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MINUTES OF MEETING

POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: April 21, 2010

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: WATS Meeting Space, 705 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 –Carsten Hohnke, Secretary-Treasurer
WCRC- Doug Fuller
City of Chelsea – Ann Feeny (for Jason Lindauer)
Pittsfield Township – Barb Fuller (for Mandy Grewal)
Ann Arbor Township – Mike Moran
Northfield Township – Deb Mozurkewich
City of Ypsilanti – Bill Nickels
MDOT Statewide Planning – Pam Boyd
EMU – Leigh Greden
AATA – Jesse Bernstein
Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo
SWWCOG – Ron Mann
University of Michigan – Hank Baier
WCBC– Wes Prater
Superior Township – Bill McFarlane
Scio Township – Nancy Hedberg
SEMCOG – Carmine Palombo

Members Absent: City of Saline – Gretchen Driskell
FHWA – Chris Dingman

Others Present: WATS – Terri Blackmore, Ryan Buck, Nick Sapkiewicz
MDOT – Kari Martin, Paul Lott, Mark Geib
WCRC – Roy Townsend
Opus International – Jeff Bagdade,
MichiVan– Jennifer Schneider, Alexis Vertalka

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 •

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

Chair Carson recommended the Committee change the order of the Agenda to put item H, Consider Supporting Complete Streets Coalition before item G, Hawk Signal Presentation. Mr. Prater made a motion to approve the agenda with the proposed change. Ms. Fuller supported and the Agenda was approved.

3. Public Participation

Chair Carson asked if any members of the public wished to address the Committee. No one wished to address the Committee so public participation was closed.

4. Approval of the February 17, 2010 Policy Committee Minutes

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the February 17, 2010 Policy Committee minutes. Ms. Kelly noted that the minutes were in fact for 2010, not 2009. Ms. Hedberg supported and the minutes were approved

5. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore reported that Congress extended the SAFETEA-LU legislation through December 31, 2010 and reinstated funds from the previous rescission. A slight increase in 2010 funding is expected and WATS will identify projects not yet obligated to add the additional funding, ensuring all dollars are spent locally.

Ms. Blackmore reported that SEMCOG's transit on board survey begins this week with test surveys carried out on AATA and UM buses. The full survey will begin in the fall.

Ms. Blackmore informed the Committee that AATA CEO Michael Ford will be presenting information on County Wide Public Transit at the WATS May Policy Committee meeting on May 19.

6. Approval of Bills over \$500

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

1. Washtenaw County Road Commission - \$4,117.60 – Asset Management Reimbursement

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

7. Old Business

There was no old business.

8. New Business

A. Approval of the WATS FY 2011 Unified Work Program (previously distributed) - Action

Ms. Blackmore reported that the FY 2011 UWP included the anticipated work tasks for the agency throughout FY 2011 and that WATS distributed copies of the UWP at the January 2010 Policy meeting. Ms. Blackmore added that the Policy Committee will approve the administrative budget in June.

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the WATS FY 2011 UWP. Ms. Fuller supported.

Mr. Fuller stated there was no discussion regarding the State Road Corridor in the UWP and recommended adding text regarding the corridor because the Committee voted for funds to be spent on the State Road Corridor. Ms. Blackmore stated that the text could be added administratively since it did not affect the budget.

Mr. Fuller asked Ms. Blackmore to send the added State Road text in an email to the Committee members.

The UWP was approved unanimously.

B. Approval of FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments – Action

Ms. Blackmore reported that this was the third call for amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). She reported the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, Michigan Department of Transportation, and Washtenaw County Road Commission submitted a total of six projects for amendment including five project additions and one change. Ms. Blackmore reported that projects added to the TIP are using federal transit dollars or are grant funded and not fiscally constrained by WATS. She reported one road project and all transit improvements located near Environmental Justice areas will result in a positive Environmental Justice (EJ) impact.

Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the FY 2008-2011 TIP Amendments. Mr. Fuller supported the motion.

Mr. Fuller asked for the source of Other Local Funding listed as part of the match for the WALLY project. Ms. Blackmore stated she could provide that information after confirming.

The motion passed.

C. Approval of FY 2012 Safety Program Prioritization - Action

Mr. Sapkiewicz reported that WATS received two project applications from the Road Commission for consideration of safety funds for 2012. Mr. Sapkiewicz reported that the benefit/cost ratio was slightly higher for the Rawsonville at Martz project than the Carpenter at Packard project and that the Technical Committee recommended the prioritization based on cost/benefit ratio.

The two projects are detailed below.

