

Battle Creek Area Transportation Study (BCATS)

FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - AMENDMENT #8

Text of Public Notice as Published in Battle Creek Enquirer, Monday, 1/8/24, p. 6A

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

THE BATTLE CREEK AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS) HEREBY GIVES NOTICE of opportunity for public involvement in the eighth amendment to its *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* for fiscal years (FYs) 2023-2026 (10/1/22–9/30/26), consisting of the following changes proposed by the Michigan Dept of Transportation (MDOT):

- **1)** Increasing the construction phase (CON) budget for 2026 bridge capital preventive maintenance (CPM) on the M-89 (Washington Ave) bridge over GTW railroad & Kalamazoo River, by 16.5% to \$1,321,000. 81.85% Federal Bridge Formula Program (BFP), 18.15% State of Michigan Betterment "M" funds; *JN-203293*
- **2)** Increasing the CON budget for 2026 bridge replacement at M-89 (Washington Ave) over the Battle Creek River, by 27.6% to \$6,185,049. 81.85% Fed BFP, 15.88% State "M", 2.27% Local-City of Battle Creek; *JN-213719*
- **3)** Advancing a Vulnerable Road User (VRU) Road Safety Audit of M-66 (Division St–Capital Ave NE, from I-194/Hamblin to Morgan Rd), from 2026 to 2024, and changing the Fed funding source from Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) to VRU. Total estimated budget \$25,000, 90% Fed VRU, 8.75% State "M", 1.25% Local-City BC; *JN-218819*
- **4)** Adding 2024 right-of-way (ROW), preliminary engineering (PE), and CON phases for road capital preventive maintenance (CPM) by milling & one course overlay on I-94BL (Michigan Ave E) from the Amtrak railroad crossing just east of Porter St to M-96 (Columbia Ave). Total estimated budgets: ROW \$2,000, PE \$50,000, CON \$1,177,000. Each 81.85% Fed National Highway System (NH), ROW & PE 18.15% State "M", CON 18.15% State of Michigan Non-Motorized Program Set-Aside (MNMP); *JN-219213*

- **5)** Adding 2024 PE and 2025 CON phases for road CPM by crack seal on I-94BL/M-37 (Columbia Ave W) from I-94 to Skyline Dr, and on M-96 (Columbia Ave) from Helmer Rd to I-194/M-66. Total estimated budgets: PE \$6,250, CON \$88,000. Each 81.85% Fed Surface Transportation program (ST), 18.15% State "M"; *JN-219294*
- **6)** Adding 2024 PE phase and 2025 ROW and CON phases for road CPM by milling & one course overlay on I-94BL (Main St–Hamblin–Michigan Ave E) from the E Dickman/Main St intersection to the Amtrak railroad crossing just east of Porter St. Total estimated budgets: ROW \$15,000, PE \$125,000, CON \$1,710,000. Each 81.85% Fed NH, ROW & PE 18.15% State "M", CON 18.15% State MNMP. **JN-219406**

Further details of the above listed changes, and other projects in the TIP, can be provided upon request and may also be found online at www.bcatsmpo.org. Public comment on this TIP amendment is encouraged by e-mail to bcats@bcatsmpo.org, or in-person within BCATS' 1/10/24 Technical Committee meeting or 1/24/24 Policy Committee meeting, each beginning at 1:30pm in the Springfield Municipal Building; call ahead or check BCATS' home page at www.bcatsmpo.org for details on attending and participating in those meetings. Comments will be accepted thru Policy Committee action on January 24th. Direct questions and/or comments to: BCATS, 601 Avenue A, Springfield, MI 49037; phone 269/963-1158, fax 269/963-4951, e-mail bcats@bcatsmpo.org.

This text, the following list, and the bolded JN's following each item 1-6 within the notice text above were not printed in the notice as published.

1) JN-203293 2) JN-2137199 3) JN-218819 4) JN-219213 5) JN-219294 6) JN-219406

Blinken meets Jordanian, Qatari Laders

to contain war in Gaza

Matthew Lee

DOHA, Qatar – On another urgent diplomatic mission to the Middle East, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met Sunday with Arab partners to press for their help in tamping down resur-gent fears that Israel's war against Ha-mas in Gaza, now entering its fourth month, could spread.

In discussions with Oatar's emir and ordan's king, Blinken spoke of the need for Israel to adjust its military opera-tions to reduce civilian casualties and significantly boost the amount of hu-manitarian aid reaching Gaza, while stressing the importance of preparing detailed plans for the post-conflict future of the Palestinian territory, which has been decimated by Israeli bombard

ments.

