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WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

705 NORTH ZEEB ROAD 2ND FLOOR
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NOTICE OF MEETING

WATS POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, November 16, 2011

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: WATS meeting space – 705 N Zeeb, 2nd Floor – Access through WATS

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order / Introductions
2. Changes/Approval of Agenda
3. Public Participation
4. Approval of Minutes – October 19, 2011 WATS Policy Committee (attached) – Action
5. Communications and Announcements
6. Approval of Bills over \$500
7. Old Business
 - A. MPO Exploration Committee Update (adopted minutes attached) – Information
8. New Business
 - A. State Road Commission Transportation Needs (Presentation) Steve Puuri - Information
 - B. State Funding Options (Presentation) Representative Rick Olson (attached)– Action
 - C. GetDowntown (Presentation) Nancy Shore – Information
 - D. Complete Streets Plan (Plan and Toolkit Copies available at meeting upon request or at links below) – Information
http://www.miwats.org/WATS/leftside/completestreets/plan/Draft_Complete_Streets_Plan_November_1.pdf
http://www.miwats.org/WATS/leftside/completestreets/plan/CS_Toolkit_PDF.pdf

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

• CITY OF ANN ARBOR • ANN ARBOR DDA • ANN ARBOR TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY • ANN ARBOR TOWNSHIP •
• CITY OF CHELSEA • VILLAGE OF DEXTER • DEXTER TOWNSHIP • EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY •
• MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION • CITY OF MILAN • 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

9. Agency Reports

FHWA
City of Milan
MDOT Planning
MDOTTSC/Region
Pittsfield Township
Northfield Township
City of Saline
SEMCOG

SWWCOG
Scio Township
Superior Township
U of M
WCBC
WCRC
City of Ypsilanti
Ypsilanti Township

City of Ann Arbor
Ann Arbor DDA
AATA
Ann Arbor Twp
City of Chelsea
Village of Dexter
Dexter Township
EMU

10. Adjournment



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MINUTES OF MEETING

POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: October 19, 2011

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 Milan – Mike Armitage, Secretary-Treasurer
 WCRC – Doug Fuller
 WCBOC – Yousef Rabhi
 Ann Arbor Township – Mike Moran
 City of Ann Arbor – Tony Derezinski
 City of Ann Arbor DDA – John Mouat
 Pittsfield Township – Barb Fuller (for Mandy Grewal)
 Superior Township – Bill McFarlane
 City of Ypsilanti – Peter Murdock
 MDOT Statewide Planning – Kari Martin (for Pam Boyd)
 Scio Township – Nancy Hedberg

Members Absent: University of Michigan – Hank Baier
 City of Chelsea - Jason Lindauer
 AATA – Jesse Bernstein
 SWWCOG – Ron Mann
 City of Saline – Gretchen Driskell
 EMU – Leigh Greden
 Northfield Township – Deb Mozurkewich
 Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo

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Others Present: WATS – Terri Blackmore, Ryan Buck, Eric Bombery, Nick Sapkiewicz
MDOT Brighton TSC – Mark Sweeney
AATA – Chris White
VPSI – Michelle Romano Rockwood
WCRC – Steve Puuri
SEMCOG – Carmine Palombo
AnnArbor.com – Lisa Allmendinger
Ann Arbor Chronicle – Dave Askins

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. Mouat supported and the Policy Committee approved the agenda.

3. Public Participation

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

4. Approval of the August 17th Policy Committee Minutes

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the August 17, 2011 Policy Committee Minutes. Ms. Hedberg supported and the Committee approved the minutes.

5. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS received a communication from the Washtenaw County Administrator indicating that she has recommended that WATS receive \$20,000 in dues for both 2012 and 2013.

Ms. Blackmore reported the Michigan Association of Planning has drafted proposed legislation and a white paper for combining the regional planning laws into a single Regional Councils Act. This would entail reevaluating the existing regions, spelling out the state role and the governor's responsibility. The Governor could adjust existing regions after study and the state would have to fund any state-mandated services provided by the regions. The proposed law requires preparation of a regional framework plan addressing land uses specified and all infrastructures including transportation. Ms. Blackmore stated the proposed legislation also includes a provision to encourage consistency between local government master plans and regional plans.

