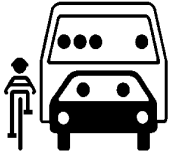


W
A
T
S



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: November 18, 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– Pat Kelly, Vice-Chair
City of Ann Arbor – Tony Derezinski (for Carsten Hohnke)
WCRC- Doug Fuller
City of Chelsea – Jason Lindauer
Pittsfield Township – Mandy Grewal
AATA – Jesse Bernstein
Ann Arbor Township – Mike Moran
MDOT Statewide Planning – Pam Boyd
Northfield Township – Deb Mozurkewich
SWWCOG – Ron Mann
WCBC– Wes Prater
City of Saline – Gretchen Driskell
Scio Township – Nancy Hedberg

Members Absent: University of Michigan – Hank Baier
City of Ypsilanti – Bill Nickels
Superior Township – Bill McFarlane
Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo
EMU – John Donegan

Others Present: WATS – Terri Blackmore, Ryan Buck, Eric Bombery, Nick Sapkiewicz,
Sarah Pressprich
MDOT – Paul Lott
SEMCOG – Carmine Palombo
Resident – Larry Krieg

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 9:33 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

Mr. Larry Krieg of “Wake Up Washtenaw” read a recent post from the blog Wakeup Washtenaw discussing the potential cost savings achievable through increased public transit investment. The entire comment is attached to the copy of the minutes at the WATS office.

4. Approval of the September 16, 2009 Policy Committee Minutes

Mr. Prater made a motion to approve the September 16, 2009 Policy Committee minutes. Ms. Kelly supported and the minutes were approved.

5. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS has two new interns. Ms. Blackmore introduced one of them, Sarah Pressprich to the Committee. Ms. Pressprich has been working on the 2008 Crash Report and helping with transit and pedestrian efforts.

Ms. Blackmore discussed the hand outs at each place:

1. Upcoming meetings
2. 2035 Transportation Plan for Washtenaw County
3. 2035 Transportation Plan brochure
4. What happens if there is no transit expansion in Washtenaw County? -Brochure
5. Washtenaw County needs more Public Transit – Brochure
6. Ann Arbor to Detroit Rapid Transit Update

6. Approval of Bills over \$500

Ms. Blackmore reported that there was one bill over \$500.

She indicated that \$5,200 paid to Parsons Brinckerhoff to study four-to-three lane conversions along Washtenaw/Huron/Jackson. She noted that \$2,600 was reimbursed by the DDA. She also noted that there were two checks to Sarah Pressprich for \$380 and \$364 as she is paid biweekly.

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

7. Old Business

There was no old business.

8. New Business

A. First Quarter FY 2010 Financial Statement- Action

Ms. Blackmore reported that the FY 2010 first quarter expenses were \$97,866 or 16.3 percent of budget. Ms. Blackmore reported that four categories; insurance, training, webhosting, and bookkeeping are slightly above the expected budget. Staff anticipates that these will level out during the year.

The WATS Balance Sheet for September 30, 2009 identifies the WATS total cash assets of \$437,018, receivables of \$120,024 and prepaid accounts of \$7,747. The WATS liabilities and capital are identified in the WATS Balance Sheet as \$22,020 in short-term liabilities, \$58,110 in long-term liabilities and \$484,659 in capital.

Ms. Blackmore reported that dues have been received from all members except Washtenaw County.

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the First Quarter FY 2010 Financial Statement. Ms. Driskell supported and the motion passed.

B. 2010 Employee Contracts

Chair Carson explained that traditionally a compensation committee to review staff contracts is formed in November with a recommendation brought to the Committee in December. He stated that given the state of the economy, the fact that staff has taken an 8.5% pay cut in health benefits, in addition to the 35th Anniversary party to be held at the December Policy Committee that the initial recommendation was to approve contracts at the 2009 levels. He stated that there were two basic options. One option is to approve contracts at 2009 levels and a second would be to form a compensation committee.

Mr. Lindauer asked if the contracts could be approved for the 2010 calendar year and then amended depending on the recommendations of the compensation committee. Mr. Carson stated that that was an option.

Mr. Prater stated that the County is struggling with maintaining employment and that while salaries are going down over the next two years, for the most part the county is looking to do reductions in the form of furlough days.

Mr. Fuller made a motion to extend current staff contracts through January 20, 2010 but to establish a three person compensation committee that would come with recommendations to the January Policy Committee meeting. Ms. Driskell supported and the motion passed.

Chair Carson made a recommendation for Mandy Grewal, Mike Moran and Ron Mann to serve as the compensation to committee.

Mr. Prater made a motion to approve the compensation committee recommendation put forth by the Chair. Ms. Kelly supported and the compensation committee was established with a charge of bringing recommendations on staff contracts for the 2010 calendar year by the January 2010 Policy Committee meeting.

C. 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan - Distributed

Ms. Blackmore reported that the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan was at each place.