The mission – which will also take him to the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Israel, the West Bank and Egypt before he returns to Washington Blinken's fourth to the region since the

war began.
After a day of talks with Turkish and Greek leaders in Istanbul and Crete, Blinken met with Jordan's King Abdull-ah II and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi in Amman before traveling to Doha for talks with Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to seek buy-in for U.S. efforts to tamp down resurgent fears that the war could engulf the region, ramp up aid to Gaza and prepare

gion, ramp up aid to Gaza and prepare for an eventual end of hostilities. King Abdullah "warned of the cata-strophic repercussions" of the war in Gaza while calling on the U.S. to press for an immediate cease-fire, a state-ment from the Royal Court said. State Department spokesman Mat-thew Miller said Blinken and the mon-arch agreed to continue close coordina-

arch agreed to continue close coordination on getting sustained humanitarian

Jordan and other Arab states have been highly critical of Israel's actions and have eschewed public support for long-term planning, arguing that the fighting must end before such discus-sions can begin. They have been de-manding a cease-fire since mid-October as civilian casualties began to skyrock-

as civilian casualties began to skyrocket. Israel has refused and the U.S. has instead called for specified temporary "humanitarian pauses" to allow aid to get in and people to get to safety.

In Amman, Blinken also toured the World Food Program's regional coord nation warehouse, where trucks are be ing packed with aid to be delivered to found the packed with aid to be delivered to the contraction was to be a support of the packed with aid to be delivered to the packed with aid to the packed with a Gaza through both the Rafah and Keren Shalom crossings. He commended the work of the WFF and other U.N. agencies as well as the

government of Jordan to get assistance into Gaza.



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, left, meets with Jo nian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi on Sunday in Amman Jordan. EVELYN HOCKSTEIN/POOL PHOTO VIA A

"The efforts right here to collect and distribute food to people in need are ab-solutely essential," Blinken said. "The

United States has worked from day one to open access routes into Gaza."

"We continue to work on that every single day, not only to open them but to multiply them, to maximize them and to try to get more assistance, more effec-tively," he said. "We're determined to do everything we possibly can to amelio-rate the situation for the men, women and children in Gaza.

The U.S. has been pressing Israel for weeks to let greater amounts of foor water, fuel, medicine and other supply into Gaza, and the U.N. Security Cou passed a resolution on Dec. 22 c for an immediate increase in deli Three weeks ago, Israel opened Shalom, adding a second entry aid into Gaza after Rafah.

Still, the rate of trucks on trisen significantly. Last erage of around 120 trucks e gring has eek, an av-day entered Shalom, acthrough Rafah and Kere cording to U.N. figure 500 trucks of goods go the war and far belo ar below the gin daily before what aid groups say is needed.

population of 2.3 the trucks coming or their survival. One ins in Gaza is starving, Almost the en million depends across the bord in four Palesti and the rest e crisis levels of hunger, according t e U.N.

1 85% of people in Gaza bardment and ground offen-in U.N. shelters crowded sity, in tent camps or on the streets. Saturday, Blinken said and be dominated by "not easy conversations" with al-

s about what they are build durable peace and lies and part willing to do security."

visit comes as develop ebanon, northern Israel, the and Iraq have put intense in what had been a modestly offul U.S. push to prevent a re-conflagration since Hamas at-d Israel on Oct. 7, and as interna-al criticism of Israel's military operon mounts.

on mounts.
"These are not necessarily easy conversations," he said in Greece. "There are different perspectives, different needs, different requirements, but it is vital that we engage in this diplomacy now both for the sake of Gaza itself and more broadly the sake of the future for Israelis and Palestinians and for the region as a whole." gion as a whole."

He said his priorities are protecting civilians – "far too many Palestinians have been killed" – getting more hu-manitarian aid into Gaza, ensuring Hamas cannot strike again, and developing a framework for Palestinian-led gov-ernance in the territory and "a Palestinian state with security assurances for Israel."

Hours before Blinken's meetings on Saturday, Lebanon's Iran-backed Hez-bollah militia fired dozens of rockets at northern Israel and said the barrage was an initial response to the targeted killan initial response to the targeter kin-ing, presumably by Israel, of a top leader from the allied Hamas group in Leba-non's capital this past week. Israel re-sponded in what became one of the heaviest days of cross-border fighting in recent weeks.

recent weeks.

Meanwhile, stepped-up attacks on commercial shipping in the Red Sea by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels have disrupted international trade and led to increased efforts by the U.S. and its allies to patrol the vital commercial waterway and respond to threats. The coalition of countries issued what amounted to a final warning to the Houthis on Wednesday to cease their attacks on vessels or face potential targeted military action. Since Dec. 19, the militants have carried out at least two dozen attacks in response to the Israeldozen attacks in response to the Israel-Hamas war.



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