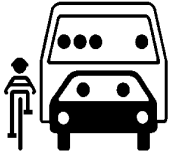


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WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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MINUTES OF MEETING

POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: August 19, 2009

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

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

Members Present: Village of Dexter – Jim Carson, Chair
Dexter Township/WCPAB – Pat Kelly, Vice-Chair
WCRC- Doug Fuller
SWWCOG – Ron Mann
City of Chelsea – Ann Feeny
Pittsfield Township – Mandy Grewal
Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo
AATA – Jesse Bernstein
City of Ann Arbor – Tony Derezinski (for Carsten Hohnke)
WCBC– Wes Prater
City of Saline – Gretchen Driskell
Scio Township – Nancy Hedberg
City of Ypsilanti – Bill Nickels
Superior Township – Bill McFarlane

Members Absent: Northfield Township – Deb Mozurkewich
Ann Arbor Township – Mike Moran
MDOT Statewide Planning – Pam Boyd
EMU – John Donegan
FHWA – Chris Dingman

Others Present: MDOT – Kari Martin, Paul Lott, Jeff Reid, Mark Geib
WATS – Terri Blackmore, Ryan Buck, Eric Bombery, Nick Sapkiewicz
U of M – Dave Miller
WCRC – Roy Townsend
AATA – Michael Ford
SEMCOG – Carmine Palombo

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 Carson called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. He asked those present to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Prater made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Mann supported and the agenda was approved.

3. Public Participation

Chair Carson asked if any members of the public wished to address the Committee. No members of the public present wished to speak and public participation time was closed.

4. Approval of the June 17, 2009 Policy Committee Minutes

Mr. Feeney made a motion to approve the June 17, 2009 Policy Committee minutes. Ms. Kelly supported and the minutes passed.

5. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore discussed the certification requirements for ARRA projects to move forward. She stated that projects must be to the Local Agency Program office no later than December 30, 2009.

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS testified before the Intergovernmental and Regional Affairs Committee yesterday on proposed legislation.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the FHWA approved the City of Milan National Functional Classification changes to add several roads to the list of those eligible for federal funds.

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

1. Upcoming meetings
2. How a project becomes Federalized
3. Proposed legislation
4. Save the Date for Ann Arbor Chamber Impact event (September 30)

6. Approval of Bills over \$500

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

1. Konica Minolta – Printing for 2035 Plan and newsletters
2. First Horizon MSaver – July 13, 2009 \$1,116.68 (791.67 – employer and \$325.00 employees)
3. First Horizon MSaver – August 19, 2009 \$1,116.68 (791.67 – employer and \$325.00 employees)

4. Terri Blackmore - \$515.25 for travel, Blackberry email, postage
5. Eric Bombery - \$748.52 Travel and hotel expenses for Staff at statewide transportation planning conference

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

At this time Chair Carson presented Ms. Driskell with a resolution of appreciation for her work on behalf of the Policy Committee as Chair, Vice-Chair and member at large. Ms. Driskell thanked the Committee for the recognition and stated she was looking forward to continued participation with the WATS Policy Committee.

7. Report on WATS Activities

WATS activities were distributed with the meeting packet.

8. Old Business

A. Federal Funding Policies - Action

Ms. Blackmore stated that the Policy Committee requested a Task Force for Federal Funding Policies in April 2009 to evaluate and recommend a list of policies that would govern eligible costs and the mode split tracking policy.

Ms. Blackmore thanked Task Force members Ron Mann, Mandy Grewal, Jim Carson, Pam Boyd and WATS Technical Committee members Roy Townsend and Homayoon Pirooz for their work on the recommended policies.

Ms. Blackmore stated that the Task Force recommendations were included in the meeting packet.

Mr. Driskell made a motion to approve the Federal Funding Policies Ms. Kelly supported.

Mr. Fuller raised the question of whether or not the two year review period was appropriate to the Committee.

The motion passed with no changes.

5. New Business

A. Bylaws Amendments - Action

Ms. Blackmore stated that a Task Force was also convened to update the WATS bylaws. She stated that Ms. Kelly, Mr. Hohnke and Ms. Feeney served on the Bylaws Task Force. Ms. Blackmore stated that the majority of the recommended changes are to incorporate language which more clearly indicates the intention of the bylaws. The bylaws also add more internal controls for

check authorizations. Additionally, the bylaws recommend adding special interest representation as voting members on the Technical Committee.

Ms. Blackmore indicated that two copies of the bylaws were provided in the meeting packet, one showing the changes in red, the other a clean copy with no mark up.

Ms. Driskell made a motion to adopt the new Bylaws. Mr. Prater supported and the motion passed.

B. MDOT Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Priorities – Action

Mr. Reid from MDOT discussed the priorities that were proposed by the Brighton TSC to the MDOT region for Rehabilitation or Reconstruction as part of MDOT's 2015 internal call for projects. Mr. Reid provided additional detail about the seven proposed improvements.

Ms. Blackmore stated that the list was reviewed by the Technical Committee who reaffirmed the MDOT prioritization of projects.

Mr. Prater stated it was important to ensure new non-motorized facilities meet ADA requirements.

Ms. Stumbo suggested adding Non-motorized improvements to the Huron/I-94 Interchange.