FY 2012 Safety Projects

Rank	Agency	Location	Safety Deficiency	Proposed Project	Total Cost	Federal Cost	Benefit/Cost ratio (Present)
1	WCRC	Rawsonville at Martz	High number of angle crashes	Install traffic signal and left turn lanes	\$500,000	\$400,000	10.7:1
2	WCRC	Carpenter at Packard	High number of crashes	Install raised medians to direct left turns near intersection	\$60,000	\$50,000	9.2 : 1

Ms. Fuller made a motion to approve the FY 2012 Safety project prioritization. Mr. Fuller supported and the motion passed.

D. Approval of FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvements Program - Action

Ms. Blackmore reported that the new FY 2011-2014 TIP includes 165 improvement items, 56 advanced from the previous TIP and 109 additions. She added that the federal funds were constrained based on estimates provided by MDOT.

Ms. Blackmore reported that 96 improvements had the potential to impact EJ areas but all are expected to impact the area positively. She added that 69 improvements outside the EJ area, are distributed proportionately to those within EJ areas. Ms. Blackmore reported that the approval would be contingent on positive outcome of the public involvement period scheduled to close on April 22.

Ms. Hedberg made a motion to approve the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Mann supported and the motion passed.

E. Approval of Urban Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Plan - Action

Mr. Sapkiewicz reported that the Urban Coordinated Plan identifies transportation deficiencies for target groups as well as strategies to address those deficiencies and prioritize transportation services for funding and implementation. Mr. Sapkiewicz reported that Plan development involved a robust public process to identify needs. Following the public participation meetings, the steering committee met several times to develop the plan. Mr. Sapkiewicz reported that all transit providers who apply for funding under the Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities Program (Section 5310), the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC, Section 5316) and the New Freedom Program (Section 5317) must select improvements from a locally coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan.

Mr. Bernstein made a motion to approve the Urban Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Plan. Ms Fuller supported and the motion passed.

F. Acceptance of the Third Quarter FY 2010 Financial Statements - Action

Ms. Blackmore reported FY 2010 Third Quarter revenues were \$71,155 with total revenues at 53.0 percent of budget. The FY 2010 Third Quarter expenses were \$96,817 with total expenditures at 50.8 percent of budget. Ms. Blackmore reported that expenses for the categories of planning services and administration as well as webhosting, supplies, and licenses and subscriptions are slightly above the expected budget but that Staff anticipates that the supplies, licenses, and subscriptions categories will level out during the remainder of the fiscal year. The cost of webhosting increased this year but staff anticipates that it will be less than 10 percent over the budgeted amount.

Ms. Blackmore reported that a shift in expense categories needs to occur because of unexpected changes in priorities including the delay of the SEMCOG on board transit survey and Ms. Blackmore's participation with a class from the University of Michigan on transportation linkages across the campus.

Mr. Prater made a motion to accept and file the FY 2011 Third Quarter Financial Statements. Mr. Mann supported and the motion passed.

Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the recommended shift in expense categories. Ms. Hedberg supported and the motion passed.

G. Considering Supporting Complete Streets Coalition - Action

Ms. Blackmore stated that there were both State and Federal initiatives looking to produce complete streets language and that WATS has been approached by the Michigan Complete Streets Coalition to join the group. She added that this group was founded in 2009 by the League of Michigan Bicyclists, the Michigan Environmental Council and the American Association of Retired Persons.

Chair Carson stated that the Michigan Municipal League supports the idea but has concerns because there is not enough available funding and complete streets can add to the cost of road reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Ms. Blackmore pointed out that it is important that complete streets be considered in context of the road and that it doesn't make sense to implement on all road corridors.

Ms. Boyd stated that MDOT is reviewing the Policy to ensure agencies are not penalized for not implementing complete streets on all roads.

Mr. Prater stated that he had researched the group and had several concerns with the current language but felt there was valuable information to be gained.

Mr. Hohnke stated that he supported joining the coalition because the professional knowledge the Agency has will help in crafting a better policy.

Mr. Fuller stated that his concerns were how this might affect the development of rural roads.

Ms. Kelly made a motion to have WATS join the Michigan Complete Streets Coalition. Ms. Hedberg supported and the motion passed.

H. Hawk Signal Presentation, Jeff Bagdade - Presentation

Mr. Bagdade presented information on HAWK signals, also called Hybrid Pedestrian Beacons. His presentation highlighted the history of the device, the high compliance yield rate of drivers and its effectiveness in reducing crashes.

A copy of the presentation is available with the meeting minutes in the WATS office.

9. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Hohnke thanked Mr. Palombo for presenting City Council with an update on the Ann Arbor-Detroit Rail project. He added the City is experimenting with porous pavement on Sylvan street. The pavement is reportedly much quieter and better at absorbing snow fall in addition to its storm water benefits.