Ms. Blackmore indicated all 2012 federal discretionary funding calls will occur at the same time in November with awards announced in summer 2012.

Representative Olson is making a presentation on his recommendation for road and bridge needs and will be seeking comments from the Policy Committee.

6. Approval of Bills over \$500

Payment of Bills over \$500

1. \$1,178.95 – Terri Blackmore, Travel, email, Toyota equipment
2. \$2,478.75 – LSA Associates, Model update contract
3. \$855.00 – Brian Rakovitis, Toyota Intern

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

7. Old Business

A. MPO Exploration Committee Update - Information

Mr. Rabhi provided the Committee an update on the MPO Committee's progress. Mr. Rabhi stated that the Committee met in September to discuss a variety of issues facing WATS and SEMCOG.

Mr. Rabhi stated the Committee will make its recommendation based on the factual information it is compiling.

Mr. McFarlane asked what the timeline was for a decision and that he would like to see the meeting minutes.

Ms. Blackmore indicated she would provide the minutes to the Policy Committee following action by the MPO Exploration Committee. Ms. Blackmore reported that Ms. Grewal provided written comments supporting a continued relationship with SEMCOG.

Mr. Rabhi explained that there is no time limit and that the Committee is seeking more information at this time to make a more informed recommendation to the WATS Policy Committee.

Ms. Kelly commented that no one on the Committee is swayed either direction at this point and the Committee is looking for more information.

Mr. Murdock asked that information be provided to the Policy Committee as it is gathered.

Chair Carson stated that Policy Committee updates on this process would continue.

8. New Business

A. FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments- Action

Mr. Bombery reported WATS issued the first call for FY 2012 amendments to the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) program on August 23, 2011 and received 14 amendments. The Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, City of Ypsilanti, Western-Washtenaw Area Value Express, and the Washtenaw County Road Commission submitted projects for amendment including ten additions, one deletion, and three changes.

Mr. Bombery reported WATS performed fiscal constraint and an Environmental Justice review on the proposed amendments.

Mr. Bombery stated that the Technical Committee did not have a quorum at its last meeting; however, the members present recommended Policy Committee approval of the project amendments.

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments. Mr. Rabhi supported and the motion passed.

B. FY 2012 Unified Work Program Amendment – Action

Ms. Blackmore informed the Committee that a proposed UWP amendment would take effect as part of the work program beginning in July of 2011. Ms. Blackmore reported that AATA received additional grant funding that needed to be included in the FY 2013 UWP.

Ms. White reported that the grant money was for alternatives analysis for the Ann Arbor Connector Study following a feasibility analysis in 2011. Mr. White noted that the City of Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan are also partners in this effort.

Ms. Blackmore indicated that the contributions by the City of Ann Arbor and University of Michigan would be marked as “Other Local Funds”.

Mr. Moran made a motion to approve the FY 2012 Unified Work Program Amendments. Mr. Fuller supported and the motion passed.

C. 2010 Crash Report – Action

Mr. Bombery reported that the 2010 Crash Report was available at each place.

Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the 2010 Crash Report. Mr. Fuller supported the motion.

Mr. Fuller asked what “No Deer” in the Deer Related Crash Table meant.

Mr. Bombery stated that the format of the data was related to the Statewide Crash Database. He clarified that “No Deer” meant crashes that did not involve a deer. Mr. Fuller made a recommendation to clarify the title of the map.

The Committee approved the 2010 Crash Report.

D. Complete Streets Policies – Action

Mr. Buck reported that the Complete Streets Steering Committee developed four Complete Streets Policies for inclusion in the upcoming Complete Streets Plan for Washtenaw County. Mr. Buck stated that the Draft Complete Streets Plan for Washtenaw County will be released in early November. He also noted that the Technical Committee reviewed the policies and recommended Policy Committee approval.

Ms. Hedberg made a motion to approve the four Complete Streets Policies. Mr. Fuller supported and the Committee approved the policies.

E. FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Plan Administrative Modifications – Information

Mr. Bombery reported that WATS made five administrative modifications to the FY 2011-2014 TIP and are providing them as an information item. Mr. Bombery stated that the administrative modifications are included in the meeting packet.

