



Battle Creek Area Transportation Study (BCATS)

FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - AMENDMENT #10

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REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

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

1) Adding the McCamly St bridge over the Kalamazoo River to 2026 bridge capital preventive maintenance (CPM) by the City of Battle Creek, with the Angell St and the Kendall St bridges over the Kalamazoo River in the same project, with 31.1% additional cost. New total estimated construction (CON) phase budget \$400,000; 80% Fed Bridge Rehab Surface Transportation (BHT), 15% State "M", 5% Local-City of BC; ***JN-220625***

~~**2)** Updating the segment limits for the City of Battle Creek's 2024 multi-road rehabilitation project on Michigan Ave (from Washington to United Way instead of State St), Porter St (from Michigan to Second St instead of Raymond Rd), and Sonoma Rd (from Beckley to city limits instead of Minges Rd). Overall project length reduced 0.62 mi to 1.55 mi. Unchanged total estimated CON phase budget \$431,358; 81.85% Fed Surface Transportation Program, 18.15% Local City of BC. ***JN-216527*** Change was Fed-approved 5/7/24 as Technical Correction to expedite obligation and assure availability for July letting and 2024 implementation.~~

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' 5/8/24 Technical Committee meeting or 5/22/24 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 May 22nd. Direct questions and/or comments to: BCATS, 601 Avenue A, Springfield, MI 49037; phone 269/963-1158, e-mail bcats@bcatsmpo.org.

[This text, the following list, and the bolded JN's following each item 1+2 within the notice text above were not printed in the notice as published. 1\) JN-220625 2\) JN-216527](#)

Columbia professor's arrest raises questions

Attorney says NYPD may have escalated situation

Eduardo Cuevas
USA TODAY

Gregory Pflugfelder had just finished the final class of his career at Columbia. In 28 years at the university, he achieved many accolades as a professor of history.

The next night, on April 30, the 64-year-old scholar stepped outside his apartment building, located off campus across the street from Columbia. He wanted to record iPhone video of hundreds of police responding to historic student protests against the war in Israel. Fifteen minutes later, the NYPD arrested him.



Pflugfelder The New York Police Department listed Pflugfelder among 112 arrests made at Columbia on April 30, according to police records obtained by USA TODAY. But Pflugfelder was never on campus.

"I certainly posed no danger to anybody," he told USA TODAY. "I was literally standing in the street and not blocking anybody."

As protests and opposition to the war in Gaza have swept across U.S. campuses, universities and police have increasingly pointed to "outside agitators" and off-campus disruptors as the insurgents behind the campus unrest. Pflugfelder's arrest — on a charge of obstructing government administration — is among the first of 282 people put in custody at or near Columbia and City College of New York during police raids.

Columbia University referred questions about the professor's arrest to the NYPD. Neither the NYPD nor New York Mayor Eric Adams' office responded to email requests from USA TODAY.

'Historic mistake'

Pflugfelder's last class, Introduction to Japanese Civilization, is a course he taught since he started teaching at Columbia in 1996. He's only taught at the Ivy League school. His plan April 30 was



Hundreds of police officers stand outside Columbia University on April 30. Arrests at campus protests have raised claims of heavy-handed police tactics to suppress largely peaceful demonstrations against the Israel-Hamas war.

SETH HARRISON/THE JOURNAL NEWS

to do "absolutely nothing," he recalled.

In the afternoon, he heard protests nearby around the corner from his apartment. His apartment building is located across the street from campus, where demonstrators gathered for weeks and formed an encampment calling on the university to divest from Israel.

He knew about the heightened police response because of a prior protest at Columbia, on April 18, at which police arrested over 100 people at the encampment in the center of campus. Police officers blocked Pflugfelder's street to take protesters to NYPD headquarters.

He supported students' right to demonstrate. He wrote a letter to Columbia President Minouche Shafik, who requested that NYPD respond to the encampment on campus. It was his first time writing to the president's office.

"I urge you not to compound the historic mistake you've made by repeating it," he wrote on April 23.

A week later, he felt history would be made again, and he wanted to document it. He stepped out of his apartment building to record video on his iPhone.

By about 9 p.m., he estimated hun-

dreds of police, donning helmets and batons, had formed lines on the street. He recorded students forced inside fraternity houses and dorm buildings, with video of them knocking on the windows. He then turned to look at the street, where officers formed lines ahead of their siege on campus.

At most, he said, he stood 7 feet onto the street from the curb. Police ordered him inside, but he told them his address was about 300 feet down the block. They told him to go home, but he said he wanted to continue recording. An officer said, "OK, put him down," Pflugfelder recalled, though he was not forced to the ground. Nonetheless, he ended up cuffed in zip ties.

He said he told the female police officer arresting him: "You've just arrested your first faculty member." He said she responded, "This is for your protection."

Adams touts 'precision policing'

Adams has said police acted with professionalism in mass arrests on college campuses, which included using a SWAT vehicle to enter Hamilton Hall, the occupied Columbia building,

"The NYPD's precision policing en-

sured that the operation was organized, calm, and that there were no injuries or violent clashes," Adams told reporters on Wednesday, the day after the arrests.

But Jennvine Wong, supervising attorney at the nonprofit Legal Aid Society's police accountability project, said Pflugfelder's arrest raises questions about whether NYPD escalated rather than de-escalated situations. It also may have violated laws protecting citizens' right to record police interactions.