Mr. McFarlane stated that the installation of rumble strips on Ford Road (M-153) has caused complaints at the township. Ms. Driskell suggested MDOT provide materials to local communities about the safety benefits of the center line rumble strips.

Mr. Nickels inquired about warranties in new MDOT contracts. Mr. Reid stated that almost all MDOT contracts going forward have warranties; however, a multitude of factors goes into determining specifics for each contract.

Mr. Prater made a motion to recommend the proposed prioritization to MDOT. Mr. Fuller supported and the motion passed.

C. Year End Financial Statement- Action

Ms. Blackmore reported that the financial statement that went out with the packet represented the end of the 2009 Fiscal Year and that the statements would be audited in 2010 as part of the biennial audit. Ms. Blackmore related the information from the unaudited statement to the Committee.

Ms. Kelly made a motion to accept the Year End Financial Statement. Mr. Bernstein supported and the motion passed.

D. Asset Manager NT - Presentation

Mr. Bombery made a presentation on WATS' use of the Asset Manager NT program to analyze the 2035 Long Range Plan improvements. Mr. Bombery discussed the inputs, outputs and measures for evaluating investments for safety, bridge, non-motorized, transit and pavement improvements. Mr. Bombery indicated that WATS would like to incorporate use of the Asset Manager NT program in future evaluations of projects.

E. 2035 Plan for Washtenaw County

Ms. Blackmore reported that the 2035 Plan for Washtenaw County was distributed and available at each place. She indicated that the plan would be an agenda item at the September meeting for adoption so that federal funds can continue to be spent on transportation improvements. She asked that any comments be directed to WATS so that they may be incorporated in the final printing of the document.

F. Transportation Improvements Program – Information

Mr. Bombery stated that a handout on the differences between the two types of TIP amendments, full amendment and administrative modification, was at each place. Mr. Bombery explained that because the TIP process takes several months to complete, administrative modifications allow small changes without the prior approval of the WATS and SEMCOG committees. Minor changes such as small decreases in funds or a small change in the limits of the project may be eligible as administrative modifications rather than a full amendment. Mr. Bombery stated that the sheet at each place discussed the requirements for each type of amendment in greater detail.

6. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Derezinski reported that the Fuller Road Intermodal Transfer Station project is being researched. He reported the City was looking everywhere they could with the help of WATS, MDOT, and a member of the Governor's staff to find funding for the \$23 Million Stadium Bridges project. Mr. Derezinski added that recommendations for enhancements as part of the Washtenaw Avenue Talent Center project have been well received.

B. AATA

Mr. Bernstein also commented on the exciting possibilities of the Fuller Road Intermodal Transfer Station. He added the fact that this could potentially tie in to the county wide border to border trail was an added benefit.

C. Ann Arbor Township

Mr. Moran was not present.

D. City of Chelsea

Ms. Feeney reported that the bids on City of Chelsea road projects were coming in low.

E. Dexter Village

Mr. Carson reported that the Village will be hosting an Asset Management workshop. He stated that the program has been a success locally for Dexter and encouraged communities to get involved.

F. Dexter Township

Ms. Kelly reported that Hankerd Road has been repaved.

G. Eastern Michigan University

A representative was not present.

H. FHWA

A representative was not present.

I. Northfield Township

A representative was not present.

J. Pittsfield Township

Ms. Grewal had nothing to report.

K. MDOT Planning

A representative was not present.

L. MDOT Region/TSC

The MDOT Region/TSC had nothing to report.

M. City of Saline

Ms. Driskell reported that the City of Saline N. Ann Arbor Street ARRA project would begin soon.

N. SWWCOG

Mr. Mann had nothing to report

O. SEMCOG

Mr. Palombo reported that MDOT is applying for a portion of the ARRA discretionary funds specifically set aside for high speed rail along the Detroit to Chicago corridor. He stated that operating costs for the Detroit to Ann Arbor service still need to be worked out but funding packages are under development and it is still hoped that the service will begin by the end of 2010. Mr. Palombo added that the Governor was taking a train trip tomorrow to bring attention to the importance of rail transportation.

P. Scio Township

Ms. Hedberg reported that the Jackson Road Boulevard Phase III project is moving forward and the Township is anticipating the project be completed in November.

Q. Superior Township

Mr. McFarlane reported that low asphalt prices are increasing the number of improvements being made in Superior Township.

R. University of Michigan

Mr. Miller had nothing to report.

S. County Board of Commissioners

Mr. Prater reported that the County Board is working on a 2011 budget. He stated he hopes a budget is adopted at the board meeting on the second Wednesday in September.

T. WCRC

Mr. Fuller had nothing to report.

U. Ypsilanti Township

Ms. Stumbo reported that the township is meeting with EMU, WCC, City of Ypsilanti, Superior Township and St. Joseph Mercy Hospital to find a way to pay for AATA service in the area. She stated that the AATA has proposed an increase of 10% over the next 3 years.

Ms. Stumbo thanked MDOT for their prompt response addressing graffiti on an MDOT structure in the Township.

V. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Nickels stated that several years ago, MDOT initiated a historical project which included the installation of signs describing the auto industry in southeast Michigan. He reported that several of these signs have been installed in the City of Ypsilanti.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 A.M.