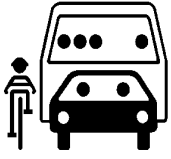


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WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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MINUTES OF MEETING

POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: February 17, 2010

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
WCRC- Doug Fuller
City of Chelsea – Ann Feeny (for Jason Lindauer)
Pittsfield Township – Mandy Grewal
Ann Arbor Township – Mike Moran
Northfield Township – Deb Mozurkewich
City of Ypsilanti – Bill Nickels
MDOT Statewide Planning – Pam Boyd
Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo
University of Michigan – Hank Baier
WCBC– Wes Prater
City of Saline – Gretchen Driskell
Superior Township – Bill McFarlane
Scio Township – Nancy Hedberg

Members Absent: SWWCOG – Ron Mann
City of Ann Arbor –Carsten Hohnke, Secretary-Treasurer
FHWA – Chris Dingman
AATA – Jesse Bernstein
EMU – John Donegan

Others Present: WATS – Terri Blackmore, Ryan Buck, Eric Bombery, Nick Sapkiewicz
MDOT – Kari Martin, Paul Lott, Mark Geib
WCRC – Steve Puuri
SEMCOG – Carmine Palombo
Public – Larry Krieg, Ypsilanti Township

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: Marcus McNamara, City of Ypsilanti

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. 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 January 20, 2010 Policy Committee Minutes

Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the January 20, 2010 Policy Committee minutes as presented. Ms. Hedberg supported and the minutes were approved.

5. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore reported that the new Technical Committee members representing the designated special interest groups were welcomed at the February Technical meeting. She added that they received a short introductory training session prior to the meeting.

6. Approval of Bills over \$500

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

1. Terri Blackmore - \$1,056.93 – for travel, email and supplies for Safety Summit

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

7. WATS Activities

The monthly report on WATS activities was distributed at the meeting.

8. Old Business

There was no old business.

9. New Business

A. Amendment of the Secondary Commercial Network - Action

Mr. Buck described the proposed changes to the Washtenaw County Secondary Commercial network. He stated that both the Road Commission and City of Chelsea proposed additions to the network to make those roads eligible for TEDF D funding. The WATS Technical Committee proposed adding the following segments to the Secondary Commercial Network.

- Old US-12 from Luick to West County Line
- Freer from Old US-12 to Dexter-Chelsea
- Werkner from M-52 to Island Lake
- Dexter-Chelsea from Freer to Dexter-Pinckney
- North Territorial from Whitmore Lake to US-23
- North Territorial from Nollar to Gotfredson
- Gotfredson from North Territorial to M-14
- Willis from US-23 to Rawsonville
- Stony Creek from Saline-Milan to Mooreville
- Mooreville from Stony Creek to Ridge
- Ridge from Mooreville to South County Line

Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the recommended changes to the Secondary Commercial Network. Ms. Grewal supported and the motion passed.

B. Urban Federal Aid Program Amendment - Action

Ms. Blackmore reported that the FAC-Urban Committee met on January 6th to amend and extend the STP Urban funding program through FY 2016.

Ms. Grewal requested that \$50,000 be moved from the Road Commission Preventive Maintenance project in FY 2011 and FY 2012 and moved to State Street Environmental Assessment. Ms. Grewal made a motion to approve the amended Urban program. Ms. Mozurkewicz supported the motion.

Ms. Grewal stated that this was a critical need for the county and a top priority for Pittsfield Township.

Mr. McFarlane stated that with scarce resources, \$100,000 was a lot to spend in one area on a non-construction project.

Ms. Driskell stated that this was a corridor with strong economic development potential but that a more appropriate road cross section and transit availability were needed.

Mr. Fuller stated that the WCRC board discussed this item and supports the funding of the Environmental Assessment.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Rural Federal Aid Program – Action

Ms. Blackmore reported that the FAC-Rural Committee met on January 7th to amend and extend the STP Rural funding program. She reported that the Committee extended program through FY 2014.

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the amended STP Rural Federal Aid Program. Mr. Prater supported and the motion passed.

D. FY 2008 – 2011 TIP Amendments– Action

Mr. Bombery reported that the second call for TIP amendments was issued in December 2009. Mr. Bombery reported that WATS received nine amendments including 6 additions and 3 amendments. Mr. Bombery stated that the new projects are funded by the stimulus and are not fiscally constrained by WATS. Mr. Bombery stated that of the six additions, four were transit projects and had positive impacts on environmental justice areas. He added that the two road projects were not in environmental justice areas.

Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the FY 2008-2011 TIP amendments. Ms. Grewal supported and the motion passed.

E. FY 2010 – 2011 TIP Administrative Amendments– Information

Mr. Bombery reported that WATS received and processed 19 Administrative Amendments to the FY 2008-2011 TIP. The list of administrative amendments was distributed with the meeting packet.