F. FY 2011 Year End and FY 2012 First Quarter Financials - Action

Ms. Blackmore reported that FY 2011 Fourth Quarter revenues totaled 77.05% of budget and Fourth Quarter expenses totaled 72% of budget. Ms. Blackmore stated the unaudited Agency revenues exceeded expenses by \$29,440 due to collecting more dues than budgeted, more interest than expected and obtaining federal SPR funds matched by the State and grant funding administered by Washtenaw County Public Health for the Complete Streets work.

Ms. Blackmore reported that FY 2012 First Quarter revenues totaled 26% of budget and First Quarter expenditures totaled 18% of budget. Ms. Blackmore stated the only financial concern is the \$204,797 in accounts receivable (PL 112, SPR, 5303, and State funds) that flow through SEMCOG. She stated this includes accounts receivable from as early as April 2011 to date. Ms. Blackmore reported this delay will require WATS to take funds out of investments to pay expenses beginning in November.

Ms. Kelly made a motion to accept the financial reports. Mr. Moran supported and the motion passed.

9. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Dereziński reported that the city met with MDOT to discuss issues surrounding the Stadium Bridges project. Mr. Dereziński stated that construction would begin after the Michigan vs. Ohio State football game. Mr. Dereziński also reported that City Council held a work session to hear results of the Ann Arbor Connector study feasibility study. Mr. Dereziński noted that the Planning Commission approved a site plan for Arbor Hills Crossing on Washtenaw near Platt and Huron Parkway.

B. City of Ann Arbor DDA

Mr. Mouat reported that Nancy Shore from the getDowntown! Program will present information at the next WATS Policy Committee meeting.

C. AATA

Mr. White had nothing to report.

D. Ann Arbor Township

Mr. Moran reported that a recent resurfacing job on Pontiac Trail went well. He also reported the Township recently purchased a new “Jaws of Life” unit and speed trailer.

E. City of Chelsea

A representative was not present.

F. Dexter Village

Mr. Carson reported that work continues on several non-motorized projects in the Dexter Village area.

G. Dexter Township

Ms. Kelly reported that the Township was experiencing a high number of deer crashes. She reported that the Township passed a new Master Plan and the area’s Act 7 agreement.

H. Eastern Michigan University

Ms. Blackmore reported that Mr. Greden provided a written notice that Eastern Michigan University is hosting an Elicit Discharge Training at a cost of \$85. The deadline to register is October 21.

I. FHWA

A representative was not present.

J. City of Milan

Mr. Armitage reported the city is working on a non-motorized plan, which will ultimately provide connections to the existing Washtenaw County non-motorized system. Mr. Armitage reported that work has begun on a major subdivision infrastructure project to replace sewers and roads.

K. Northfield Township

A representative was not present.

L. Pittsfield Township

Ms. Fuller had nothing to report.

M. MDOT Planning

A representative was not present

N. MDOT Region/TSC

Ms. Martin reported that MDOT would host the annual Maintaining Traffic Summit on December 2 at the Washtenaw County Road Commission.

Mr. Sweeney reported work on M-52 is 95% complete. Mr. Sweeney reported weekend lane closures are expected on M-14 but not during home football games.

O. City of Saline

Ms. Driskell had nothing to report.

P. SWWCOG

A representative was not present.

Q. SEMCOG

Mr. Palombo reported that the Ann Arbor to Detroit service will need an Environmental Assessment, not a full Environmental Impact Statement to being service. Mr. Palombo noted that FHWA would commence the SEMCOG federal certification process in January. Mr. Palombo reported the Michigan Association of Planning is proposing a new Regional Councils Act. Mr. Palombo stated the proposed legislation would require

all 14 existing Regions to reconstitute, create uniform requirements, and add the ability to tax. Mr. Palombo stated that the Michigan Association of Regions voted to oppose the legislation and that the Michigan Transportation Planning Association members had significant concerns.

R. Scio Township

Ms. Hedberg reported that the township board approved money for planning of a Zeeb Road non-motorized path.

S. Superior Township

Mr. McFarlane reported that Hyundai was expanding their facilities in Superior Township but that more money is needed to fund a sufficient power connection.

T. University of Michigan

A representative was not present.

U. County Board of Commissioners

Mr. Rabhi reported that the current budget proposal includes WATS dues. He stated that the county is evaluating its membership in SEMCOG and asked SEMCOG to provide an analysis of the service it provides Washtenaw County.

