

Midland Area Transportation Study (MATS)

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 6th, 2017

1. Call to Order

September 6, 2017: The meeting was called to order at 10:26 AM by Brad Kaye, Chairman. Those present were: Terry Palmer* (Midland County Road Commission), Brad Kaye* (City of Midland), Karen Murphy* (Midland Dial-A-Ride Transit), Gary Rogers* (County Connection of Midland), Mike Wood* (Jerome Township), Dave Engelhardt (East Michigan Council of Governments – via phone), Maria Sandow* (Larkin Township), Bob Carl* (Village of Sanford), Paul Wasek* (Williams Charter Township – via phone), Eric Sprague* (Bay Metro Transit Authority – via phone), Kevin Wray* (Lincoln Township – via phone), Matt Pitlock* (MDOT-Statewide Planning – via phone), Dennis Borchard (Saginaw County Road Commission), Maja Bolanowska, (MATS) and Bryan Gillett (MATS).

*voting members or alternates

2. Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

3. Approval of July 11, 2017, Minutes

A motion was made by Maria Sandow and seconded by Mike Wood to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

4. Public Comment

There were no public comments brought before the Committee.

5. Reports of officers

A. MDOT Update

A brief update was provided by Matt Pitlock. Matt noted that the FY 2017 obligation deadline has passed, and that FY 2018 authorization would be coming shortly. Terry Palmer asked if that included Rural Task Force funding, and Matt was not sure but would inquire.

B. Legislative Update

There was no Legislative Update.

6. Agency Reports

A. MATS Administrative Report

Maja Bolanowska presented the MATS Administrative report. Bank account balance is approximately \$61,000, and all local match payments have been received except for the City of Auburn. Billings for the 3rd Quarter were submitted, and payment has been received from MDOT for same. Maja added that FY 2018 will bring some slight changes to the specific work efforts undertaken by MATS, including less focus on the Long Range

Transportation Plan and more on tasks such as performance measures. In addition, there may be changes required to the TIP process and TIP Report in part due to those performance measures.

B. MATS Work Tasks Update

Maja Bolanowska presented a brief update on the many MATS work efforts over the past month. Work on the LRTP is complete, after extensive outreach and a 5-week public comment period, with final approval being sought today; the Midland County Public Transportation study is still in the hands of the consultant; PASER ratings work is 42% complete, with more scheduled for September 12th through the 14th; nearly all Complete Streets review forms have been received and the Technical Committee will see these at the September 20th meeting; performance measures and coordination of same with MDOT is ongoing; changes to the GPA process are still being worked out via the MPOs and MDOT; changes to the TIP process related to performance measures and other issues are being coordinated with MDOT this fall; and changes to JobNet are continuing to be discussed and developed. Finally, Maja reminded those present that Eric Mullen from MDOT will be attending the September 20th Technical Committee meeting to discuss the different aspects of lump-sum versus pro-rata funding.

7. Unfinished and New Business

A. MATS' Long Range Plan

Maja Bolanowska presented the completed, final version of the Long Range Transportation Plan and passed around physical copies. Maja noted that the public comment period closed on August 28th, having lasted 37 days, and included extensive public and organizational outreach to over 50 entities. This included a third Open House, plus a booth at the Midland County Fair and a static display in the lobby of the Midland County Services Building in addition to being featured on the MATS website. Some comments were received through this process, from the open house as well as preliminary comments from MDOT and FHWA. These comments were incorporated into the document.

Public Hearing

A Public Hearing on the Long Range Transportation Plan was opened by Chairman Kaye at 10:40 AM. Maria Sandow inquired as to whether the comments received from a citizen of Larkin Township at the open house were addressed. Maja responded that they were, and with Terry Palmer explained the status of the project in question and how the model process resulted in that specific project being on the list and prompting the comment. There being no further public comment, Chairman Kaye closed the public hearing at 10:45 AM.

A motion was made by Terry Palmer and seconded by Matt Pitlock to approve the Final Report on the Long Range Transportation Plan. Motion carried. A motion was made by Paul Wasek and seconded by Matt Pitlock to approve the resolution of adoption for the Long Range Transportation Plan. Motion carried.

Staff will obtain necessary signatures, incorporate signed copy of resolution into the LRP and then forward the final report to MDOT.

B. Regional Prosperity Initiative Update

Maja provided a brief summary of the work that EMCOG has done for Regional Prosperity Initiative Region 5 during this past year. This included the Centers of Excellence focus areas, support of MEDC 5/GLBRA Business Attraction Plan, development of the regional transit mobility strategy and completion of region wide analysis of talent availability, as well as Mini-Grant program funding applied for projects (\$100,000 available). At this time, EMCOG is requesting a letter of support from all member agencies, including MATS for the upcoming year. It was agreed by consensus that Maja should prepare and send the requested letter to EMCOG on behalf of MATS.

C. Safety Performance Measures

Maja explained that MDOT has now submitted their adopted targets for the safety performance measures to FHWA, thus giving MATS until February 27th, 2018 to either adopt the MDOT targets, develop our own, or some combination of the two. Due to the implications of this choice, in terms of staff time for data collection, analysis, and reporting, versus supporting the MDOT targets, staff will take some time to determine the best course of action to recommend to the Committee. This involves questions related to the implications of committing to supporting the MDOT targets in programming local projects. Staff will seek clarification, then develop recommendations with the Technical Committee to bring to the Policy Committee.

Discussion ensued, with Maja further explaining that MDOT did extensive analysis to determine the targets they eventually adopted, and that these targets will be reviewed and adjusted annually. Matt Pitlock added that final guidance from MDOT on this issue would possibly be available in the November time frame.

8. Adjournment

The September 6th, 2017 MATS Policy Committee meeting was adjourned at 10:56 AM. The next meeting has been scheduled for October 3rd, 2017, at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maja Bolanowska, Director
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