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WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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MINUTES OF MEETING

POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: May 20, 2009

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, Vice-Chair
Dexter Township/WCPAB – Pat Kelly, Secretary-Treasurer
WCRC- Doug Fuller
SWWCOG – Jolea Mull
AATA – Jesse Bernstein
City of Chelsea – Ann Feeny
MDOT Statewide Planning – Pam Boyd
Pittsfield Township – Mandy Grewal
WCBC– Wes Prater
Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo
City of Ypsilanti – Bill Nickels
Superior Township – Bill McFarlane
City of Ann Arbor – Carsten Hohnke

Members Absent: Scio Township – Nancy Hedberg
Northfield Township – Deb Mozurkewich
Ann Arbor Township – Mike Moran
EMU – John Donegan

Others Present: MDOT – Kari Martin, Paul Lott, Mark Geib
WATS – Terri Blackmore, Ryan Buck, Eric Bombery, Nick Sapkiewicz
U of M – Dave Miller
WCRC – Steve Puuri
Pittsfield Township – Barb Fuller
Ypsilanti Township – Mike Martin

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

Others present continued:

SEMCOG – Carmine Palombo
Arts Alliance – Tamara Real
Public – Larry Krieg
City of Ann Arbor – Tony Derezinski

1. Call to Order

Chair Driskell called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. She asked those present to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the agenda with additional agenda item H., Nominating Committee. Mike Martin supported and the motion passed.

3. Public Participation

Chair Driskell asked if any members of the public wished to address the Committee. Mr. Krieg addressed the Committee regarding the Draft 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan for Washtenaw County. A copy of Mr. Krieg's Statement is attached to the copy of meeting minutes in the WATS office.

4. Approval of the April 15, 2009 Policy Committee Minutes

Mr. Carson made a motion to approve the April 15, 2009 Policy Committee minutes. Mr. Prater supported the motion and the minutes were approved as submitted.

5. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore discussed agency Communications and Announcements. Upon request of the Committee, Ms. Blackmore's notes are now 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. Policy Committee Notes (Communications and Announcements)
3. SEMCOG - Ann Arbor to Detroit Commuter Rail Update
4. ARRA and ARRA Discretionary funding timeline for non-transit projects
5. 2035 Plan Meeting Flyer
6. Copies of slide from Asset Management Presentation

6. Approval of Bills over \$500

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

1. WCRC - \$2,460.67 to reimburse Washtenaw County Road Commission for 2008 Asset Management data collection
2. Stanek and Company - \$2,400 for three registrations for annual transportation planning conference
3. Terri Blackmore - \$1526.61 for travel, Blackberry, training and flexible spending reimbursement and purchase of 35th Anniversary pens.
4. SEMCOG - \$1,191.05 for WATS portion of Cambridge contract for Asset Manager NT

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

7. Report on WATS Activities

Ms. Blackmore reported that the AATA held a WALLY meeting on April 27 at 10:00 am at the Northfield Township Public Safety Building. At the meeting, AATA introduced the consultants hired to help manage the public side of the project. Ms. Blackmore added that the next meeting will be in June.

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS hosted a meeting for all communities interested in taking part in the group purchase of the traffic counters.

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS is working with the Office of Highway Safety Planning and a consultant in anticipation of a safety summit this fall in Washtenaw County to review the analysis done on several high crash intersections as well as to plan potential safety improvements.

Ms. Blackmore reported that staff is working to assemble notebooks for the public involvement portion of the Long Range Plan. Notebooks will be delivered to all interested local communities as well as libraries.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the Transit Plan for Washtenaw County was presented to the Lyndon and York Township and Northfield Human Services boards. She added that the Ypsilanti Depot Town DDA endorsed the Transit Plan for Washtenaw County in March. Ms. Blackmore added that WATS is managing the Transit Team for the Ann Arbor Regional Success group. Ms. Blackmore and Mr. Jeff Irwin continue to meet with local officials to discuss the Transit Plan.

