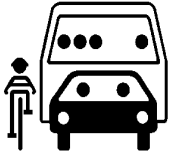


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## WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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### MINUTES OF MEETING

#### POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: June 17, 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, Vice-Chair  
Dexter Township/WCPAB – Pat Kelly, Secretary-Treasurer  
WCRC- Doug Fuller  
SWWCOG – Ron Mann  
City of Chelsea – Ann Feeny  
Pittsfield Township – Mandy Grewal  
Ann Arbor Township – Mike Moran  
WCBC– Wes Prater  
Northfield Township – Deb Mozurkewich  
Scio Township – Nancy Hedberg  
City of Ypsilanti – Bill Nickels  
Superior Township – Bill McFarlane  
City of Ann Arbor – Carsten Hohnke

Members Absent: City of Saline – Gretchen Driskell, Chair  
AATA – Jesse Bernstein  
Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo  
MDOT Statewide Planning – Pam Boyd  
EMU – John Donegan

Others Present: MDOT – Kari Martin, Paul Lott, Larry Dropiewski  
WATS – Terri Blackmore, Ryan Buck, Eric Bombery, Nick Sapkiewicz  
U of M – Dave Miller  
WCRC – Roy Townsend

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#### 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

Vice-Chair Carson called the meeting to order at 9:30 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. Ms. Kelly supported and the agenda was approved.

3. Public Participation

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

4. Approval of the May 20, 2009 Policy Committee Minutes

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the May 20, 2009 Policy Committee minutes. Mr. Mann supported the motion.

Ms. Kelly stated that the Dexter Village report in the May minutes incorrectly reported that the Township approved road improvements on some private subdivision streets. She indicated that the Township did not approve road improvements on any private subdivision streets.

Mr. Carson stated that the election of the Policy Committee officers is for a one year term, not a two year term as indicated in the May minutes.

Mr. McFarlane stated that with several communities having multiple people in attendance that it was becoming difficult to determine who the voting representative for each community. The minutes for the May meeting will reflect Mike Martin as the member because he made a motion. The membership will be clarified prior to the next meeting.

Mr. Carson stated that this issue had been brought to his attention previously and stated that only the one designated voting representative from each community may sit at the table. Additional representatives cannot vote and need to sit in the gallery. Mr. Carson also stated that this information would be repeated at the next meeting since not all members were present.

The minutes were approved as corrected.

Mr. Fuller asked that a new Policy Committee member list be provided at the next meeting.

5. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore discussed agency Communications and Announcements. Ms. Blackmore's notes are distributed at the meeting rather than included in the meeting minutes.

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

1. Upcoming meetings
2. June legislation
3. Policy Committee notes

6. Approval of Bills over \$500

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

1. Northwestern Mutual Insurance - \$1,420.45 – Ryan’s life and disability and Terri’s disability insurance
2. SEMCOG - \$856.87 – for WATS portion of the Asset Manager NT contract
3. Terri Blackmore - \$636.43 for travel, Blackberry email, flexible spending reimbursement

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

7. Report on WATS Activities

Ms. Blackmore discussed the WATS activities information detailed in the Policy Committee notes.

8. Old Business

Ms. Blackmore asked the Committee if it would be worthwhile to have an additional WATS orientation/training session to talk more about what WATS does and the Agency’s responsibilities.

Several members of the Committee stated that they would attend such training.

Ms. Blackmore stated she would send out a request for eligible times and schedule the training in late July or early August.

9. New Business

A. Revised Audit Statement - Action

Ms. Blackmore stated that while reviewing the FY 2008 audit the WATS bookkeeper noticed an inaccuracy overstating the Agency’s revenue. The auditor incorrectly counted a certificate of deposit twice. The error has been rectified but the revised audited financial statements need to be reviewed and accepted by the Policy Committee.

Mr. Fuller made a motion to accept the revised financial statements. Mr. Prater supported and the revised audited financial statements were accepted.

B. Administrative Budget -Action

Ms. Blackmore reported that the FY 2010 WATS Unified Work Program was approved in March with a total budget of \$601,350. Ms. Blackmore stated that the agency is required to adopt an administrative budget and dues structure prior to the start of the fiscal year. Ms. Blackmore stated that for the current budget, no change in dues is proposed because of the unknown costs such as unemployment reimbursement. Ms. Blackmore also mentioned that WATS is changing its employee health insurance benefits to help reduce future health insurance costs by switching to a high deductible health insurance plan. Additionally, Ms. Blackmore indicated that the proposed budget includes a transfer of \$10,435 from reserves.

Mr. Carson indicated that he and Ms. Kelly attended a meeting with WATS staff and the insurance agent. He stated that while health insurance costs were scheduled to increase by 4% for 2009, as a result of the changes, the costs will be approximately 4% lower than last year. Mr. Carson also mentioned that the budget will be looked at again later in the year when more accurate costs are known.

Ms. Kelly stated her appreciation for staff concessions in health insurance benefits and their willingness to work to reduce costs.

Mr. Moran asked if it would be possible to delay the approval of a budget if it is going to be changed. Ms. Blackmore indicated that the Agency was federally required to have an approved budget in order to operate.

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the FY 2010 budget. Mr. Mann supported and the motion passed.

C. Annual Meeting- Action

Ms. Blackmore stated that at each WATS annual meeting, held in June, the Committee must vote on a date and time for the meetings.

