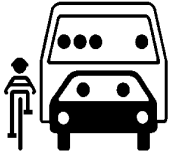


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WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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: December 17, 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
Village of Dexter – Jim Carson
WCRC- Doug Fuller
City of Chelsea – Ann Feeney
SWWCOG – Ron Mann
Scio Township – Thomas Hanson
Ann Arbor Township – Mike Moran
Superior Township – Bill McFarlane
Northfield Township – Cindy Wilson
City of Ann Arbor – Carsten Hohnke

Members Absent: Pittsfield Township – Mandy Grewal
Dexter Township/WCPAB – Pat Kelly, Secretary-Treasurer
City of Ypsilanti – Bill Nickels
MDOT Statewide Planning – Pam Boyd
WCBOC – Jessica Ping
Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo
AATA – Jesse Bernstein
EMU – John Donnegan
U of M – Hank Baier

Others Present: City of Ann Arbor – Wendy Rampson, Tony Derezinski
MDOT – Kari Martin
WATS – Terri Blackmore, Ryan Buck, Eric Bombery, Nick Sapkiewicz
Scio Township Resident – Tom Partridge
Ann Arbor Resident – Andrew Hromadka

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 9:45 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 present from the public wished to address the Committee at that time.

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

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the November 19, 2008 Policy Committee minutes. Mr. Mann supported the motion and the minutes were approved as submitted.

4. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS received letters from Senators Richardville and Brater, thanking the Committee for the communication on the importance of increased funding for transportation. Additionally, Governor Granholm sent a letter to Ms. Driskell thanking her for the letter imploring the State to take action to increase transportation funding.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the Michigan House passed a bill for increased transportation funding but that it did not include provision of local option taxes.

Ms. Driskell reported that she just received a call stating that the Senate would be voting on a package that would increase vehicle registration fees, increase the state gas tax by 9 cents per gallon and sunset after two years. Ms. Driskell urged Committee members to contact their congressional representatives to call for an increase in transportation funding.

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

1. Upcoming meetings
2. Update for the Ann Arbor to Detroit Commuter Rail Project
3. Copy of the letter sent to the Governor and State Legislature calling for increase funding
4. Summary of the Transportation Equity Network's Transportation Authorization Platform

5. Approval of Bills over \$500

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

1. Stanek and Denkhaus, CPAs - \$2850.00 for WATS FY 2007 and FY 2008 audits.
2. Terri Blackmore - \$1,478.31 – LCD projector, blackberry, flexible spending, training, travel and supplies.

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the bills over \$500. Ms. Feeney supported and the motion passed.

6. Report on WATS Activities

Ms. Blackmore stated that the current plan for the Ann Arbor to Detroit rail line is four roundtrips per day which will begin in October 2010. She noted that these trips would be in addition to the existing three roundtrips made by AMTRAK.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the WALLY Coalition met on Monday, December 15 at which time AATA presented the work currently underway to move the project forward. AATA is working to complete the environmental compliance, develop a process chart and the necessary safety plan. Upcoming steps in the process include receiving environmental clearance, initiating the process for station agreements for construction and operations as well as public outreach.

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS is processing this year's Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) data.

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS received a copy of the Lodi Township Master Plan Update and will provide comments to the Planning Advisory Board by January 12.

Ms. Blackmore reported that Ms. Burleigh is working on the last week of November crashes as well as August, September and October corrections. Ms. Blackmore stated that the WATS crash program will be eliminated once the 2008 data has been collected and corrected. The State is now correcting information such as the crash location. Ms. Blackmore also reported that CLEMIS received a grant from the Office of Highway Safety Planning to implement electronic submission and it is anticipated that local agencies will be able to begin submitting crashes electronically beginning no later than October 1, 2009.

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS is compiling the six types of deficiencies in the transportation system as part of the development of the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. Identification of both crash and bridge and congestion deficiencies is complete, work on transit and non-motorized deficiencies is nearly complete, and the identification of pavement deficiencies is underway. Ms. Blackmore added that WATS is waiting for financial projections from SEMCOG and MDOT required to develop projects for the Long Range Plan. WATS will be holding 2035 Plan Public Meetings on January 14th at the Morris Lawrence building at Washtenaw Community College to review goals and objectives. The meetings will be from 2-4pm and from 6-8pm.

Ms. Blackmore stated that the WATS blog has asked for comments on each of the six deficiency types and received approximately 10 comments to date.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the WATS transit plan has been presented at five of the regional planning groups, three City Councils, two Chambers of Commerce and two Township boards. This work is to help communities better understand the plan and its recommendations. Presentations have been scheduled for Superior Township on January 20, the Ypsilanti DDA on January 28 and the Dexter Chamber of Commerce on February 18. WATS has been working to collect data on other examples of transit authority funding and organizational structure and

working with the Chair of the County Board of Commissioners to help advance the implementation of the Countywide Transit Plan.