Ms. Blackmore stated that WATS staff is continuing to work with Representative Marie Donnigan to formulate a Public Transit Task Force to advance public transit throughout the State.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the mobility management call center called Ride Connect is now taking phone calls and helping people coordinate their transit trips. The call center connects transit riders to transit service providers.

8. New Business

A. State Asset Management Data – Presentation, Carmine Palombo

Mr. Palombo reported on the state of the State's Road system. Data has been collected on all federal aid eligible roads and a portion of the local road system over the past five years. The data reveal a trend of deteriorating infrastructure.

The condition of the bridges in the State has improved over the last five years.

Mr. Palombo stressed that there is a high cost associated with doing nothing and that if funding is not increased, the system will rapidly deteriorate further.

B. Approval of Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Prioritized Projects -Action

Mr. Bombery reported that three non-transit and two transit CMAQ project proposals were received following the FY 2010 Call for CMAQ projects. Two non-transit projects were from the Washtenaw County Road Commission: Signal upgrade and interconnect on Packard from Carpenter to Golfside and a signal upgrade and interconnect on Plymouth from Dixboro to Earhart. One non-transit project application was received from the City of Ann Arbor to add turn lanes and add signals to the SCOOT system on Fuller and Maiden and E. Medical Center Drive.

The two transit project applications were received from AATA. One project includes outreach programs, education and marketing towards the use of transportation alternatives and funding of the getDowntown program. The other project is for new bus service to connect the planned commuter rail service.

The non-transit and transit projects are prioritized separately. Mr. Bombery stated that WATS prioritized projects by weighting the combined emission reduction cost per ton of Volatile Organic Compound and Nitrogen Oxide.

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the prioritization of the projects as presented, based on the benefit cost ration. Ms. Grewal supported and the motion passed.

C. Approval of FY 2008-2011 TIP Amendments - Action

Mr. Bombery reported that this was the third opportunity of FY 2009 to amend the FY 2008-2011 TIP. A total of 45 project amendments were received including 31 project additions, 3 changes and 11 deletions. Mr. Bombery stated that the projects being added included ARRA, Build Michigan, CMAQ and Safety funds which are not fiscally constrained by WATS.

Mr. Bombery reported that an Environmental Justice review showed 3 TIP amendments could potentially impact Environmental Justice areas but that the affects will not be negative.

Mr. Carson made a motion to approve the FY 2008-2011 TIP pending the positive outcome of the public comment period. Ms. Kelly supported and the motion passed.

D. Federal Funding Task Force Appointment - Action

Ms. Driskell explained that a Task Force was being formed and charged with making recommendations regarding the eligibility of federal funds to be used for design and environmental phases of a project as well as the acquisition of right-of-way. The Task Force will also make recommendations regarding the implementation of the Agency's target policy of spending 80% of federal funds of roads, 10% on non-motorized improvements and 10% on improvements that support transit.

Ms. Driskell nominated Ms. Boyd, Ms. Grewal, Mr. Roy Townsend, Mr. Carson, Mr. Mann and Mr. Homayoon Pirooz to serve as the Federal Funding Task Force.

Ms. Feeney made a motion to confirm the Task Force appointments. Mr. Fuller supported and the motion passed.

E. Bylaws Task Force Appointment - Action

Ms. Driskell explained that a Task Force was being formed and charged with making recommendations on the Agency bylaws. The Task Force will make recommendations on the addition of special interest representation on the WATS Technical Committee as either voting or non-voting members. Additionally the Task Force will recommend any changes necessary to bring the bylaws in line with laws, requirements or practice that have changed since the bylaws were last updated.

Ms. Driskell nominated Ms. Feeney, Mr. Hohnke and Ms. Kelly to serve as the Bylaws Task Force.

Ms. Boyd made a motion to confirm the Task Force appointments. Mr. Fuller supported and the motion passed.