Mr. Fuller made a motion to maintain the current meeting schedule, holding meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 9:30 unless cancelled for lack of business. Ms. Hedberg supported and the motion passed.

Vice-Chair Carson asked the Nominating Committee to report on their recommendations for the FY 2010 WATS Policy Committee Officers.

Mr. Nickels reported that the Nominating Committee, comprised of himself, Mr. Prater and Mr. Moran made several phone calls and interviews and came to a unanimous recommendation for the Officers.

Ms. Feeney made a motion to approve the Nominating Committee's recommendation:

Chair – Jim Carson, Village of Dexter

Vice-Chair – Pat Kelly, Dexter Township

Secretary-Treasurer – Carsten Hohnke, City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Fuller supported the motion and the officers were confirmed.

Mr. Prater made a motion to recognize Ms. Driskell with a Certificate of Appreciation for her hard work as Chair of the WATS Policy Committee at the next regular Policy Committee meeting. Ms. Kelly supported and the motion passed.

D. 2035 Long Range Plan - Presentation

Ms. Blackmore stated that the presentation was the same that was being given at 17 locations around Washtenaw County. The presentation includes a description of what will be in the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan, the Plan process, and a description of how the deficiencies were identified. The presentation also shows the number, type and cost of the projects in the funded list, the unfunded list as well as the completed projects from the 2030 LRP.

10. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Hohnke reported that the City Council approved funds to partner with AATA and U of M to explore signature transit along State Street and Plymouth. Mr. Hohnke also reported that the City was moving forward with several non-motorized improvements including installing several new countdown pedestrian signals.

B. AATA

A representative was not present.

C. Ann Arbor Township

Mr. Moran had nothing to report.

D. City of Chelsea

Ms. Feeney complimented the Village of Dexter and the Washtenaw County Road Commission on the new Dexter Main Street Bridge. Ms. Feeney reported that MDOT has relocated the pedestrian call buttons at intersections in Chelsea to more conspicuous locations.

E. Dexter Village

Mr. Carson took the opportunity to mention the progress of the Federal Funding Task Force appointed at the May Policy Committee meeting. He stated that the group has met twice and that a recommendation will be presented at the August meeting.

F. Dexter Township

Ms. Kelly had nothing to report.

G. Eastern Michigan University

A representative was not present.

H. FHWA

A representative was not present.

I. Northfield Township

Ms. Mozurkewich reported that County Parks had put out an RFP for local communities to apply for funding for non-motorized improvements. Ms. Mozurkewich added that she had just completed the first budget and it is ready to be adopted. She added that starting July 4<sup>th</sup>, the Township will have a farmers market.

J. Pittsfield Township

Ms. Grewal had nothing to report.

K. MDOT Planning

A representative was not present.

L. MDOT Region/TSC

Ms. Martin reported that it appears 39 states will meet the first ARRA obligation requirement which means that Michigan may not be getting much at the time of the redistribution of unobligated funds. She added that the first State employee furlough day was June 19<sup>th</sup>.

M. City of Saline

A representative was not present.

N. SWWCOG

Mr. Mann reported that the M-52 project in SWWCOG may be delayed. Mr. Lott indicated that as of the time of the meeting, the project was still programmed.

O. SEMCOG

A representative was not present.

P. Scio Township

Ms. Hedberg reported that the Township is looking into locations where non-motorized travelers will be able to cross the Jackson Phase III project. She stated that while funding was not currently available, the project is being constructed to easily allow the addition of crossings when funding becomes available. She added that the pedestrian signals at the major intersections will include pedestrian call button audio feedback.

Q. Superior Township

Mr. McFarlane reported that AATA has entered into an agreement to provide commuter bus service from Canton Township. He stated the service will start this fall.

R. University of Michigan

Mr. Miller reported that the University is working with the City of Ann Arbor on an intermodal transfer structure proposed near the University Medical Campus.

S. County Board of Commissioners

Mr. Prater reported that the County Board made the first round of budget cuts but that an additional 13 million dollars still needs to be cut. He indicated that following the next round of cuts in July, the County Government will look different.

T. WCRC

Mr. Fuller stated that the State appears unwilling to change rules regarding road funding. The Road Commission is exploring budgetary operations and by October of this year, the cuts necessary from existing programs will be clearer.

Mr. Prater added that at the last Road Commission meeting, the board voted to approve the special assessment districts that were proposed by neighborhood groups. He stated that this was likely going to become more popular and may be the only way in the near future for areas to have local roads repaved.

Mr. Fuller added that Hamburg Township has also used this process and seems to have it worked out.

Mr. Townsend reported that the Platt Road Greenway was bid at about 20% below estimates and that the Plymouth and Gotfredson project bid came in as expected. He indicated that both projects would begin in August. Mr. Townsend added that the Dexter Main Street Bridge was nearly complete. The Milan-Oakville project will commence later this month. Mr.

Townsend reported that the traffic shift to the North side of the Jackson Phase III project may occur as soon as next week and the Plymouth Road Bridge project would start later this month. Mr. Townsend stated that the stimulus money being used for maintenance would include 90 miles of preventative maintenance. He also stated that the E. Delhi Bridge will hopefully be completed in August.

U. Ypsilanti Township

A representative was not present.

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.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 A.M.