V. WCRC

Mr. Fuller reported a resident attended a recent WCRC Board meeting to thank the road commission for the 4-3 lane conversion on Ford Road. Mr. Fuller added that the Road Commission opened two closed bridges in Lima Township and one in Sharon. Mr. Fuller also reported the budget will be voted on in December.

Mr. Puuri reported that over the past 5 years the road commission CIP is down 5.5 million dollars.

W. Ypsilanti Township

A representative was not present.

X. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Murdock reported the City of Ypsilanti approved a park and ride lot for AATA at the Ypsilanti Transit Center. Mr. Murdock reported that City Manager Ed Koryzno is leaving his position at the city.

10. Adjournment

Chair Carson adjourned the meeting at 11:17 A.M.



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MINUTES OF MEETING

MPO EXPLORATION COMMITTEE

DATE: September 22, 2011

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: WATS Meeting Space, 705 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Members Present: Village of Dexter – Jim Carson, Policy Committee Chair
 Dexter Township– Pat Kelly, Policy Committee Vice-Chair
 WCRC – Doug Fuller
 WCBOC – Yousef Rabhi
 City of Saline – Gretchen Driskell
 City of Ann Arbor – Tony Derezinski
 Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo
 WATS Technical Committee Chair – Eli Cooper
 AATA – Chris White

Others Present: WATS – Terri Blackmore
 WCRC – Steve Puuri

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Chair Carson called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. He thanked those attending for agreeing to participate on the MPO Exploration Committee. He asked those present to introduce themselves.

2. Election of Chair

Mr. Carson made a motion to elect Yousef Rabhi as chair of the MPO Exploration Committee. Ms. Driskell supported the motion and it passed. Mr. Carson turned the meeting over to Mr. Rabhi.

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3. Background

Mr. Rabhi asked Ms. Blackmore to review the background provided to the MPO Exploration Committee. Ms. Blackmore summarized the communications and meetings that WATS Officers and staff held with FHWA, MDOT, and SEMCOG during a two-year period to resolve issues. She explained the difference between Regional Planning Agencies (RPA) and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) process, which is the method of meeting federal requirements to spend federal transportation funds. WATS distributed a map depicting the planning regions in the State and the MPO's or transportation planning area's in the State. She indicated that she was in favor of regional planning and that SEMCOG provides much that is important to the planning process.

Ms. Stumbo asked why the County had not renewed its membership in SEMCOG. Mr. Rabhi clarified that the County had not taken action on the budget that does not include the SEMCOG dues and that the County is considering dropping its SEMCOG membership, which is not related to the MPO question. Mr. Carson indicated that he also felt that the MPO question was not related to the County's SEMCOG membership but that was why WATS initiated the meeting with the County Commissioners. Ms. Kelly added that the County reconsidering their membership just brought this question up again. There was considerable discussion about whether the local communities could join if the County did not. The committee also discussed the value the communities receive for their dues.

Ms. Blackmore noted that the updating of the Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) that are currently under review also initiated the MPO Exploration. Ms. Blackmore explained that there are two MOUs that govern the planning process and WATS and AATA had reviewed one that referenced a second. She indicated that she had not received the second MOU. Mr. White indicated that he had received both MOUs on Monday and he would forward them. Mr. Derezinski requested that WATS send the MOUs to the Committee once WATS receives them.

Ms. Blackmore also noted that agency reimbursements are delayed due to the MPO funding funneling through SEMCOG and it takes up to six months to be paid. Mr. Carson asked about the size of bills and Ms. Blackmore indicated that a typical month is about \$30,000 and the year-end invoice is about \$60,000. Ms. Stumbo asked if this issue had been discussed with SEMCOG. Ms. Blackmore indicated that it had, and that it had improved from previous wait times with SEMCOG instituting electronic transfer of payments. Mr. Fuller stated that he felt that the retirement of MDOT staff would not make it better.

Mr. White asked about the background summary that states that SEMCOG agreed to incorporate the WATS plan and then did not and he wondered what the ramifications were and what happened. Ms. Blackmore stated that more meetings were held and after the WATS Technical Committee voted to request SEMCOG incorporate the projects, they were incorporated.

