

Midland Area Transportation Study (MATS)

Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM by Josh Fredrickson.

Those who participated were: Josh Fredrickson (City of Midland), Russ Inman (Midland County Road Commission), Brian Stark (MDOT – Bay Region), Gary Rogers (County Connection of Midland), Mike Wood (Jerome Township), Jay Reithel (MDOT Bay Region), Kevin Wray (Lincoln Township), Aaron Dawson (FHWA), Dennis Borchard (Saginaw County Road Commission), Kim Hill (MDOT Mt. Pleasant TSC), Dave Englehardt (EMCOG), Dan Armentrout (Saginaw County Road Commission), Jon Roberts (MDOT – SUTA), Mitch Huber (MDOT – Statewide Planning), Anita Boughner (MDOT – Statewide Planning), Thor Brecht (Non-Motorized Representative), Bryan Gillett (MATS), Maja Bolanowska (MATS). All Members participated via phone except Bryan Gillett (MATS) and Maja Bolanowska (MATS), who attended in person.

2. Changes to the Agenda

No changes to the agenda were requested.

3. Approval of February 19, 2020, Minutes

Motion was made by Russ Inman and seconded by Dan Armentrout to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

4. Public Comment

There were no public comments brought before the Committee.

5. Reports of officers

A. Project Updates

Russ Inman announced that all projects were going well, and that the Freeland Road/Sasse Road intersection project is currently in ROW purchasing phase, with construction set for 2021.

Jay Reithel introduced Kim Hill, as the new representative from the Mount Pleasant TSC. She reported that progress is being made on the U.S. 10 BR project, from Jerome to Washington, with construction currently planned for 2025. This will be a major project for the Midland area.

Gary Rogers reported that County Connection ride requests are down 60% from last year, with further declines predicted. This may lead to layoffs in the near future. This is due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dan Armentrout updated the committee on the Freeland Road/River Road project, saying that plans have been submitted to MDOT for review and that a June letting is currently planned.

Mitch Huber indicated that he is processing the most recent MATS TIP amendment.

Anita Boughner and Russ Inman both raised questions regarding the mechanics of holding public meetings electronically, and the process by which the public is informed and given opportunities to participate. Governor Whitmer has issued an Executive Order regarding this issue, which will be reviewed for future guidance. Brief discussion ensued.

Josh Fredrickson announced that significant effort was being undertaken to prepare and submit the required environmental review documentation for the Sugnet Road project in a timely manner. This, to better ensure that the project is able to be delivered on schedule.

6. Agency Reports

MATS Work Tasks Update

Maja reported on some of the work efforts being undertaken by MATS over the past month. Staff has been reviewing socio-economic data developed by MDOT's SUTA staff for the update of the Great Lakes Bay regional model, which will be utilized in the next iteration of the Long Range Plan. This data has been reviewed with the larger local units, such as the City of Midland, and Lincoln and Larkin Townships.

In addition, staff has been processing information required for the TIP Amendment recently approved by the Policy Committee, as well as moving forward on MTPA conference planning. In addition MATS staff attended the annually required PASER training, and participated in the March 17th Bay Region Bike and Pedestrian meeting via phone. In addition, a great deal of time has been spent developing the FY 2021 Unified Work Program document. Lastly, CY 2020 Transit State of Good Repair targets have been developed.

7. Unfinished and New Business

A. Socio-Economic Data for GLBR Travel Demand Model

Maja introduced the updated base year (2017) population and occupied household totals, by jurisdiction, for the committee's recommendation. She also explained the process by which these totals were developed, and the individual jurisdictions that were met with to better assess the area's growth in population and households. Maja indicated that at the next meeting the corresponding employer and employment totals will be presented as well.

A motion was made by Dan Armentrout and seconded by Russ Inman to approve the Base Year 2017 Population and Housing totals, and recommend same to the Policy Committee. Motion carried.

B. CY 2020 State of Good Repair Targets for the MATS Area

Maja explained that the annually required State of Good Repair Targets for the MATS Area are a composite developed from the MDOT-issued targets for rural transit systems and the DART-submitted targets. The resulting proposed MATS targets, which are an aggregate of the other targets, were briefly reviewed. A motion was made by Russ Inman and seconded by Dan Armentrout to approve the submitted State of Good Repair Targets for the MATS Area and recommend same to the Policy Committee.

C. Waldo Road/U.S. 10 Interchange Study - Update

Jay Reithel updated the committee on the status of the proposed scoping study that had been tentatively committed to last year by MDOT. As a result of regional internal reviews, MDOT decided that they will be stepping back from this commitment and reassessing regional priorities. Discussion ensued at length regarding what was committed to and what the path forward is in light of the changed priorities at MDOT.

8. Adjournment

There being no further items for discussion, the March 18th, 2020 MATS Technical Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maja Bolanowska
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