"Generally speaking, there is still a First Amendment right to record in public as long as they're not interfering with police," Wong said. "To me, this sounds like a devious arrest."

By Pflugfelder's account, he was the third arrested person to enter an NYPD van. Ten people would fill the van that took him downtown. Pflugfelder said he has "claustrophobic tendencies," and during the ride, he asked others to help him take his mind off his feelings. He gathered during the ride that most people inside were Columbia students, based on the questions they asked.

At NYPD headquarters, he was in a holding cell with about 60 other men. He stayed there for about five hours. One person next to him on the bench said he was from Columbia and had been at Hamilton Hall, the occupied school building police raided using flash-bang grenades, and where police errantly fired a gunshot indoors. The man Pflugfelder saw was visibly bruised, including a black eye.

"The violence against protesters was extreme," said Corinna Mullin, an adjunct assistant professor of political science at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, part of CUNY, at a recent news conference. Mullin was among those arrested April 30 at City College.

Irene Mulvey, the president of the American Association of University Professors, said the group has several eyewitness accounts of what she called unnecessarily violent responses to what started as peaceful protests.

Pflugfelder has yet to have the relaxing day he's sought after nearly three decades of teaching. In jail, police made him remove his shoelaces. He's kept them unaltered since then, as a reminder.

Contributing: Mike James, USA TODAY

USC shuts campus, police tear down encampment

John Bacon
USA TODAY

University of Southern California officials closed their main campus and brought in Los Angeles police to tear down an encampment Sunday as pro-Palestinian protests continued to sweep across the nation's universities — and law enforcement is increasingly called in to disband the demonstrations.

The encampment on the school's University Park Campus was cleared early Sunday morning after scores of protesters pitched tents and erected banners at Alumni Park. An hour before police arrived, a warning was issued to protesters.

"UPC has been closed as a result of significant administrative center of campus," the university said in a media release. "If you are in the building, please leave. People will be arrested. We will be on the street when it is clear to move forward."

Elsewhere, protesters at the University of Virginia, making about two dozen arrests, and dozens of demonstrators were arrested outside the Art Institute of Chicago on Saturday after they "barricaded and locked the gates to fortify their position," Chicago police said.

The protests target Israel's offensive in Gaza, launched after the Oct. 7 Hamas-led attack on Israeli border communities that killed almost 1,200 people and included more than 200 taken hostage. More than 34,600 Palestinians have died in the Israeli assault, authorities in Gaza say.

Jordan's Queen Rania, in an interview for CBS's "Face the Nation," expressed support for U.S. students protesting the Gaza war. She acknowledged that "emotions are running high" at some campus protests but said many people are losing sight of what prompted the protests.

Jordan's queen supports US student protesters

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JASON GOODE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

"Gaza in the last seven months has become unrecognizable," she said. "Cities have turned into a wasteland."

Rania, who is of Palestinian descent, said Hamas "absolutely" does not represent the majority of Palestinians. She acknowledged the rise in antisemitism and said it was wrong for any student to feel unsafe on their campus. But for pro-

testers, the issue is social justice, she said.

"They are standing up for human rights, for international law, for the principles that underpin international law," she said. "They're standing up for the future that they're going to inherit."

What are college protests about?

The student protesters opposed to Israel's military attacks in Gaza say they want their schools to stop funneling endowment money to Israeli companies and other businesses, like weapons manufacturers, that profit from the war in Gaza. In addition to divestment, protesters are calling for a cease-fire, and student governments at some colleges have also passed resolutions in recent weeks calling for an end to academic partnerships with Israel. The protesters also want the U.S. to stop supplying funding and weapons to the war effort.

Contributing: Claire Thornton, USA TODAY; Reuters

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office and started rattling them off there and at home and started setting personal goals to see how many I could do in an hour and then in a couple of hours and it went from there."

Set up in his office at his Biggy Coffee shop on Friday, Solano had a chin up bar in the center of the room and had two video cameras watching his every move, as per instructions by the Guinness Book of World Records. He also had witnesses on hand to monitor his progress, who were scheduled to come in shifts throughout the day. Solano's strategy featured doing five chin ups at a time at a fast pace and then resting for a set amount of time, targeting about 400-500 chin ups an hour.

"I don't think this is crazy at all. We always think big, so when he brought this to my attention, I said, 'Hell yeah, let's go for it,'" said Deanna York, a personal trainer helping in the project. "Doing it in fives is a smart way to do. That way he doesn't burn himself out."

The effort by the 49-year-old, who is

5-foot-7 and 180 pounds, is also a fundraiser for the Calhoun County Red White Blue Foundation, which helps pre-military and post-military personnel. Those interested can donate to the cause at any of the five Biggy Coffee locations in town or at <https://cwrwb.org/>.

"I knew it is a hard goal, but I think it's achievable," Solano said previous to starting. "When I first thought about it, I thought there was no way in hell I was going to do this. It was pretty crazy for my age. But then you set a goal. When most people set goals, they are pretty sure they can achieve them. I put it up on my motivation board. It became a belief and it started to kick in."

"I wanted to do this to put Battle Creek on the map, but also to help veterans at the same time. And maybe I will inspire a few people to do something crazy and stick with it. They can go into it, knowing they can achieve something if they try. You might have to be ready to accept failure as part of the process, but if you keep trying, you can succeed."

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