B. AATA

Mr. Bernstein reported that the AATA board would be moving their meetings to the Downtown Ann Arbor District Library Branch. He added that they would be voting on several contracts at the night's board meeting including a consultant to develop the Long Range Transit Vision.

C. Ann Arbor Township

Mr. Moran reported that MASCO is moving to a new location. Mr. Moran added the Township approved Washtenaw Community College's request to construct a new parking structure.

D. City of Chelsea

Ms. Feeney had nothing to report.

E. Dexter Village

Mr. Carson had nothing to report.

F. Dexter Township

Ms. Kelly reported the Township board approved all of the upcoming Road Commission projects. She thanked the Road Commission for the ongoing work on the Dexter-Pinckney Bridge.

G. Eastern Michigan University

Mr. Greden introduced himself as the new representative from Eastern Michigan University and reported that the University is working to submit a CMAQ application for the intersection of Oakwood and Washtenaw.

H. FHWA

A representative was not present.

I. Northfield Township

Ms. Mozurkewich reported the Township received funding from the Washtenaw County Parks Connecting Communities grant program to construct a path along Barker Road to connect a school with the downtown area.

J. Pittsfield Township

Ms. Fuller reported the Township had an issue on the Platt Road Greenway with heavy trucks driving on it. She added that the Lohr Road Greenway is in the pre-engineering phase because the Township received parks funding. The Township is also undergoing a major water main project in the Washtenaw Heights area. Ms. Fuller added the Township held a Safe Routes 2 School meeting at Carpenter Elementary School.

K. MDOT Planning

Ms. Boyd reported that MDOT is working with local agencies to develop the STIP and that a preliminary list of projects for FY 2011-2014 is available. She added that due to uncertainty in funding, the list may change.

L. MDOT Region/TSC

Ms. Martin reported that MDOT is working with the City of Ann Arbor to install a HAWK signal on Huron at the intersection with Chapin /3rd street this fall. She added that MDOT staff continue to work with Ypsilanti Township and Washtenaw County Public Health officials to evaluate a possible HAWK signal on Michigan Avenue.

M. City of Saline

A representative was not present.

N. SWWCOG

Mr. Mann reported that the Council is excited about the upcoming M-52 improvement. He added that the Joint Master Plan is moving forward and nearly complete.

O. SEMCOG

Mr. Palombo reported that he would soon present to the State Transportation Commission on the 2009 Asset Management results. He stated that despite ARRA, the 2009 data show continued deterioration in the condition of the roads. Mr. Palombo reported that MDOT and SEMCOG are committed to the Ann Arbor-Detroit Rail project and it continues to move forward. He reported the group still hopes to see some event service by the end of the year; In response to a question by Ms. Mozurkewich, Mr. Palombo stated the expected travel time between Ann Arbor and Detroit would be about 50 minutes.

P. Scio Township

Ms. Hedberg reported that the Scio Township Non-motorized committee continues to work on identifying priorities for the Township. She added that the official Jackson Road Phase III opening is scheduled for May 22nd, the same day as the Cruise the Boulevard event.

Q. Superior Township

Mr. McFarlane reported the Township is working with the Road Commission to install a roundabout at Plymouth and Cherry Hill.

R. University of Michigan

Mr. Baier reported that the University would subsidize the fare of University employees commuting on the Ann Arbor-Detroit commuter rail. He reported that President Obama was scheduled to speak at U of M commencement on May 1st.

Mr. Baier added construction would commence shortly on the joint Central Campus Transit Center project with cooperation with AATA and the City of Ann Arbor.

S. County Board of Commissioners

Mr. Prater reported the County finished 2009 in the black following their audit and added the Board is beginning to review the 2011 budget.

T. WCRC

Mr. Fuller stated that many ARRA projects were about to commence including an improvement on N. Territorial. He added the roundabout at Whittaker and Stony Creek had also begun. He reported that upcoming work to fix Willow Road Bridge would take about 3 weeks. Mr. Fuller stated that improvements to crossings over Ford Boulevard and the McGregor channel were planned as is the removal of the Klinger Road Bridge in Lima Township.

U. Ypsilanti Township

Ms. Stumbo reported the Township is working with the Road Commission to use CDBG funds for road improvements. She added that the Township has only one parcel to acquire to complete a several mile stretch of a non-motorized path that would connect the library with the Whittaker Road commercial center.

V. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Nickels reported that the City will pave both Mansfield and College Place this construction season.

10. Adjournment

Ms. Kelly made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mann supported and the meeting was adjourned at 11:20.