

Midland Area Transportation Study (MATS)

Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

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 10:02 AM by Russ Inman.

Those who participated were: Russ Inman (Midland County Road Commission), Amy Bidwell (DART), Dan Armentrout (Saginaw County Road Commission), Gary Rogers (County Connection of Midland) – via phone, Jim Lillo (Bay County Road Commission), Terrance Hall (Edenville Township), Thoralf Brecht (Non-Motorized Representative), Steven Van Tol (Williams Charter Township), Dave Haag (City of Auburn), Carl Hamann (Village of Sanford), Cody Bodrie (EMCOG), James Canders (MBS Airport), Matt Lemon (City of Midland), Jay Reithel (MDOT Bay Region), Lindsey Dowswell (MDOT Statewide Planning), Max Gierman (MDOT Statewide Planning), Maja Bolanowska (MATS), Bryan Gillett (MATS).

2. Changes to the Agenda

Maja requested that Item 6B be amended and Item 6G be added. There were no other changes to the agenda.

3. Approval of November 9, 2022 Minutes

A motion was made by Dan Armentrout and seconded by Gary Rogers to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2022 meeting. Motion carried.

4. Reports of officers

Matt Lemon reported: Bids are coming in for spring projects now, mostly local. Busy prepping for FY 2024, which begins in July for the City of Midland.

Dan Armentrout reported: No update, except that many projects are currently ready to bid.

Russ Inman reported: With 10 projects on the MATS TIP, and the 11th as a result of the Federal Aid buyout process, the MCRC will be very busy this upcoming construction season.

Amy Bidwell reported: Bus prices continue to increase, with 4 buses expected to be on order by February. DART is in discussions with MDOT to cover the small shortfall resulting from the purchase of electric buses, and is in talks with Consumers regarding the charging infrastructure for said buses. Lastly, the RFP for the Midland County Transit Study has been posted on the City of Midland website.

Cody Bodrie reported: EMCOG is programming projects into JobNet as needed.

Jim Lillo reported: The initial phase of the Midland Road project, from Flajole Road to Carter Road is scheduled to be put out for bids soon.

Jay Reithel reported: Preparations are underway to construct the new M-30 Bridge over US-10 in FY 2024.

Gary Rogers reported: New buses are on order, with a possible April 2023 build date. In addition, the New Freedom program is now allowing destinations state-wide.

James Canders reported: MBS is applying for funding from the IJA for improvements to the terminal, and possibly a new maintenance facility, and is also seeing an increase in passenger count.

5. Agency Reports

Maja reported on the status of various MATS work tasks:

Staff has completed the two end of year reports, the MATS Final Acceptance Report which has been submitted to MDOT, as well as the MATS Annual Obligation Report with notices announcing its accessibility to public. Both reports are available on the MATS website, midlandmpo.org.

MATS staff has been monitoring and processing project changes and initiating change requests, as needed. In addition, Maja reiterated the availability of the MATS Transportation Project Funding Table, which can serve as a quick resource for local agencies investigating potential funding sources for various types of projects. Lastly, staff has been remodeling the MATS website. Maja explained that the central purpose of the website is to effectively communicate information to the general public and partners, and thus the new site has been designed with ease of use and efficiency in mind.

6. Unfinished and New Business

A. MATS FY 2023-2026 TIP Amendment

Maja explained the proposed changes to the MATS TIP (details shown in attached tables), consisting of a rail crossing improvement project and a corresponding GPA threshold increase to accommodate said funding, and an exemption request regarding the NMT facilities as part of project scope.

JN 218218: FY 23 – Huron & Eastern Railway Company – Project Addition – Safety Improvements – installation of 12inch flashers and half roadway gates – \$275,000 of SRPG funds
Complete Streets Review - Approval of exemption regarding NMT
FY 2023 Local Traffic Operations & Safety GPA – approval of \$525,000 total (current FTA approved total of \$250,000)

After a brief discussion a motion was made by Terry Hall and seconded by Matt Lemon to approve the TIP change, the GPA threshold increase, and the exemption request, and recommend same to the Policy Committee. Motion carried.

