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WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

705 NORTH ZEEB ROAD 2ND FLOOR
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48103-1560
PHONE: (734) 994-3127 FAX: (734) 994-3129
WEBSITE: WWW.MIWATS.ORG
E-MAIL: WATS@MIWATS.ORG

MINUTES OF MEETING

POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: April 16, 2008

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Scio Township Hall, 827 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Members Present: City of Saline – Gretchen Driskell, Chair
Pittsfield Township – Jim Walter, Vice Chair
Dexter Township/WCPAB – Pat Kelly, Secretary-Treasurer
Ypsilanti Township – Ruth Ann Jamnick
Village of Dexter – Jim Carson
Ann Arbor Township – Mike Moran
AATA – David Nacht
City of Chelsea – Ann Feeney
WCRC – Wes Prater
MDOT Statewide Planning – Pam Boyd

Members Absent: Superior Township – Brenda McKinney
WCBOC – Jessica Ping
Northfield Township – Cindy Wilson
SWWCOG – Ron Mann
Scio Township – Jean King
City of Ann Arbor – Mike Anglin
City of Ypsilanti – Bill Nickels

Others Present: WATS – Terri Blackmore, Ryan Buck, Nick Sapkiewicz
WCRC- Steve Puuri
MDOT – Steve Bower, Kari Andrewes, Paul Lott, Mohammed Alghurabi,
Geri Ayers
SEMCOG – Carmine Palombo
U of M – Dave Miller
Public – Larry Deck, Frank Schwende

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

• CITY OF ANN ARBOR • ANN ARBOR TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY • ANN ARBOR TOWNSHIP • CITY OF CHELSEA • VILLAGE OF DEXTER •
• DEXTER TOWNSHIP • EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY • MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION • NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP • PITTSFIELD TOWNSHIP •
• CITY OF SALINE • SCIO TOWNSHIP • SOUTHWEST WASHTENAW COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS • SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP • UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN •
• WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS • WASHTENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION • CITY OF YPSILANTI • YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP •
• EX OFFICIO: FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION • SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS •

AN INTERMUNICIPALITY COMMITTEE ORGANIZED UNDER ACT 200 OF PUBLIC ACTS OF MICHIGAN (1957)
REPRESENTING WASHTENAW COUNTY

1. Call to Order

Chair Driskell called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. She asked those present to introduce themselves.

2. Public Participation

Chair Driskell asked if any members of the public wished to address the Committee, no one wished to address the Committee, so the public participation time was closed.

3. Approval of the March 19, 2008 Policy Committee Minutes

Ms. Jamnick made a motion to approve the March 19, 2008 Policy Committee minutes. Ms. Feeny supported the motion and the minutes were approved as presented.

4. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore reported that approximately 80 people attended the Transit Town Hall meeting on March 24.

She recommended communities receiving complaints about transportation related issues encourage their residents to contact their legislators to share their complaints about the system and advocate for increased transportation funding and the DriveMI effort.

Ms. Blackmore explained the handouts at each place, which included:

1. Upcoming meetings
2. Michigan Traffic Crash Data and Information
3. February Crashes
4. Update on the AA to Detroit Study
5. Draft 2007 Traffic Crash Report
6. Dexter Area 2008 Construction Projects

5. Approval of Bills over \$500

Ms. Blackmore reported that there were two bills over \$500.

1. \$34,177.39 – LSA Associates for model update
2. \$575 – WTS International

Mr. Prater made a motion to approve the bills over \$500, Mr. Walter supported and the motion passed.

6. Report on WATS Activities

Ms. Blackmore stated that an update on the Ann Arbor to Detroit Rapid Transit Study was at each place.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the WALLY Technical Steering Committee chose RL Banks for the North South Rail Validation study. A cost sharing proposal has been developed between GLCRR, SEMCOG, U of M and local governments in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties. Ms. Blackmore stated that Shea Charles from the City of Howell and herself would serve as co-project managers.

Ms. Blackmore stated that the Asset Management conference was held on April 3 in Lansing. The Asset Management Council will require MPO's to collect data on only 50% of the federal aid system. The Council has requested that the MPO's concentrate on assisting locals with complying with the reporting requirements of Act 51. MDOT has indicated that failure to complete the Asset Management reporting could result in the withholding of MTF dollars.

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS recently completed a review of a City of Ypsilanti Plan Amendment as well as the Salem Township Growth Management Plan Update. She added that a review of the Sylvan Township Comprehensive Plan will be completed this week.

Ms. Blackmore reported Ms. Burleigh is working on the last of the March crashes and waiting on February corrections from the Sheriff. She noted that she attended the Chiefs Association meeting on April 9 to discuss moving the county to electronic crash reporting.

Mr. Buck reported that the WATS model development effort is nearing completion. Initial runs of the model are matching targets relatively well. A fully integrated mode choice model, calibration and training still remain. The project still has nearly 1/3 of the budget remaining.

Ms. Blackmore stated that the Transit Plan has been put into a graphically enhanced version and is at each place.

7. Old Business

A. 2007 Transit Plan for Washtenaw County-- Presentation

Ms. Blackmore gave a presentation highlighting the new Transit Plan, its recommendations and findings. She stated that if communities were interested, she would present a similar presentation for local communities.

8. New Business

A. Presentation on Detroit River International Crossing

Mr. Alghurabi from MDOT gave a presentation on the status of the Detroit River International Crossing. The presentation highlighted the environmental process as well as several alternatives being analyzed to reduce the congestion between Windsor and Detroit. Committee members inquired about the use of rail and the need for expanded rail facilities for freight. Members also questioned the need for both the new crossing and the Ambassador Bridge expansion.

