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MINUTES OF MEETING

POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: June 16, 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 – Jason Lindauer
 Pittsfield Township – Mandy Grewal
 Ann Arbor Township – Mike Moran
 City of Ypsilanti – Bill Nickels
 University of Michigan – Hank Baier
 City of Saline – Gretchen Driskell
 MDOT Statewide Planning – Pam Boyd
 FHWA – Chris Dingman AATA – Jesse Bernstein
 EMU – Leigh Greden
 Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo
 Scio Township – Dick Delong (for Nancy Hedberg)

Members Absent: Northfield Township – Deb Mozurkewich
 Superior Township – Bill McFarlane
 SWWCOG – Ron Mann
 WCBC – Wes Prater

Others Present: WATS – Terri Blackmore, Ryan Buck, Eric Bombery, Nick Sapkiewicz, Sarah Pressprich
 SEMCOG – Carmine Palombo
 MDOT – Kari Martin, Paul Lott, Larry Dropiewski
 MichiVan - Michelle Romano Rockwood

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 9:33 a.m. He asked those present to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the Agenda. Mr. Lindauer 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 May 19, 2010 Policy Committee Minutes

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the May 19, 2010 Policy Committee Minutes. Ms. Grewal supported and the minutes were approved.

5. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore reported that the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) recently published a fascinating report, *Pennywise, Pound Fuelish*, which calculates both the cost of housing and the cost of housing and transportation as a percentage of income. She added that a link to the document was included in the directors report.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the rescission that took place and reduced many transportation funding accounts to zero eliminating “working capital” has been restored to the states.

Ms. Blackmore stated that WATS has worked with the CAPT/DART and Chelsea Area Fire Authority to estimate fire service response time areas. Mr. Buck handed out a copy of a recently produced map for CAFA and asked committee members to contact him if they had any similar requests.

Mr. Fuller asked if the analysis could be done to show the effect of closed bridges. Mr. Buck indicated that was a good example of what the analysis can be used for.

6. Approval of Bills over \$500

There were two bills over \$500.

1. Northwestern Mutual - \$1,384.06 – Disability Insurance – Blackmore
2. Michigan Transportation Planning Association - \$1,170 – Buck, Bombery, Sapkiewicz
Michigan Transportation Planning Annual Conference

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

7. Old Business

There was no old business.

8. New Business

A. FY 2011 Administrative Budget - Action

Ms. Blackmore reported the WATS Policy Committee approved the Unified Work Program for FY 2011 in April with a total budget of \$599,129, slightly less than FY 2010. Ms. Blackmore stated WATS is required to adopt an administrative budget and dues level prior to the start of the fiscal year. For the current Administrative Budget, WATS is proposing dues remain the same, as there are many variable line items. Due to the requirement to pay unemployment as a reimbursement, the budget includes the estimated cost of the WATS obligation at this time with the final cost unknown until WATS receives a bill from the State.

Ms. Blackmore stated WATS also is requesting quotes for the biennial audit that the Agency must fund entirely with local funds.

Since the adoption of the work program in April, Priority Health notified WATS that medical insurance would increase by about 14%. The current budget does anticipate a transfer from reserves of \$10,920. The funds supporting the staff salaries have declined by 3.7 percent since 2008 (\$270,650 in 2008 to \$260,764 in 2010).

Mr. Carson reported that the WATS Officers have been meeting with Ms. Blackmore to discuss the dues issue. He referenced the fact that the Policy Committee has the right to evaluate dues at any time.

Ms. Blackmore added that most funding is based on population and that new information from the 2010 Census would begin to be available at some point in 2011, and that she received confirmation that the City of Milan intends to join WATS

Mr. Fuller acknowledged the issue and recommended the dues be reexamined when new Census information was available.

Ms. Stumbo expressed concern over using approximately \$10,000 from reserves to fund operations.

Mr. Carson stated that money from the unemployment budget item could be reduced by the Policy Committee.

Ms. Blackmore stated that the budget could be amended throughout the year.

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the FY 2011 Administrative Budget. Mr. Lindauer supported and the motion passed.

B. Annual Meeting - Action

1. Report from the Nominating Committee

Mr. Moran reported that Ms. Mozurkewich, Mr. Lindauer and himself, unanimously recommend the current slate of officers: Jim Carson- Chair, Pat Kelly – Vice-Chair, Carsten Hohnke- Secretary-Treasurer, be nominated for a second one year term.

Mr. Moran also stated that it is the unanimous recommendation of the Nominating Committee that the bylaws are amended to provide for two year terms for these offices and that a Committee be established to review bylaw provisions regarding the terms of office and recommend appropriate changes.

2. Election of Officers - Action

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the slate of officers recommended by the Nominating Committee. Ms. Grewal supported and the motion passed.

3. Meeting Day and Time

Ms. Blackmore stated that the meeting has been at 9:30am on the third Wednesday of each month for many years. Several committee members expressed an interest in moving the start time of the meeting up. Ms. Blackmore indicated the time was originally proposed to allow adequate time for state and federal officials to arrive from Lansing.

