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WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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MINUTES OF MEETING

POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: May 19, 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
City of Saline – Gretchen Driskell
AATA – Jesse Bernstein
Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo
SWWCOG – Ron Mann
WCBC – Wes Prater
Scio Township – Nancy Hedberg

Members Absent: Northfield Township – Deb Mozurkewich
Superior Township – Bill McFarlane
MDOT Statewide Planning – Pam Boyd
EMU – Leigh Greden
University of Michigan – Hank Baier
SEMCOG – Carmine Palombo
FHWA – Chris Dingman

Others Present: WATS – Terri Blackmore, Ryan Buck, Eric Bombery, Nick Sapkiewicz
AATA – Michael Ford, Mary Stasiak
City of Ann Arbor – Tony Derezinski
MDOT – Kari Martin, Paul Lott

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

WCRC – Steve Puuri
Ypsilanti Township – Joe Lawson
MichiVan – Jennifer Schneider

1. Call to Order

Chair Carson called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. He asked those present to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Chair Carson asked if there were any changes to the agenda. No changes were requested 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 April 21, 2010 Policy Committee Minutes

Mr. Mann made a motion to approve the April 21, 2010 Policy Committee Minutes. Mr. Fuller supported and the minutes were approved.

5. Communications and Announcements

Chair Carson recommended Committee members review a recently published report from the Center for Neighborhood Technology which discusses the cost of housing and housing and transportation as a percentage of income.

Chair Carson reported that the recently signed HIRE Act will allow the FY 2011 CMAQ program to be fully funded.

Chair Carson reported that the FY 2010 Appropriations Act has a TIGER II provision of \$600 Million which will be administered similarly to the TIGER program but with a set aside for rural areas and will provide funding through September 30, 2012.

6. Approval of Bills over \$500

Mr. Carson indicated that there were no bills over \$500.

7. Old Business

There was no old business.

8. New Business

A. Approval of FY 2012 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program Prioritization - Action

Mr. Sapkiewicz reported that WATS received four applications, two non-transit proposals from the City of Ann Arbor and the City of Ypsilanti and two transit proposals from the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority for FY 2011 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality funding. He reported that WATS, SEMCOG, and MDOT prioritized the projects by weighting the combined emission reduction cost per ton of Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) and NO_x.

The transit projects included outreach and education funding and the purchase of ten clean diesel buses. The outreach and education had a higher cost benefit ratio.

The two non-transit applications were the addition of turn lanes at Oakwood and Washtenaw and the installation of a roundabout at the intersection of Fuller, Maiden Lane and E. Medical Center. The Oakwood and Washtenaw turning lanes had a higher cost benefit ratio.

Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the project prioritization of the Technical Committee based on the cost benefit ratio. Mr. Lindauer supported and the motion passed.

B. Appointment of Nominating Committee - Information

Chair Carson reported the WATS Bylaws dictate a Nominating Committee be appointed to recommend a slate of Officers for the WATS Board at the Committee's annual meeting in June. Chair Carson reported that he has appointed Mr. Moran to Chair the Nominating Committee with Mr. Lindauer and Ms. Mozurkewich as members.

The Nominating Committee will report back to the Committee in June with a recommendation for Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary-Treasurer.

C. Creating a Public Transit Vision for Washtenaw County - Presentation

Mr. Bernstein introduced Michael Ford, CEO of The Ride (AATA) and the process for developing the AATA Public Transit Vision. Mr. Bernstein indicated AATA is looking to cover three main points; what AATA does and does not do; educating the public on the impact of public transit on land use and economic development; and developing of a vision of public transit for the next 30 years.

Mr. Ford presented a PowerPoint that included information on the types of transit possible and their effect on the landscape; the process for plan development; and the need for public input.

Several comments encouraged Mr. Ford to stress the concepts of people aging in place, the competition for funding and the importance of public transit on economic development.

A copy of Mr. Ford's presentation is attached to the Policy Committee minutes at the WATS office.

9. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Hohnke stated that two new AATA board members would be confirmed soon including Anya Dale.

B. AATA

Mr. Ford thanked the committee and encouraged them to participate throughout the process and to contact him with any questions or concerns.

C. Ann Arbor Township

Mr. Moran reported that the Township has a ditching project on Maple Road. He added that most of the road work this year would be ditching rather than road improvements. He stated that Barton Hills contributed some of their Act 51 dollars this year to help with road drainage.

D. City of Chelsea

Mr. Lindauer had nothing to report.

E. Dexter Village

Mr. Carson reported that the Village's summer maintenance program would begin soon.

F. Dexter Township

Ms. Kelly reported the Township has two major projects this summer with the Dexter-Pinckney Bridge closed as well as work on N. Territorial.

G. Eastern Michigan University

A representative was not present.

H. FHWA

A representative was not present.

I. Northfield Township

A representative was not present.

J. Pittsfield Township

Ms. Grewal stated the Township held a meeting on the Lohr Road Greenway project the previous night. She added that the Township Roads Committee is meeting with both urban and rural areas of the Township. She added the Township is interested in collecting data on users and investigating a way to predict the use of new non-motorized facilities.

K. MDOT Planning

A representative was not present.

L. MDOT Region/TSC

Ms. Martin reported that MDOIT continues work on I-94. She added the beams were set for the Geddes interchange project and the south bound on-ramp remains closed. She added that the south bound N. Territorial on-ramp will remain closed while under construction until June 4th. Ms. Martin reported that the M-52 project has started.

M. City of Saline

Ms. Driskell reported that the City making improvements to Willis Road including bike lanes.

N. SWWCOG

Mr. Mann reported that the M-52 project has finally started but there are a lot of concerns over traffic.

O. SEMCOG

A representative was not present.

P. Scio Township

Ms. Hedberg reported that Scio Township participated with the Road Commission to match drainage funds. She reminded the committee that the Jackson Road Cruise was the following weekend.

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 Board is in need of people from the private sector willing to serve as appointees on several Committees.

T. WCRC

Mr. Puuri reported that construction of the Whittaker and Stony Creek roundabout project had begun. He reported that the Dexter-Pinckney Bridge is closed while under construction. He reported the Road Commission would be repairing about 130 miles of road using ARRA funds for preventive maintenance. He reported that later this year a signal would be added at the intersection of Rawsonville and Bemis as well as intersection improvements at Carpenter and Willis. He added that some of the paving joints had failed on Jackson Road and that crews would be fixing those joints soon. Other planned projects include curve correction and safety improvements for Pleasant Lake and Sharon Hollow.

U. Ypsilanti Township

Ms. Stumbo reported that Ford Motor Company received \$9 million in tax abatements to invest in its Rawsonville Plant in Ypsilanti Township. She added that the Township would be spending about \$300,000 on road improvements this year.

V. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Nickels reported that the City officials voted to add a .9 mill for transportation on the ballot. He added that the vote was 7-0 in favor of the ballot question for transportation investment.

10. Adjournment

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