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WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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MINUTES OF MEETING

POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: January 20, 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 –Carsten Hohnke, Secretary-Treasurer
WCRC- Doug Fuller
City of Chelsea – Jason Lindauer
Pittsfield Township – Mandy Grewal
Ann Arbor Township – Mike Moran
Northfield Township – Deb Mozurkewich
SWWCOG – Ron Mann
WCBC– Wes Prater
FHWA – Chris Dingman
City of Saline – Gretchen Driskell
Superior Township – Bill McFarlane
Scio Township – Nancy Hedberg

Members Absent: City of Ypsilanti – Bill Nickels
MDOT Statewide Planning – Pam Boyd
AATA – Jesse Bernstein
Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo
University of Michigan – Hank Baier
EMU – John Donegan

Others Present: WATS – Terri Blackmore, Ryan Buck, Eric Bombery, Nick Sapkiewicz
MDOT – Kari Martin, Mark Geib
WCRC Steve Puuri
Public – 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 9:35 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. Mr. Krieg spoke in favor of approving the resolution of support for the Reimagining Washtenaw project. Mr. Krieg stated that the project will benefit the entire county.

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

Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the December 16, 2009 Policy Committee minutes as presented. Mr. Mann supported and the minutes were approved.

5. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS forwarded the list of improvements the Technical and Policy Committees compiled for MDOT facilities in Washtenaw County to MDOT.

Ms. Blackmore discussed the Jobs for Main Street Bill which was passed by the US House of Representatives in December. She explained that the Bill would provide similar levels of funding as ARRA but the timeline would be even more accelerated with 50% of the money required to be under contract within 90 days.

6. Approval of Bills over \$500

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

1. Accident Fund of Michigan - \$960.00- for Workers Compensation
2. CAN Insurance - \$548 – for Annual Commercial Insurance
3. Terri Blackmore - \$613.00 – for travel, email, 35th Anniversary lunch

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. Staff Contract Recommendation - Action

Mr. Moran discussed the Personnel Committee meeting and recommendation. He reported that Mr. Mann was unable to participate in the meeting and that Mr. Carson agreed to serve on the personnel committee in place of Mr. Mann. Mr. Moran reported that WATS provided information regarding staff contracts as well as salary ranges for similar agencies in Michigan. Mr. Moran stated that the recommendation of the Personnel Committee was to keep staff salaries the same as 2009 which would include a cash payment to offset the four furlough days staff will be required to take due to the closing of the county building.

Ms. Grewal added that the Personnel Committee discussed the ability to retain a young, talented workforce as an important consideration. She added that WATS can assist some of the functions no longer offered by the County with the elimination of the County Office of Strategic Planning.

Mr. Prater stated that he would prefer to see salary reductions and that not increasing salaries might not be seen as adequate by some and questioned whether or not the Personnel Committee's recommendation was in fact not an increase in salary.

Mr. McFarlane stated that he shared the concern of needing to show cuts but that the Personnel Committee seemed to have made reasonable recommendations. Mr. McFarlane offered the possibility of eliminating the cash payment to offset the furlough day as another option to consider.

Ms. Kelly pointed out the significant health benefit reductions staff conceded earlier in the year.

Mr. Fuller stated that upon further review and discussion he felt confident to be able to report that the proposed recommendation was not an increase in salary.

Ms. Mozurkewich stated that WATS has been proactive in cutting costs and done a good job to keep the budget balanced.

Ms. Driskell stated that WATS is looked to as a leader throughout the State of Michigan.

Mr. Carson stated that the Policy Committee's discussion on the topic of salaries was good and added that based on the economy, similar conversations would likely occur next year.

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the Personnel Committee's recommendation to hold 2010 salaries at 2009 levels. Mr. Prater supported the motion.

The motion passed with Mr. Prater opposing.

B. Resolution of Support for Reimagining Washtenaw - Action

Ms. Blackmore discussed the Reimagining Washtenaw project and its importance to the County as a whole. She stated that the project is seeking several grants and that WATS was requested to provide a letter of support. Ms. Blackmore reported that this corridor was the most highly utilized transit corridor in the county yet had a very high level of underdeveloped property.