B. MATS Urban Program

Maja described the request for a road project swap for the City of Midland which replaces the previously approved Jefferson Road project with a similar Swede road project. Midland will still construct the Jefferson project, but with local funds. A potential swap was noted in the previous approval of the MATS Urban Program. In addition, a Local Road GPA threshold increase is needed to accommodate larger overall cost of Swede project (federal funding remains at \$510,000, local funding increases to \$1.09M). A Complete Streets review of Swede project done, resulting in following proposed NMT enhancements as part of project scope: re-striping of existing bicycle lanes, sidewalk ADA improvements, and additional signage (if feasible).

N 206507 project change: Swede Road from Ashman Rd to Wheeler Rd (Previously, Jefferson Rd from Wheeler to Chapel Ln)
Complete Streets Review
FY 2025 Local Road GPA – Approval of \$3,370,000 total (current federally approved total \$2,550,000)

Short discussion followed. Subsequently, a motion was made by Dan Armentrout and seconded by Terry Hall to approve the change to the MATS Urban Program (resulting in the TIP change), and GPA threshold increase, and the proposed NMT enhancements, recommending same to the Policy Committee. Motion carried.

C. Performance Measures

Maja explained that, although DART is required to update their transit safety targets and state of good repair targets every year, and MDOT needs to issue the group SGR targets for rural transit system every year, MPOs are not required to develop their transit targets annually. However, MPOs should determine a schedule for updating MPO-based transit targets to ensure alignment of targets, and coordination with transit providers and State DOTs. Therefore, staff is requesting guidance from the committee on the frequency of these actions.

Discussion followed. Since in MATS area, transit targets derived by transit agencies and MDOT change only slightly if at all annually, MATS staff recommendation was to update MPO-wide versions of these targets when a new Transportation Improvement Program is developed (occurs every 3 years), or a Long Range Transportation Plan is updated (occurs every 5 years). More discussion followed. Subsequently a motion was made by Terrance Hall and seconded by Maria Sandow for MATS to only update these targets when required due to the development of a new TIP or LRP update, and recommend same to the Policy Committee. Motion carried.

D. 2020 Census Qualifying Urban Areas

Maja provided a short summary of overall changes to Urban and Rural areas and Michigan MPOs as a result of new criteria adopted and utilized by the Census Bureau for the 2020 Census data. Tables and maps were supplied, illustrating those changes. Due to more stringent criteria to qualify as an urban area, in Michigan and nationwide, despite population

increase, more areas are defined as rural, some of the previous urban areas are now considered rural.

Maja reviewed in more detail the changes to the Midland Urbanized Area and impact on MATS MPO. The new criteria resulted in a reduction in the Midland urbanized area along with a decrease of approximately 7,000 persons in population. Midland urbanized area does not connect any more to urbanized blocks in Freeland or around Sanford Lake. The impact of that is probable decrease in federal funding levels for both transportation projects in our area as well as administrative funding for MPO, since that funding is reflective only of the size of the continuous urbanized area.

In addition, Maja explained that the resulting “islands” of urbanized area (that is, those geographic areas that met the new criteria for density, etc., but were no longer connected to the larger Midland urbanized area) would still be eligible for MATS STUL funds (as these funds can be utilized within entire MATS planning area), and Freeland area, since it meets 5,000 population threshold, is also be eligible for Small Urban funds. Extended discussion followed.

E. Schedule of MATS Committee Meetings in CY 2023

Maja indicated that the final version of the MATS Committee Meetings schedule for CY 2023 has been sent out to everyone and also included in today’s meeting packet, noting that it had been revised subsequent to suggestions made by this committee on Nov 9th, 2022 and the Policy Committee on Dec 6th, 2022.

F. Elections of Chair and Vice Chair for MATS Technical Committee

Maja indicated that the Policy Committee had appointed on January 10th the previously nominated representatives for the 3 Small Municipalities – those being Maria Sandow (Larkin Twp), Terry Hall (Edenville Twp) and Dave Haag (City of Auburn), as well as the Non-Motorized Representative – Thor Brecht.

