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WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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MINUTES OF MEETING

POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: August 20, 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
Dexter Township/WCPAB – Pat Kelly, Secretary-Treasurer
Village of Dexter – Jim Carson
Ann Arbor Township – Mike Moran
SWWCOG – Ron Mann
City of Ypsilanti – John Gawlas
Ypsilanti Township – Ruth Ann Jamnick
EMU – John Donnegan
WCRC- Steve Puuri
City of Chelsea – Ann Feeney
MDOT Statewide Planning – Paul Lott

Members Absent: City of Ann Arbor – Mike Anglin
Pittsfield Township – Jim Walter, Vice Chair
WCBOC – Jessica Ping
Northfield Township – Cindy Wilson
Scio Township – Jean King
AATA – Jesse Bernstein
U of M – Hank Baier
Superior Township – Brenda McKinney

Others Present: WATS – Terri Blackmore, Ryan Buck, Eric Bombery, Nick Sapkiewicz
WCRC – Roy Townsend
SEMCOG – Joan Weidner, Jennifer Evans, Trevor Brydon
Scio Township Resident – Tom Partridge

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 9:35 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.

Mr. Tom Partridge, resident of Scio Township provided comment to the Committee. He stated that he is a frequent contributor to local government and public agency meetings including the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority and the City of Ann Arbor. He added that he is strongly committed to Democratic progress and the advancement of goals such as access to affordable transportation and affordable education.

Mr. Partridge stated that there is a critical need for information to be available regarding public meetings and to provide that information to citizens needing it the most. Specifically, Mr. Partridge suggested the WATS Committee meetings be televised. He added that WATS should provide call in services to answer questions. Mr. Partridge stated public agencies need to get away from spending money on analysis and reports and work harder to find money to make services available to those that need it most.

3. Approval of the June 18, 2008 Policy Committee Minutes

Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the June 18, 2008 Policy Committee minutes. Ms. Jamnick supported the motion. The minutes were approved as submitted.

4. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore stated that WATS will begin to provide Legislative Updates including bill numbers, sponsors and potential impacts. At each place is a sheet summarizing current bills impacting transportation.

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

1. Upcoming meetings
2. Important Legislation as mentioned above
3. US DOT Brochure "Roundabouts, a Safer Choice"
4. Regional Investment Direction
5. PowerPoint on Regional Transportation Plan
6. Air Quality Impact of Change in Emissions Budgets
7. Ann Arbor to Detroit Update
8. June and July Crashes

5. Approval of Bills over \$500

Ms. Blackmore reported that there were no bills over \$500. She added that the agency is expecting a bill from LSA Associates, however, as of the meeting an updated invoice had not been provided.

6. Report on WATS Activities

Ms. Blackmore stated that discussion of the Ann Arbor to Detroit Rail project has centered on the access to the freight rail lines. Conversations are continuing with Canadian National.

Ms. Blackmore reported that R. L. Banks staff presented study results to both the Washtenaw and Livingston County boards on August 6th and 7th respectively. The final report is available on the WALLY website at www.ewashtenaw.org/wally. Ms. Blackmore added that the next meeting of the Wally Coalition is scheduled for August 25th at the Northfield Township Public Safety Building.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the 2008 Asset Management Data collection is complete. The team collected data on approximately 50% of the federal-aid system. She added that the 2008 charts and table will be updated on the website soon.

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS recently completed a review of an amendment to the City of Ypsilanti Master Plan as well as assisted with drafting the transportation section of the SWWCOG Joint Planning Commission Master Plan. Ms. Blackmore added that staff is currently reviewing the Ann Arbor Township Master Plan.

Ms. Blackmore reported Ms. Burleigh is working on the first week of August crashes and waiting on some corrections from June and July. She added that it doesn't appear as though local law enforcement agencies will be applying for a grant for electronic crash data submission and so a decision will need to be made as to whether or not to continue the WATS correction program next year.

Mr. Buck reported that WATS staff received training on the travel demand forecast model in late July. He stated that the final calibration and validation of the model is underway and that the agency is awaiting the final product as well as final documentation. Mr. Buck stated that the model is operational and asked that anyone who had questions or wished to see the model run see him after the meeting.

Ms. Blackmore reported that she has presented information on the WATS Transit Plan to several regional groups such as the Washtenaw Metro Alliance, the Milan Organization for Regional Excellence, Saline Sustainability Circle, Chelsea Area Planning Team/Dexter Area Regional Team, Saline City Council and Manchester Area Joint Planning Commission. She stated that these presentations were aimed at providing local leaders with an understanding of the concepts in the plan and how it affects each area and what local groups can do to help implement the ideas.