Mr. Fuller requested that SEMCOG provide a similar background document to explain why the planning process is not occurring as expected. Ms. Kelly explained SEMCOG's previous position was that SEMCOG held a discussion to agree on a process, it was a majority decision, and WATS did not agree with the outcome. Ms. Driskell agreed that a summary from SEMCOG is appropriate and that in order to report to the full Policy Committee, the MPO Exploration committee must report that they thoroughly examined all of the issues.

Mr. Rabhi outlined the rest of the agenda. Mr. Fuller requested that WATS provide SEMCOG the summary provided to the Committee. Mr. Carson reminded the Committee that the resources (SEMCOG, FHWA and MDOT) could be invited to the Committee in the future.

Mr. Derezhinski asked to go back to the experience in other regions. Many regions have more than one MPO. He requested a summary from the other regions on whether the timing of the process works better, if so why. Mr. Derezhinski asked if the process works better because there is more than one MPO per region or because they are better regions. Mr. Derezhinski stated the Committee may want to pressure SEMCOG to be a better more responsive region.

Mr. Cooper indicated that there are a number of questions the Committee needs answered including the costs to the agency, benefits or burdens financially, advantages, and disadvantages for the process. Ms. Blackmore also let the Committee know that the Work Program amendments also take an extensive time to get approval. Mr. White indicated that it took seven months for the last UWP amendment. Ms. Blackmore noted that the process is not very nimble, responsive, or helpful to the Technical members who are trying to be responsive to changing local priorities. Ms. Kelly asked if it was possible to quantify the cost of the delay. Ms. Blackmore informed the Committee that WATS and SEMCOG each receive a separate allocation of PL112 planning funds. Ms. Kelly asked whether it was possible to say unequivocally that it was not a financial concern.

Mr. Fuller noted that the Road Commission experienced the additional step as part of the ARRA funding process. In looking at separating the TIP process from SEMCOG, it is counterintuitive from the regional planning. SEMCOG as an MPO has a huge amount of funding flowing through it and we would be removing the possibility of ever getting those funds. Ms. Blackmore indicated that there was still the possibility of getting funds at the State level. There is a question of whether the Ann Arbor Urbanized area CMAQ funds. Mr. White indicated that the AATA received more than the area might have in the early years.

4. Address List of Issues

Mr. Rabhi indicated that he felt the Committee had moved to the list of Issues from SEMCOG and MDOT. Mr. Rabhi asked Ms. Blackmore to address the federal trends identified in the MDOT letter. Ms. Blackmore indicated that there are many trends that

are identified before each reauthorization, there has been talk that they will be eliminating the federal funding categories and use block grants, that there will be a 30 percent reduction in federal funds, in addition to many others, and this is probably no more likely than the other talked about changes.

Ms. Driskell responded that there is a movement to create bigger planning areas. Ms. Blackmore reminded the Committee that prior to the 2000 census there was a similar recommendation to larger areas and after the 2000 Census, the Census Bureau formed the South Lyon Brighton, and Howell urbanized area without a central city of 50,000.

Mr. Rabhi asked what would happen to WATS if the federal government moves to larger planning areas. Ms. Blackmore responded that WATS would still be large enough to exist and would likely look at including the Jackson MPO. She noted that the email to Carmine that elicited the SEMCOG and MDOT letters was in response to his comment to Jackson that they could join the Ann Arbor MPO. She noted that Jackson discussed that possibility at their Committee meeting.

Mr. Cooper indicated that there is a lot in the letters that could be illuminated with numbers, such as requirements for air quality modeling where costs can be determined individually for SEMCOG and WATS. Can we do a better job at the planning process or if we cannot what is the cost. As a Technical Committee member, he would like to see the cost.

He noted that WATS does a more detailed job of planning than SEMCOG. WATS uses more detailed information that is not needed in Macomb or Oakland, and it works for them but not for Washtenaw County. He noted that SEMCOG has drawn a line by not incorporating the plan. He suggested the cost information is material as is the delay real in terms of cost. Mr. Cooper asked if the statement that there is more money available being part of the region true. There must be data on this. He continued, there is a difference between the MPO function of facilitating federal funding and the roles and responsibility. If the regional trend does happen, SEMCOG would be in the largest and WATS would be in the next tier. The Committee needs to know if the area is getting their fair share of the funding. Is the process costing us or benefitting the area.

