

Midland Area Transportation Study (MATS)

Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM by Russ Inman.

Those present were: Russ Inman (Midland County Road Commission), Terry Palmer (Midland County Road Commission), Jan Yuergens (Midland Dial a Ride Transportation), Gary Rogers (County Connection of Midland), Dennis Borchard (Saginaw County Road Commission), Maria Sandow (Larkin Township), David Haag (City of Auburn), Jonathan Myers (MDOT Mt. Pleasant TSC), Matt Pitlock (MDOT Statewide Planning) – via phone, Aaron Dawson (FHWA) – via phone, Maja Bolanowska (MATS) and Bryan Gillett (MATS).

2. Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

3. Approval of December 20, 2017, Minutes

Motion by Jan Yuergens, seconded by Jay Reithel to approve the minutes of the December 20th, 2017 meeting. Motion carried.

4. Public Comment

There were no public comments brought before the Committee.

5. Reports of officers

A. Project Updates

Jonathan Myers indicated that the M-20 Bridge project over the Tittabawassee River is underway and expected to take 18 months. In addition, Jonathan reported on the M-20 at Geneva Road project, it was let in February with expected construction start in summer 2018. Lastly the M-30 project, from US-10 to Wixom Lake may be moved up from 2020 but that is not yet certain at this time.

Russ Inman indicated that several projects are proceeding forward, such as the Airport Road project, 3 safety projects, and multiple bridge projects. In addition Terry Palmer added that there is still over \$4 million in emergency funded projects yet to be completed. He also detailed the poor condition of the Homer Road Bridge over Waldo Drain, caused by last year's flooding, and the plans to repair the bridge footings.

Dennis Borchard added that funding for Dixie Highway from Junction Road to Airport Road has been applied for and the Saginaw County Road Commission is awaiting approval.

6. Agency Reports

A. MATS Work Tasks Update

Maja reported on the work tasks MATS is currently working on. Recently approved TIP changes have been transmitted to MDOT and subsequently approved by MDOT and FHWA. Performance Measures continue to be rolled out, with state bridge targets needing to be developed by MDOT no later than May 20, 2018 and the corresponding MPO targets adopted 6 months later. 1st Quarter reimbursements have still not been received from MDOT. GPA process changes have been finalized at MTPA (Association of Michigan MPOs), however implementation phase is experiencing some issues. Finally, Maja explained the JobNet Phase 2 situation, with implementation currently scheduled for mid July. Consequently JobNet will be closed to operations for the first two weeks of July, with all project data needed to be entered, checked and confirmed by June 22nd. This will require us to be very timely with TIP revisions this spring.

7. Unfinished and New Business

A. MATS/SMATS Boundary - Update

Maja updated the Technical Committee on the current status of the boundary issue. At the most recent Policy Committee meeting, the agreement between MATS, SMATS and MDOT regarding the metropolitan planning areas boundary change has been officially approved, and related resolution adopted. Similar actions are being pursued by SMATS. All documentation will be forwarded to MDOT for concurrence, with the new boundary designations for both MPOs expected thereafter from the Governor.

B. TIP Amendment Process Re-design

Maja presented the TIP Amendment Schedule for MATS for approval and a formal recommendation to the Policy Committee. This schedule has a target of 6 TIP amendments per year, staggered in such a way as to coincide with the most active periods for project additions and modifications. Comments from the Committee were positive. A motion was made by Jay Reithel and seconded by Maria Sandow to approve the MATS TIP Amendment Schedule as presented. Motion carried.

C. Carryover Funding Utilization

Maja presented potential Carryover Funding Utilization Policy using the fixed price/variable scope project type and capped (lump sum) funding method. This policy, the pilot project and the need for the pilot project to be funded via the pro-rata method was discussed at length by the Committee. The consensus was to table the policy for the time being, in favor of just pursuing the pilot project at this time. A motion was made by Russ Inman and seconded by Maria Sandow to pursue the 2-part Saginaw Road/Waldo Road project with pro-rata funding method and recommend same to the Policy Committee. Motion carried.

D. RTF Illustrative Projects – Administrative vs. Amendment action through MATS

Maja presented a proposed policy which would make the process of moving projects that originated from the RTF Illustrative list via the MATS Illustrative List to the main TIP Project list, more timely. This would be contingent on receipt of documentation from RTF ensuring

fiscal constraint. The purpose of this policy is to expedite project delivery, moving selected projects onto the MATS TIP Main Project List from the MATS Illustrative List in a shortened time frame (via administrative action). This policy, at the local level, changes the process from an amendment (requiring review and approval from the Technical and Policy Committees) to an administrative modification executed by MATS staff. However, at the Federal level, each proposed change remains an amendment requiring TIP Amendment Transmittal to MDOT, FHWA and the FTA.

Discussion ensued, it was noted that this policy is desirable, shortening project planning process. Additionally, all required public involvement is being met as the selected project would have already had two opportunities for public involvement and would have to have been determined to be fiscally constrained in the Rural Task Force process.

Jay Reithel proposed adding MDOT illustrative projects to the policy as well due to the similarity of process. Further discussion ensued with agreement to that proposal. A motion was made by Jay Reithel and seconded by Russ Inman to expand the proposed policy and recommend such to the Policy Committee. Motion carried.

E. Local Bridge Program – Call for Projects for FY 2021

Maja reported that the MDOT FY 2021 call for projects for the Local Bridge Program was sent out recently. Maja indicated that the applications were due by May 1, 2018.

F. Local Safety Program – Selected 2019 HSIP and HRRR Projects

Maja announced the MDOT released recently lists of HSIP and HRRR projects that were awarded for FY 2019. The lists were distributed electronically prior to the meeting. There were no projects in the MATS area awarded for FY 2019.

G. PASER Ratings

Maja explained that contrary to previous practice, due to the pending boundary change it has been contemplated that MATS staff undertake the PASER ratings for both Williams Township in Bay County and Tittabawassee Township in Saginaw County. Discussion ensued, after which the consensus was that MATS' practice of conducting ratings every year was the more consistent and desired approach, and therefore staff should attempt this if feasible.

H. Complete Street Forms

Bryan presented the updates to the Complete Streets Non-Motorized Transportation spreadsheet, resulting from TIP project additions from November 2017 to January 2018. This spreadsheet showed that Complete Streets forms have been received for all recently proposed projects and project changes, and that Non-Motorized representative Dave Waite has given his approval for the proposed NMT capability or exemption therefrom regarding each project. A motion was made by Russ Inman and seconded by Jay Reithel to approve the proposed NMT capabilities or exemptions for recent TIP projects and recommend same to the Policy Committee. Motion carried.

8. Adjournment

There being no further items for discussion, the February 21, 2018 MATS Technical Committee meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Maja Bolanowska
Director

Midland Area Transportation Study
220 West Ellsworth Street, Suite 326
Midland, MI 48640
Phone: 989-832-6333
E-mail: info@midlandmpo.com