F. Jobs for Main Street Urban List – Action

Mr. Buck reported that the Federal Aid Urban Committee met on February 2 to create a list of projects to be funded should the Jobs for Main Street Act, passed by the House, become law. Mr. Buck stated that if the law is passed the time frame would be very tight because the current draft legislation currently requires 50% of the funding to be under contract within 90 days. The Committee created 3 lists of improvements based on potential approval dates which were presented to the Committee for their review.

Ms. Driskell made a motion to approve the second and third list of Jobs for Main Street projects as the first had already passed its date. Mr. Prater supported and the motion passed.

G. Jobs for Main Street Rural List – Action

Mr. Buck reported that the Federal Aid Rural Committee met on February 2 to create a list of projects to be funded should the Jobs for Main Street Act become law. Mr. Buck stated that eligible rural communities worked to create a list of improvements which could be under contract within 90 days.

Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the list of Jobs for Main Street rural projects. Mr. Prater supported and the motion passed.

H. Resolution of Support for Transportation Funding Bill - Action

Ms. Blackmore reported that a resolution of support had been drafted supporting HB 5768, 5769 and 5770 to maximize the use of transportation funds. Ms. Blackmore explained that the bills would increase the state gas tax, provide diesel parity, eliminate the discount provided for ethanol and biodiesel fuels, change the transfer of MTF funds to the State Department from 20 million to the actual collection costs and eliminate the set aside of one cent of the revenues for repair of State trunk line and local bridges.

Ms. Grewal asked if this resolution could be strengthened by individuals signing the resolution. Mr. Baier expressed concern over his ability to represent U of M individually as opposed to supporting the WATS resolution.

Ms. Blackmore indicated that she would circulate the resolution and those who were able and willing could sign it but that it would need to be done quickly.

Ms. Driskell indicated that education needs to go a long with this and suggested that either Chair Carson or Ms. Blackmore meet with Ann Arbor.com to discuss the issues. Ms. Driskell requested that actual funding lost be cited in the resolution and that it relay that State of Michigan residents taxes would be spent in other states for funding transportation improvements without this increase in State funding.

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the resolution of support as amended. Ms. Kelly supported and the motion passed.

Ms. Stumbo stated that another issue of significance is the need to restore funding from revenue sharing as well as statutory funding and asked Ms. Blackmore to draft a letter discussing this issue.

Ms. Blackmore indicated she would work on a letter but would need assistance from others more familiar with revenue sharing issues.

10. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

A representative was not present.

B. AATA

A representative was not present.

C. Ann Arbor Township

Mr. Moran reported that WCC is currently bussing in two thousand students and staff from other surface lots and will be constructing a new parking garage.

D. City of Chelsea

Ms. Feeny reported that the City would have a reduced transportation program this year.

E. Dexter Village

Mr. Carson reported that the Village continues to pursue Cityhood and has met with the boundaries commission.

F. Dexter Township

Ms. Kelly had nothing to report.

G. Eastern Michigan University

A representative was not present.

H. FHWA

Mr. Dingman reported that the TIGER projects were being announced today and that it does not appear Washtenaw County received any projects.

I. Northfield Township

Ms. Mozurkewich had nothing to report.

J. Pittsfield Township

Ms. Grewal reported that the Township is working on its budget. She added that the Township has received \$140,000 in Energy Community Development Block Grants.

K. MDOT Planning

Ms. Boyd reported that the Final MDOT 5 year Plan is available online. She added that the department has explored a reduced strategy based on the loss of federal funding for which there is no match.

L. MDOT Region/TSC

Mr. Geib discussed some of the public relations issues that have been occurring recently due to the homeless group that has taken up residence in MDOT right of way.

M. City of Saline

Ms. Driskell had nothing to report.

N. SWWCOG

A representative was not present.

O. SEMCOG

Mr. Palombo stated that while work continues to progress on the Ann Arbor to Detroit rail and the group still hopes to see some sort of service by the end of the year, it appears that service will be only for special events. Mr. Palombo also stated that because of the delays with continuing resolutions of the transportation bill that obligation is being held up.

P. Scio Township

Ms. Hedberg had nothing to report.

Q. Superior Township

Mr. McFarlane reported that Superior Township also received an Energy Community Development Block Grant.

R. University of Michigan

Mr. Baier reported that the University would be holding a Transportation Technology Forum on March 10th. Several people have been invited to a full day mass transit discussion but an evening presentation and question and answer session is open to everyone. Mr. Baier added that the North University Transit Center would be voted on by the Regents the following day.

S. County Board of Commissioners

Mr. Prater reported that the County Board has selected Verna McDaniels as the next County Administrator. He added that he is co-sponsoring an initiative with Kristen Judge to put all county checks and statements online.

T. WCRC

Mr. Fuller stated that the Road Commission held a meeting in Dexter Township about the upcoming Dexter-Pinckney Road closure scheduled from March to September. Mr. Fuller also stated that construction of the Stony Creek and Whittaker roundabout would start in April.

U. Ypsilanti Township

The representative was no longer present.

V. City of Ypsilanti

A representative was no longer present.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59