Ms. Grewal mentioned that this project is the result of a year's worth of extensive work with many stakeholders. She also noted that many other agencies are providing letters of support for this project.

Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the letter of support for the Reimagining Washtenaw project. Ms. Driskell supported and the motion passed.

C. 2008 Traffic Crash Report – Action

Mr. Bombery reported on some of the new items included in the 2008 crash report. Additions to this year's report include information and maps on car-deer crashes, pedestrian and bicycle crashes by community and weather related crashes.

D. FY 2010 – 2011 Unified Work Program – Action

Ms. Blackmore reported that the draft FY 2010-2011 Unified Work Program was at each attendees place. She stated that the UWP identifies the activities that WATS will undertake during the next fiscal year. Due to the lengthy approval process the document needs to be approved by WATS in February so that it can be approved by the Federal Highway Administration prior to the start of the WATS fiscal year on July 1. Also included in the UWP is the agency budget. Ms. Blackmore indicated that this was a draft and should be approved at the next meeting after review by the Policy Committee.

E. FY 2010 Second Quarter Financials – Action

Ms. Blackmore discussed the Agency's unaudited Second Quarter FY2010 Financial Statements. She reported that the Agency was at 34.73% of total expenses and had received 41.94% of budgeted revenue. Ms. Blackmore stated that the categories above 50% of budget for the year were expected to fall in line by the end of the year. Ms. Blackmore reported that the Agency was in good financial shape.

Mr. Prater made a motion to accept the FY2010 Second Quarter Financial Statements. Mr. Mann supported and the motion passed.

10. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Hohnke had nothing to report

B. AATA

A representative was not present.

C. Ann Arbor Township

Mr. Moran reported that the Site plan for a 225 unit senior assisted living facility will be reviewed in March. He also reported that the new Park and Ride lot at Plymouth and US-23 is open and has been temporarily connected with power through agreements with the Township and that the lot will open soon.

D. City of Chelsea

Mr. Lindauer had nothing to report.

E. Dexter Village

Mr. Carson had nothing to report.

F. Dexter Township

Ms. Kelly reported that the township approved a new drainage district but that it cannot move forward through the County Department of Water Resources if more than a third of the properties are delinquent on taxes. Ms. Kelly added that the 8 communities of the Chelsea Area Planning Team and Dexter Area Regional Team (CAPT/DART) have retained 3 unpaid interns as the group moves forward with its Access Plan.

G. Eastern Michigan University

A representative was not present.

H. FHWA

Mr. Dingman reported on the provisions in the House Bill for Jobs for Main Street. Mr. Dingman reported that SAFETEA-LU has been extended through February. He reported that the TIGER grant awards will be announced before February 17.

I. Northfield Township

Ms. Mozurkewich reported that the Township offices have completed their move to the Public Safety building.

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 a scoping meeting had been set up for the US-12 safety project. Staff from Ypsilanti Township and Washtenaw County Health will attend. The meeting will discuss the use of a HAWK crossing light and additional pedestrian amenities.

M. City of Saline

Ms. Driskell had nothing to report.

N. SWWCOG

Mr. Mann reported that the Southwest Washtenaw Council of Governments is waiting to hear what will happen with M-52 in 2010. He added that the Council of Governments is working on the last few chapters of the joint master plan.

O. SEMCOG

A representative was not present.

P. Scio Township

Ms. Hedberg had nothing to report.

Q. Superior Township

Mr. McFarlane reported that Superior Township held a public meeting on a consent judgment following a lawsuit over a rejected community sewer proposal. He added that the Township was able to preserve a number of acres as a result.

R. University of Michigan

A representative was not present.

S. County Board of Commissioners

Mr. Prater reported that the County Board had a working session coming to review the reorganization. Mr. Prater stated that there is currently not enough revenue to support 1,400 county employees.

T. WCRC

Mr. Puuri reviewed the recent Road Commission newsletter. He added that it appears the County will be able to perform additional work using ARRA dollars because of bid savings.

U. Ypsilanti Township

A representative was not present.

V. City of Ypsilanti

A representative was not present.

11. Adjournment

Mr. Prater made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Driskell supported and the meeting was adjourned at 10:54