

Midland Area Transportation Study (MATS)

Policy Committee Meeting Summary

Tuesday, April 6, 2021

Pursuant to the Michigan Open Meetings Act as amended, as well as Emergency Orders under MCL 333.2253, this meeting was held virtually via Zoom and, for the purposes of public involvement, Facebook Live video feed.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was begun at 10:08 AM by Brad Kaye, Chairman. A quorum was present, as ascertained via a roll call. Those participating were: Brad Kaye* (City of Midland), Karen Murphy* (City of Midland), Russ Inman* (Midland County Road Commission), Dennis Borchard* (Saginaw County Road Commission), Gary Rogers* (County Connection of Midland), Carl Hamann* (Village of Sanford), Jim Lillo* (Bay County Road Commission), Maria Sandow* (Larkin Township), Kim Heisler* (Ingersoll Township), Mike Wood* (Jerome Township), Anita Boughner* (MDOT – Statewide Planning), Jay Reithel (MDOT – Bay Region), Maja Bolanowska (MATS) and Bryan Gillett (MATS). All Members participated via Zoom link or phone.

*voting members or alternates

Chairman Kaye began the meeting by raising a point of order regarding the Michigan Open Meetings Act, the Midland County State of Emergency Declaration of March 17, and the imminent City of Midland State of Emergency Declaration. Since the amendments to the existing Michigan Open Meetings Act that broadly permitted virtual meetings expired on March 31, 2021, a locally declared State of Emergency must be utilized as the authority to hold this virtual meeting. In the opinion of the City Attorney, the existing language in the Midland County State of Emergency Declaration is too narrow to be utilized by MATS in holding this Policy Committee meeting. That being the case, he suggested that, subject to the desire of the rest of the committee, this meeting be postponed until such time as it can be held under a broader legal authority.

Discussion ensued, during which time it was agreed by consensus that the meeting should not be held as an official meeting, and furthermore that the City Attorney's concerns could be satisfied by the City of Midland issuing a broader State of Emergency Declaration later today. This declaration would include language that would cover MATS as a public body meeting within the geographic boundaries of the City of Midland. In addition, it was agreed that MATS should re-advertise and hold a special meeting of the MATS Policy Committee on April 22, at 10:00 am, held virtually. Thereafter, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

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