Ms. Blackmore stated a group has been meeting to discuss the preservation of transit service in Eastern Washtenaw County. Meetings are being held at area Chambers of Commerce with attendance by the Downtown Development Authorities and elected officials.. WATS has assisted

this group by providing maps that show the origin of students and staff for EMU, WCC, St. Joseph Hospital and U of M.

Ms. Blackmore reported that in an effort to begin implementing the WATS Transit Plan, staff has been collecting data on other authorities' funding, organizational framework and voting structure. She added that WATS is working with AATA to apply for a public survey on transit funding.

Ms. Blackmore stated that WATS has been involved in developing a Statewide Vision for transit. She stated that a document that outlines needs and the benefits of a statewide system should look like is complete and added that an executive summary, press releases and PowerPoint presentations are under development.

Ms. Blackmore reported that an individual has been hired for the mobility management function for the county. She stated that funding for the position is made available through grants and allocations of Job Access Reverse Commute and New Freedom Funds.

7. Old Business

There was no old business.

8. New Business

A. FY 2008-2009 Work Program Amendment - Action

Ms. Blackmore reported the WATS Unified Work Program for FY 2009 which was approved in March of this year included the biennial audit for FY 2007 and 2008. The Administrative Budget was reviewed and approved in June 2008. The UWP and Administrative Budget both included the audits being completed this year as a 100% local cost totaling \$5,000. The preliminary financial statements indicate that WATS exceeded the federal threshold of \$500,000 for a single audit as required by the Federal Highway Administration for FY 2008. The amendment to the FY 2009 Unified Work Program includes an additional \$5,000 for a single audit for FY 2008 which, while more costly, is an eligible federal expense. WATS will still need to complete a state required audit for FY 2007 before October 1, 2008 as a 100% local expense. Because the audits may need to be completed by different auditors, \$5,000 in the Administrative Budget as a 100% local expense remains to cover the FY 2007 audit.

Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the FY 2008-2009 Work Program Amendment. Mr. Puuri supported, and the motion passed.

B. Air Quality Conformity Update Presentation- Joan Weidner, SEMCOG

Ms. Weidner from the Southeast Michigan Council Governments (SEMCOG) presented the updated air quality standards.

Ms. Weidner explained that there are new air quality standards and budgets for Ozone and Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns (PM_{2.5}) for all non-attainment areas. While in the past the

budgets of pollutants were relatively high compared to the estimated emissions, the new standards leave little extra room. The reduction in budget will likely increase the amount of time necessary to perform conformity analysis.

Ms. Weidner stated that the region is required to demonstrate conformity of both the TIP and LRP to the new emissions budgets and added that any changes to projects involving capacity changes would trigger a new conformity analysis.

Ms. Weidner stated the importance to have amendments submitted in as timely a manner as possible to allow for adequate time to perform the conformity analysis.

C. Asset Manager NT – Presentation, Jennifer Evans, SEMCOG

Ms. Evans from SEMCOG presented new software called Asset Manager NT that will add value to the Regional Transportation Plan. SEMCOG is using the software to gauge the impacts of various funding levels for various types of projects.

Ms. Evans highlighted the fact that at a certain point increasing the amount of funds to a particular type of fix no longer produces a proportionate increase in the quality of the system as it relates to the objectives such as higher pavement ratings or fewer bridges in need of repair.

Ms. Driskell thanked Ms. Evans for the hard work and added that she has been looking for exactly this type of software to evaluate spending and hopes that WATS will be able to incorporate the use of this type of software soon.

Ms. Kelly asked if the key concepts of the presentation could be transferred to smaller areas, such as Townships. Ms. Evans said that while the data available required by the software might be unavailable making it difficult to implement in an area so small, the concepts do apply.

D. STP Rural and TEDF – D Amendments Update – Information

Mr. Bombery reported that the Washtenaw County Road Commission requested administrative changes to both FY 2008 and FY 2009 of the STP Rural and TEDF-D programs at the July 2008 Rural Federal Aid Committee meeting. The changes requested transferred funds between Road Commission projects.

Mr. Bombery explained that the amount of STP-R funds Oakland County paid back to the Washtenaw County Road Commission from the previous year was \$263,000 which increased the amount of available STP-R funds in FY 2008 to \$710,568.

Specifically the changes include a transfer of \$99,408 STP-R in FY 2008 from North Territorial to Milan-Oakville, a transfer of \$109,432 STP-R from Willis FY 2009 to Milan-Oakville, and an increase of Milan-Oakville project from \$1,820,000 to \$1,990,000 using TEDF-D funds in FY 2008 by transferring funds from North Territorial.