B. STP Urban Program Amendments - Action

Ms. Blackmore reported that the STP Urban program was adopted in September 2007 in anticipation of the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program development. The Federal Aid Urban Committee met on March 27, 2008 to amend the program to accommodate a City of Ypsilanti project that was inadvertently dropped from the program prior to the advance construct payback. She added that the Technical Committee met on April 2, 2008 and amended the program at the request of the City of Ypsilanti. The amended program reinstates Lowell from Huron River to Forest for \$113,200 and removes College Place from Forest to Cross leaving a balance of \$5,700 which was added to the undetermined non-motorized project in order to balance the program.

Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the STP Urban Program Amendments. Ms. Jamnick supported and the motion passed.

C. Third Quarter Financial Statement - Action

Ms. Blackmore reported that the third quarter financial statements were emailed out recently and that if any member did not have a copy that copies were available. Ms. Blackmore stated that the agency is in good financial shape.

Ms. Jamnick made a motion to accept the third quarter financial statement. Ms. Kelly supported and the statement was accepted.

D. Draft 2007 Crash Report – Distribution

Ms. Blackmore noted that the Draft 2007 Crash report was at each place. This year a new section was added showing pedestrian and bicycle crashes separately. Ms. Blackmore asked that comments be submitted to Mr. Bombery no later than noon Wednesday, April 30.

E. Non-motorized Project Priorities – Information

Ms. Blackmore introduced Mr. Larry Deck and Mr. Frank Schwende from the Washtenaw Walking and Biking Coalition.

Mr. Schwende thanked WATS staff for working to inform him and the WBWC about how projects are planned and programmed. He stated that the WBWC will continue its public input process and return to the WATS Technical and Policy Committee with a final recommendation of project priorities.

Mr. Deck displayed a map, which showed the location of the identified priorities. He pointed out that a critical component of the priorities is the completion of the border to border trail as a major thoroughfare for non-motorized travel.

Ms. Driskell thanked Mr. Deck and Mr. Schwende for attending the meeting and their work on prioritizing non-motorized improvements and indicated that they look forward to their continued participation.

9. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

A representative was not present.

B. AATA

Mr. Nacht reported that AATA is in the final stage of interviews for an additional planner position. Mr. Nacht stated that the AATA board would be hosting a strategic planning retreat near the end of May. He also stated that in an informal vote, all 7 AATA board members indicated a desire to change the structure of the authority to cover a larger service area.

C. Ann Arbor Township

Mr. Moran had nothing to report. However, he asked what the status of the Plymouth Road Park and Ride lot was. Ms. Andrewes indicated that the project was moving forward.

D. City of Chelsea

Ms. Feeney reported that the DDA was funding \$150,000 for Park Street resurfacing in front of the Purple Rose Theater. She added that the new commuter bus service between Chelsea and the City of Ann Arbor will commence May 15.

E. Dexter Village

Mr. Carson listed the large number of improvement projects underway in and around the Village and referred to the map of construction projects scheduled for this construction season. He noted that the map was available on the Village's website.

F. Dexter Township

Ms. Kelly had nothing to report.

G. Planning Advisory Board

Ms. Blackmore reported the PAB is about to review the Sylvan Township Comprehensive Plan and recently reviewed a City of Ypsilanti Plan amendment and a Salem Growth Management Plan Update.

H. Eastern Michigan University

A representative was not present.

I. FHWA

A representative was not present.

J. Northfield Township

A representative was not present.

K. Pittsfield Township

Mr. Walter had nothing to report.

L. MDOT Planning

Ms. Boyd reported that while no new jobs today projects are being considered, the last date projects can be advertised has been extended to September 2008. She stated that the Fall TIP amendment was approved. Boyd also stated that the EPA is considering changing Air Quality regulations again which could significantly dilute CMAQ money available to the State and region in the future. Ms. Boyd stated that obligation authority will likely run out in July so it is important to get projects committed as soon as possible.

M. MDOT Region/TSC

Mr. Lott reported that the Access Management Plan and contract are complete and final copies of the plan are being distributed. Ms. Andrewes reported that the multi-modal US-23 workshop had been moved to May 20 at 1:30 at Green Oak Township.

N. City of Saline

Ms. Driskell reported that she and Ms. Blackmore had been working with a group called Communities of Success, which is examining success stories of communities around the world. Ms. Driskell and Ms. Blackmore are looking at successful implementation of transportation policies in cities such as Vancouver where all road investments are multi-modal in nature.

O. SWWCOG

A representative was not present.

P. SEMCOG

Mr. Palombo reported on a variety of multi-modal projects SEMCOG is currently involved with including the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) as well as the prospect of a

new rail crossing and inter-modal freight terminal. Mr. Palombo also discussed the possibility of a light rail line operating along the Woodward corridor.

Q. Scio Township

Mr. Nacht reported that the township has requested a legal opinion on the possibility of funding transit with DDA funds.

R. Superior Township

A representative was not present.

S. University of Michigan

Mr. Miller reported that the University of Michigan has launched a car pool matching program called "Green Ride".

T. County Board of Commissioners

A representative was not present.

U. WCRC

Mr. Prater clarified that the Road Commission is not planning to remove the bike lanes from Ford Blvd in Ypsilanti Township. He stated that the board has decided to convert the road back to four lanes from its current 3-lane configuration.

Mr. Puuri reported that the Carpenter Road project is nearly complete. Work on the Dexter Main Street Bridge should begin within the next several days. Utility work has begun on the Jackson Road Phase II project. Mr. Puuri added that work on the intersection projects at Geddes and Leforge and Geddes and Superior is also beginning soon. Work this summer will be completed on the Harris short span bridge, followed by the Liberty Road Bridge.

V. Ypsilanti Township

Ms. Jamnick had nothing to report.

W. City of Ypsilanti

A representative was not present.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 A.M.