F. Arts Alliance- Presentation

Ms. Real from the Ann Arbor Arts Alliance gave a presentation on the interrelationships between transportation and the arts. Ms. Real told the Committee that more information on the Arts Alliance could be found at their website at www.a2artsalliance.org

G. FY 2008-2011 TIP Administrative Amendments – Information

Mr. Bombery reported that WATS administratively amends TIP projects as needed. He noted that these changes are minor and are not required to go through the formal Committee process, however, they are provided for information. Mr. Bombery reported that WATS administratively amended 34 projects in the FY 2008-2011 TIP.

H. Nominating Committee Appointment – Action

Ms. Driskell stated that a Nominating Committee needed to be formed to recommend a WATS Policy Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary-Treasurer to serve two-year terms.

Ms. Driskell recommended Mr. Prater, Mr. Moran and Mr. Nickels to serve as the Nominating Committee.

Ms. Kelly made a motion to confirm the Nominating Committee. Mr. Fuller supported and the motion passed.

9. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Derezhinski reported that the City passed its budget and also adopted the Citywide Transportation Plan.

B. AATA

Mr. Bernstein stated that the AATA board has selected a new CEO and that contract negotiations are underway. He also reported on the success of the Pure Michigan travel and tourism advertising campaign.

C. Ann Arbor Township

Mr. Moran had nothing to report.

D. City of Chelsea

Ms. Feeney had nothing to report.

E. Dexter Village

Mr. Carson reported that the Village has completed its draft application for Cityhood and will be submitting it to the State of Michigan after citizen signatures are collected.

F. Dexter Township

Ms. Kelly reported that the Township approved road improvements on some private subdivision streets.

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

Ms. Boyd reported that 192 ARRA projects in the Southeast Michigan Region have been certified by the Governor and are ready for construction. Ms. Boyd also discussed the timeline for both transit and non-transit discretionary funds which will be administered by the Secretary of Transportation. She added that the rules regarding ARRA have changed and for reporting purposes, no line item projects are allowed. Ms. Boyd added that the WATS UWP will be submitted to FHWA within the next week.

Ms. Boyd reported that due to the staffing issues caused by ARRA, MDOT has decided to delay the development of the FY 2011-2014.

Ms. Boyd also announced 6 MDOT furlough days: June 19, July 6, July 24, August 7, August 21, September 4.

L. MDOT Region/TSC

Mr. Geib stated that he has been in his new position as Director of the Brighton TSC office for about a month and that he has enjoyed his time in southeast Michigan.

Mr. Lott distributed MDOT Paving the Way maps.

M. City of Saline

Ms. Driskell reported that the City has begun work on a Non-motorized plan and that the road projects for the year have begun.

N. SWWCOG

Mr. Mann reported that the M-52 project in SWWCOG is on hold but expected to begin construction in 2010.

O. SEMCOG

Mr. Palombo reported that the SEMCOG Executive Committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow. He added that 9 bills have been introduced in the house dealing with transportation

funding. He added that while the team is still anticipating the Ann Arbor to Detroit train to begin service in 2010 there are still operational concerns from Canadian National.

P. Scio Township

A representative was not present.

Q. Superior Township

Mr. McFarlane had nothing to report.

R. University of Michigan

A representative was not present.

S. County Board of Commissioners

Mr. Prater reported that the County Board has a partial list of recommendations for the County budget. He added there is a meeting June 3rd. He stated that there is a 26 million dollar shortfall.

T. WCRC

Mr. Fuller stated that the website www.drivemi.org is a good way to track current legislation regarding the need for increased investment in the State's transportation system.

U. Ypsilanti Township

Ms. Stumbo reported that there is a large company moving to Ypsilanti Township. She added that the Township Parks Commission is working on a non-motorized plan. She also informed the Committee that the General Motors plant in the Township may close.

V. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Nickels reported that the City of Ypsilanti voted to keep their funding levels for AATA constant.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 A.M.