Plan. Brief discussion ensued and Amy Bidwell from DART clarified some of the items regarding the origin of the calculations.

A motion was made by Dan Armentrout and seconded by Brian Stark to approve the MATS Transit Safety Performance Targets and recommend same to the Policy Committee. Motion carried.

C. Earmark Repurposing

Maja explained to the committee that MDOT issued notification of an FHWA earmark repurposing request. Within MATS area there are 2 earmarks remaining: MI 078 for the City of Midland and MI 163 for the Midland County Road Commission, with remaining balances still associated with them. However, neither one of those earmarks have any obligation authority left. A process exists whereby MATS could ultimately regain use of the earmark remaining balances. Essentially, with approval of the MATS Policy Committee and consent of MCRC and City of Midland to do necessary paperwork, these earmarks would be repurposed to a future year project for the agency involved, with obligation authority taken from the MATS STUL allocation. Consequently, less than the entire MATS STUL annual allocation will be able to be programmed for that year, the remaining balance would end up being transferred to MATS STUL carryover, which than can be utilized by the overruns of future STUL funded projects (since they all are operating via the pro-rata method).

Shane Bjorge indicated that, for the amount in question of only \$2,002 dollars associated with MI 078 earmark, there was no interest in setting out on this process by City of Midland. Russ Inman indicated that, since MCRC balance was a considerable \$244,000 they would be in full support of the effort to eventually utilize this funding in some way.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Russ Inman and seconded by Dan Armentrout to approve the repurposing of the MI 163 earmark as explained and recommend same to the Policy Committee. Motion passed.

D. MATS FY 2021 UWP Administrative Modification

Maja described how Master Agreement with MDOT requires UWP modification approval if any task is expected to be more than 20% in cost over its original estimate. A letter to MDOT was prepared by MATS staff which lays out the proposed changes to the FY 2021 UWP, essentially decreasing the budget slightly for Administration, Short-Term Planning and TIP tasks, and increasing the amount allocated for Long Range Planning, to better match the effort required for activities related to development of the Non-Motorized Plan and the Long Range Plan. Due to scheduling requirements this was sent to MDOT prior to their June 1

deadline. The FY 2021 UWP modification will be presented to the Policy Committee for their approval at the July 6th meeting.

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 June 16, 2021 MATS Technical Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maja Bolanowska
Director
Midland Area Transportation Study
220 West Ellsworth Street, Suite 326
Phone: 989-832-6813
E-mail: majab@midlandmpo.org