D. Update on Reimagining Washtenaw Avenue Project – Presentation – Anya Dale

Ms. Dale gave an updated presentation on the Reimagining Washtenaw Avenue Project. The presentation provided an overview of the project and stakeholders as well as listing out next steps.

Ms. Kelly stated that this project was a good example of why the County Office of Strategic Planning was so important.

E. Prepare list of State needs for MDOT (For December meeting with Jeff Reid)

Ms. Blackmore stated that Jeff Reid, MDOT Region Engineer would be attending the December Policy Committee meeting to receive recommendations from Washtenaw County on what MDOT improvements the Committee/communities would like MDOT to implement as part of their program. Ms Blackmore asked Committee members to send comments to WATS by December 2nd if possible.

9. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Derezinski was no longer present.

B. AATA

Mr. Bernstein reported that many great activities are occurring at the AATA. He stated that the board was about to take action to recommend reorganizing as a PA 196 agency and expand to a countywide authority. Mr. Bernstein said that CEO is doing a fantastic job leading the agency at an exciting time. Mr. Bernstein stated that the Park and Ride lot at US-23 and Plymouth road is nearing completion. Additionally there is the possibility of expanding the getDowntown program countywide.

Mr. Carson stated that as a member of the WAVE board, he is anxious to talk with AATA about cooperating and expanding service in the area.

Mr. Prater asked what model the AATA is looking to employ with a move to countywide service. Mr. Bernstein said that this is very early on in the process and that the AATA will be looking across the country for examples.

Ms. Grewal encouraged the AATA to engage with community leaders across the county to prevent the item from becoming too politicized.

C. Ann Arbor Township

Mr. Moran stated that with the completion of the park and ride lot at Plymouth road someone will need to take responsibility to maintain the area by removing illegally placed signs. Mr. Moran reported that while funding disappeared for the original 280 unit senior assisted living facility at Dixboro and Geddes, a redesigned project is moving forward, this time with about 225 units.

D. City of Chelsea

Mr. Lindauer was no longer present

E. Dexter Village

Mr. Carson had nothing to report.

F. Dexter Township

Ms. Kelly reported that the 8 communities of the Chelsea Area Planning Team and Dexter Area Regional Team (CAPT/DART) are participating in an access plan and are looking to hire an intern to assist with the project.

G. Eastern Michigan University

A representative was not present.

H. FHWA

A representative was not present.

I. Northfield Township

Ms. Mozurkewich had nothing to report.

J. Pittsfield Township

Ms. Grewal reported that Pittsfield Township has initiated its 2010 Master Plan process. The Township has also created a new official website and just released its second edition of the Pittsfield Post, a Township newsletter.

K. MDOT Planning

Ms. Boyd reported that another short term continuing resolution was approved that will allow projects to be obligated up to December 18th. She reported that the rescission had a greater affect on Michigan than previously anticipated because one State had spent all of their money. That State's share of the rescission was paid for by the other states.

Ms. Boyd reported that the MDOT Five year plan was being presented to the State Transportation Commission tomorrow and will soon be available for public comment.

L. MDOT Region/TSC

Mr. Lott reported that the US-23 feasibility study has been finalized. He added that the Committee should consider car pool lots as well when discussing needed improvements with Jeff Reid at the December meeting.

M. City of Saline

Ms. Driskell had nothing to report.

N. SWWCOG

Mr. Mann reported that the area was finishing up work on the joint Master Plan. He added that the M-52 projects in the area may be put on hold because of funding issues.

O. SEMCOG

Mr. Palombo reported that progress continues to be made on the Ann Arbor to Detroit project. Currently the team is looking at options for rolling stock. Three USDOT branches, FRA, FHWA and FTA are trying to determine who will lead this project on the federal side. The team is waiting to hear the status on their application for stimulus dollars.

Mr. Palombo reported that legislation on Regional Transit Authorities will be introduced in Lansing soon.

P. Scio Township

Ms. Hedberg reported that the Jackson Road Boulevard Phase III project continues to move forward.

Q. Superior Township

A representative was not present.

R. University of Michigan

A representative was not present.

S. County Board of Commissioners

Mr. Prater reported that the County Board would hear the first reading of the budget at the meeting tonight.

T. WCRC

Mr. Fuller discussed his handouts regarding activities at the road commission. A copy of the handouts are included with the copy of the minutes at the WATS office.

Mr. Fuller also discussed an issue involving the DEQ and the agencies four month emergency response time before the Road Commission could fix a culvert problem on Warren Road in Ann Arbor Township. Mr. Fuller also reported that the Road Commission will be discussing an additional matching fund program for the townships. Mr. Fuller also reported that the Road Commission has assigned an Engineer to participate in the Pittsfield Township Master Plan process.

U. Ypsilanti Township

A representative was not present.

V. City of Ypsilanti

A representative was not present.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 A.M.