Ms. Blackmore stated that WATS has been involved in developing a Statewide Vision for transit. She stated that a draft plan and summary will be posted on the WATS website.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the necessary agreements for the Mobility Management position have been signed by MDOT and that the Director and Board are working on a work plan as well as goals and objectives for the first year of service.

7. Old Business

There was no old business.

8. New Business

A. A2D2 – Presentation, Wendy Rampson, City of Ann Arbor

Ms. Rampson from the City of Ann Arbor provided information on Ann Arbor Discovering Downtown (A2D2). The presentation included a brief history of the downtown as well as the adopted policies used to shape the downtown over the last 50 years and proposed policies for managing future growth. The presentation also discussed some of the issues the City is facing now as it continues to grow.

Mr. Moran stated that it seemed as though not requiring parking in new residential developments will only exacerbate the parking problem. Ms. Rampson encouraged all to review the parking study completed for the City of Ann Arbor by Nelson Nygaard.

B. Nomination Committee Report - Action

Ms. Feeney stated that the Nomination Committee met to decide on a recommendation to fill the Vice-Chair vacancy. Ms. Feeney stated that the person would also represent the WATS Policy Committee at Federal Aid Committee meetings.

Ms. Feeney made a motion to name Mr. Carson Vice-Chair of the WATS Policy and to designate Mr. Carson as the Policy Committee representative to the Federal Aid Committees. Mr. Fuller supported and the motion passed.

C. Personnel Committee Report - Action

Ms. Feeney reported that the WATS Personnel Committee met to closely review the agency's accomplishments and staff annual reviews.

Ms. Feeney stated that the Personnel Committee is recommending the Committee accept the Executive Director's recommendation for 2009.

Ms. Blackmore stated that her recommendation was a one step raise for three staff and a half step raise for one staff and a 1.5% cost of living increase for all full time staff.

Ms. Feeney made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Personnel Committee. Mr. Carson supported and the motion passed.

Ms. Driskell thanked the WATS staff for their hard work and stated that in her experience across Michigan, WATS is viewed as a leader in transportation planning.

9. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Hohnke had nothing to report.

B. AATA

A representative was not present.

C. Ann Arbor Township

Mr. Moran stated that the township incorporated comments received from WATS and the PAB on the Township Master Plan.

D. City of Chelsea

Ms. Feeney had nothing to report.

E. Dexter Village

Mr. Carson reported that construction on the Main Street Bridge has ended for the year and will resume in the spring.

F. Dexter Township

A representative was not present.

G. Planning Advisory Board

Ms. Blackmore had nothing to report.

H. Eastern Michigan University

A representative was not present.

I. FHWA

A representative was not present.

J. Northfield Township

Ms. Wilson had nothing to report.

K. Pittsfield Township

A representative was not present.

L. MDOT Planning

A representative was not present

M. MDOT Region/TSC

Ms. Martin encouraged the members present to take copies of the University Region Non-motorized Maps for distribution in their communities.

N. City of Saline

Ms. Driskell reported that the Saline Sustainability Circle will be updating the Regional Plan in 2009.

O. SWWCOG

Mr. Mann reported that SWWCOG continues work on the joint Master Plan.

P. SEMCOG

A representative was not present

Q. Scio Township

Mr. Hansen had nothing to report.

R. Superior Township

Mr. McFarlane reported that the roundabout at Superior and Geddes was working well and that, to date, there has only been one minor crash. He stated that this was truly a superior example of a modern roundabout.

Mr. Hohnke stated that when describing and displaying graphics of modern roundabouts it is critical to show the reduction in the number of potential conflict points.

Mr. McFarlane added that the Michigan Road Builders recognized the Road Commission with an award for the roundabout at Superior and Geddes.

S. University of Michigan

A representative was not present.

T. County Board of Commissioners

A representative was not present.

U. WCRC

Mr. Fuller stated that there has been a lot of confusing information reported on the snow removal policy of the Road Commission. Mr. Fuller took the opportunity to clarify that the Road Commission is, by contract, under the direction of MDOT when it comes to snow removal on State trunk lines.

Mr. McFarlane asked if the road commission would respond if they received calls from emergency responders. Mr. Fuller stated that snow removal would be ordered immediately if a first responder calls in the problem.

Ms. Driskell suggested that WATS send a copy of the Road Commission's snow removal policy to the Committee members.

V. Ypsilanti Township

A representative was not present.

W. City of Ypsilanti

A representative was not present.

10. Adjournment

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