Mr. Bombery explained there was no action required on these administrative amendments as they were provided for information for the Committee members.

E. TIP Administrative Amendments Update - Information

Mr. Bombery reported WATS completed 10 administrative changes to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) including request from the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, the Cities of Chelsea and Saline, and the Washtenaw County Road Commission. The administrative changes resulted from changes in the rural surface transportation program, addition of a new transit-funding source, and local funding changes.

Mr. Bombery stated the environmental justice analysis for the projects in the Rural Program was approved when the FY 2008-2011 TIP was approved on March 21, 2007 and subsequent amendments. As there are no new projects or funding sources a new environmental justice analysis was not required.

Mr. Bombery stated that the administrative changes do not require a 30-day public comment period, but WATS posted the changes on the website for public information.

Mr. Bombery explained there was no action required on these administrative amendments as they were provided for information for the Committee members.

9. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

A representative was not present.

B. AATA

A representative was not present.

C. Ann Arbor Township

Mr. Moran reported that Joy Road was improved using Ann Arbor Township funds. He added that an agreement was reached with Northfield Township so that Northfield Township's share of the project would be paid back to Ann Arbor Township over the next five years. He added that the Township has a new Master Plan out for review.

Mr. Moran added that the Township is moving into the litigation process to stop plans for a new shopping center on Plymouth Ann Arbor just outside the City limits. Also the review of plans for the senior assisted living facility at Geddes and Dixboro are moving forward.

D. City of Chelsea

Ms. Feeney reported that the Chelsea road construction projects have progressed very well and they were very pleased with their construction team.

E. Dexter Village

Mr. Carson asked Mr. Townsend to report on the Main Street Bridge during the WCRC report.

F. Dexter Township

Ms. Kelly stated that the road commission was planning a hearing on the Dexter-Pinckney Road Bridge near Portage Lake which will attract much interest.

G. Planning Advisory Board

Ms. Blackmore reported the PAB is having a retreat on Wednesday, August 27 to discuss priorities for the next year. She added that the group is putting together a document on Green Infrastructure. The group is attending the annual planning workshop in October.

H. Eastern Michigan University

A representative was no longer present.

I. FHWA

Mr. Dingman reported that he will be looking more into freight planning across his areas to learn more about what regions are currently doing to include freight in the planning process. Mr. Dingman reported he would be doing several site checks on HPMS data in the county after the meeting with Mr. Sapkiewicz.

J. Northfield Township

A representative was not present.

K. Pittsfield Township

A representative was not present.

L. MDOT Planning

Mr. Lott had nothing specific to report for Statewide Planning.

M. MDOT Region/TSC

Mr. Lott reported that MDOT is still waiting delivery of the Region's Non-motorized maps. He added that construction on MDOT projects would be wrapping up over the next month. Mr. Lott stated that the annual traffic summits will take place in October but that a date had not yet been determined.

N. City of Saline

Ms. Driskell reported that the City of Saline's project on N. Maple is underway.

O. SWWCOG

Mr. Mann reported that SWWCOG has been working on the transportation module of the regional master plan. Mr. Mann also reported that a modified M-52 proposal has been agreed upon that will relocate a portion of the road, thereby saving the historic funeral home.

Ms. Andrewes added that the M-52 project may have more delays because of concerns by the State Historic Preservation Office.

P. SEMCOG

SEMCOG staff has nothing additional to report.

Q. Scio Township

A representative was not present.

R. Superior Township

A representative was not present.

S. University of Michigan

A representative was not present.

T. County Board of Commissioners

A representative was not present.

U. WCRC

Mr. Townsend reported that the roundabout at Geddes and Superior as well as the intersection improvement at Geddes and Leforge is complete. He added major work on the Carpenter Road widening project is also complete. The Holmes project is nearing completion on the east end and will continue on the west. Mr. Townsend added that the Toyota permit project in the

Willis/Platt/Bemis area is around 95% complete but that questions remain as to where the appropriate location for truck restriction to begin. The Road Commission has also begun work on the E. Delhi Bridge in Scio Township. The temporary road for Jackson Road Phase III is done; traffic will be diverted onto that while work under the main line road occurs.

V. Ypsilanti Township

Ms. Jamnick reported that the Township voted to approve an increase in the cost of the road improvement budget and that a meeting will take place to discuss the possibility of paving the portion of Bemis between Hitchingham and Whittaker.

W. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Gawlas had nothing to report.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 A.M.