Ms. Stumbo made a motion to keep the date and time the same, 9:30am on the third Wednesday of each month. Mr. Fuller supported and the motion was approved.

C. WATS bylaws Committee appointments – Jim Carson

Per the Nominating Committees recommendation that the bylaws are amended to provide for two year terms for these offices and that a Committee be established to review bylaw provisions regarding the terms of office and recommend appropriate changes, Mr. Carson recommended Mr. Moran, Ms. Driskell and Mr. Fuller serve on the bylaws Committee. Ms. Boyd stated she has previously worked on bylaws Committees and recommended she serve as an advisor as a representative of MDOT.

Ms. Kelly made a motion that Mr. Moran, Ms. Driskell and Mr. Fuller serve on the bylaws Committee with Ms. Boyd advising. Ms. Grewal supported and the motion passed.

D. FY 2009 and 2010 Audits

Ms. Blackmore stated that bids for the biennial audit were at each person's place.

Jesse Bernstein made a motion to allow Ms. Blackmore to enter into a contract for auditing service. Mr. Fuller supported and the motion passed.

Mr. Carson stated that in addition to the bylaws discussions, Ms. Blackmore is recommending a series of additions to the WATS personnel policies. He stated that those proposed changes would likely be brought to the Committee in August.

E. Commuter Challenge Presentation – Nancy Shore, getDowntown

Ms. Shore presented information on the success of the getDowntown program's Commuter Challenge, which took place during May. The presentation included information about how many alternative commutes were made and their effect on the environment. A copy of the presentation is available with the minutes in the WATS office.

9. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Hohnke had nothing to report.

B. AATA

Mr. Bernstein reported that the AATA has two new board members, Anya Dale and Roger Kerson. He added TheRide is working on the Ann Arbor Connector study as well as examining service and needs between Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. He added that the Blake Transit Center will be rebuilt and that, beginning in July, the AATA would hold its board meetings at the downtown Ann Arbor District Library on the Third Thursday of each month.

C. Ann Arbor Township

Mr. Moran had nothing to report.

D. City of Chelsea

Reported that the Western Washtenaw Area Value Express, began the free Community Ride shuttle service thanks to a partnership with the United Methodist Retirement Communities.

E. Dexter Village

Mr. Carson had nothing to report.

F. Dexter Township

Ms. Kelly had nothing to report.

G. Eastern Michigan University

Mr. Greden had nothing to report.

H. FHWA

Mr. Dingman clarified that currently there is no ARRA II, and that there was no indication the Jobs for Main Street Bill would be picked up by the house. He stated that TIGER II is real and funded and information can be found on the US DOT website.

I. Northfield Township

A representative was not present.

J. Pittsfield Township

Ms. Grewal had nothing to report.

K. MDOT Planning

Ms. Boyd stated that Local Agency Programs is requesting agencies submit all FY2010 projects by June 25th and transit projects by June 30th. She reminded the Committee that funding of SAFETA-LU was extended through the end of the 2010 calendar year but that funding levels after January 1, 2011 remain unclear. Ms. Boyd added that Susan Berquist would temporarily be administering the Heritage Route program.

Ms. Boyd added that the Grand Rapids and Flint TMAs will be undergoing a certification review and that certification review items will include maintaining availability of up to date information online, including required consultation in TIP development.

L. MDOT Region/TSC

Mr. Dropiewski reported that the southbound N. Territorial on ramp to US-23 was now open. He added that the rest area on US-23 would be open at the end of July. He also reported that work on the Geddes Road roundabout continues and that the work on I-94 from Parker Rd. to the County line was nearly complete.

Ms. Martin reported that MDOT continues to work with the City of Ann Arbor on a HAWK signal on Huron at Chapin and 3rd. She added that the signal could be installed as early as September.

M. City of Saline

Ms. Driskell had nothing to report.

N. SWWCOG

A representative was not present.

O. SEMCOG

Mr. Palombo reported that the next General Assembly meeting would be at the Detroit Institute of Art. He added that the Ann Arbor to Detroit project team is looking at two event rides later this year including the Thanksgiving Day parade and possibly the "Big Chill" hockey game to be played at Michigan Stadium in December.

P. Scio Township

Mr. Delong had nothing to report.

Q. Superior Township

A representative was not present.

R. University of Michigan

Mr. Baier reported that work continues on the Central Campus Transit Center. He stated that work crews unintentionally broke underground gas lines which carried gas for the old gas street lights. Mr. Baier added that design work on Fuller Road Station continues.

S. County Board of Commissioners

A representative was not present.

T. WCRC

Mr. Fuller distributed copies of maps which showed the various projects being undertaken by the road commission this construction season. Mr. Fuller discussed the joint project with the City of Ypsilanti on Mansfield and the roundabout at Huron and Whittaker which had initial delays but is now moving forward. He added that three more local bridges had been closed.

U. Ypsilanti Township

Ms. Stumbo had nothing to report.

V. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Nickels had nothing to report.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:55am.