The offices to be elected today consist of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Technical Committee. At the previous meeting Russ Inman and Matt Lemon were nominated to continue to serve in their current positions for the next 2-year term. There being no other nominations before the committee, Terry Hall moved and Amy Bidwell supported the motion to elected Russ Inman and Matt Lemon to the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. Motion carried.

G. Saginaw Road Bridge in Sanford Update

Carl Hamman provided a summary of the condition of the Saginaw Road Bridge in Sanford, and the potential that during the next major flood event it would become a significant issue for Village of Sanford as it would result in a barrier and prevent the water from flowing downstream efficiently. Carl illustrated this with several anecdotes regarding flood events of the previous decade. Further discussion ensued regarding the potential avenues by which

this bridge, and potentially the rail trail bridge immediately downstream, might be replaced with larger/higher structures.

7. Public Comment

No public comments were received and no members of the public were present. Terry Hall thanked MDOT for their extensive presentation at the Swanton Community Center regarding the M-30 bridge project.

8. Adjournment

There being no further items for discussion, the January 18, 2023 MATS Technical Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:09 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maja Bolanowska
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GPA List													Reset	Adjust Threshold
FY	GPA	MPO	Status	Job Type	Threshold			Programmed Proposed	Manual Adjustment	Programmed Usage	Remaining	Approval Date		
					Federal Approved	Local Approved	Current/To-Be							
+ 2023	Local Traffic Operations And Safety	Midland Area Transportation Study (MATS)	Proposed	Local	\$250,000.00	\$0.00	\$525,000.00	\$275,000.00	\$0.00	\$525,000.00	\$0.00			
+ 2025	Local Road	Midland Area Transportation Study (MATS)	Proposed	Local	\$2,550,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,370,000.00	\$820,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,370,000.00	\$0.00			

MATS FY 2023-2026 TIP Amendment for February 2023

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	GPA	Comments	Total Job Cost	Job Type
2023	218218	0	CON	Midland	Huron & Eastern Railway Company	Rockwell Rd	At Huron & Eastern Railway in the City Midland, Midland County	0	Railroad	install 12 inch flashers and half roadway gates	\$275,000	SRPG	\$0	\$0	\$275,000	Local Traffic Operations And Safety	PHASADDGPA	\$275,000.00	Local
2025	206507	7	CON	Midland	City of Midland	Swede Ave.	Ashman to Wheeler	0.999	Crush & Shape asphalt resurfacing	Crush & Shape asphalt resurfacing, replace curb and gutter and necessary sidewalk ramps.	\$510,000	STUL	\$0	\$1,090,000	\$1,600,000	Local Road	Replacement for previous Jefferson Ave. project.	\$1,920,000.00	Local

February 2023 MATS Complete Streets Review

Fiscal Year	Job#	GPA Type	Responsible Agency	Project Name	Limits	Length	Primary Work Type	Project Description	Proposed NMT Capability or Exemption Requested	NMT Rep. Approval	NMT Representative or Internal Comment	Technical Comm Approval Date	Policy Committee Approval Date
2023	218218	Local Traffic Operations and Safety	Huron & Eastern Railway Company	Rockwell Rd.	At Huron & Eastern Railway in the City of Midland, Midland County	0	Railroad	Install 12 inch flashers and half roadway gates	Exemption requested due to no nearby or planned NMT facilities.	1/5/2023			
2025	206507	Local Road	City of Midland	Swede Ave.	Ashman to Wheeler Rd.	1.01	Crush & Shape asphalt resurfacing	Crush & Shape asphalt resurfacing, replace curb and gutter and necessary sidewalk ramps.	Re-stripe bicycle lanes, increase signage if possible, sidewalk ADA improvements.	1/12/2023	Adequate as-is. Will keep existing bike infrastructure, look for opportunities to improve. Will make spot repairs on sidewalks and add ADA ramps where needed.		