Ms. Kelly asked the Committee to put together a list of quantitative data and whom should provide it. How do we measure the time delays; how do we measure the better job of planning; and the loss through the filtering by SEMCOG. Mr. Carson stated the Committee needs to know what it costs due to the time delays, do we lose funds, delay projects. Mr. White indicated that sometimes the delays are due to a bad job of planning ahead.

Ms. Driskell asked how Washtenaw County can remain a planning partner if we separate. Do we have to be a member? Ms. Blackmore responded that she does not think so because they would still be the region. Ms. Driskell asked if any areas outside the region are planning partners. Genesee and Lenawee both have a relationship with SEMCOG due to air quality. Ms. Blackmore noted that WATS has the ability to run the air quality

and it does not take additional staff but it will take staff time. She continued that WATS would want to have a regional relationship for the Small Area Forecast data through a relationship or contract.

Mr. Derezinski asked if we form a relationship with Jackson then do we no longer have a relationship with the region to the east. Is the future better as part of the west or east? Ms. Blackmore responded that she does not see it as an either or situation.

Mr. Carson noted that the WAVE talks about connecting with Jackson because the western Washtenaw area residents do business in the west.

Ms. Blackmore reminded the Committee that Washtenaw, Livingston, and Monroe are in a separate MDOT region. She noted that she has been encouraging AATA to reach out to Western Wayne Communities, the Lenawee County communities, and Jackson.

5. Next Steps

Mr. Cooper suggested that the Committee follow the money and examine what has been allocated to WATS for all federal funding. Mr. Cooper asked if WATS received their fair share during the past 7-year bill. Mr. Fuller suggested that the Technical staff and Roy Townsend work with Ms. Blackmore to determine what should be provided to the Committee. Mr. Rabhi indicated that there are two items; Did the area get its fair share of the funding in the past and what is the cost of staying in SEMCOG. Ms Kelly reminded the Committee that the money is important but so is planning. Mr. White reported that the Technical committee brought up the public involvement process. He noted that the Washtenaw County public is more involved and WATS approves projects and the Long Range Plan does not include the bridge and transit projects. Ms. Kelly asked if SEMCOG is too large to be effective. Mr. White stated that SEMCOG is too big for public involvement. Ms. Blackmore indicated that the way SEMCOG manages the TIP it has become an accounting document for everything except widening projects by using line items with dollars and year of expenditure.

Mr. Cooper stated that in Seattle and Minneapolis their programs fall under Metropolitan or State planning law and conduct real planning. SEMCOG does not do a good job of planning because they are too large and Michigan is a home rule state. They just collect what locals do. Ms. Kelly asked why good does that umbrella do for us and should we be a part of that large of an area if it does not do anything to benefit us. Being under the umbrella is only important if you are looking at SE Michigan competing against regions.

Mr. Derezinski noted that there is a book called Caught in the Middle that describes regions that will be successful and reinvent themselves. In Michigan, the only two regions mentioned are Grand Rapids and Southeast Michigan. He also notes that the area of influence in SE Michigan is near Ann Arbor where there is innovation.

Ms. Blackmore noted that Washtenaw County is given as an example of what SEMCOG should do for some planning requirements at the Certification meetings. Mr. Carson noted that SEMCOG has suggested that WATS not do so much.

Ms. Driskell indicated that she is concerned that if we separate, that Washtenaw County will not influence the region. SEMCOG will continue to plan their way and will not plan better without Washtenaw County as the squeaky wheel. At the end of the day, Washtenaw County needs to do what is best for Washtenaw. If Washtenaw County separates, WATS won't be able to change what SEMCOG does. Ms Driskell noted that she supports collecting the facts and indicated that she appreciated Mr. Cooper's suggestion.

Ms. Kelly noted that she agrees with Ms. Driskell but asked what are the impediments and why can't we get them to change because WATS has been working on it for two years. Ms. Driskell responded that it is a policy issue and needs to go to the Executive Committee or Board of Officers.

Ms. Driskell suggested that the Policy Committee go to the Board with the facts and information about efforts made with staff. The SEMCOG executive committee needs to be as informed as possible because they need to vote to let Washtenaw separate.

Mr. Derezinski indicated two points are in front of the Committee, first as Mr. Cooper suggested, at the end of the day, WATS needs to do what is best for Washtenaw County. But that is a question of timing, it is a short and long-term time frame issue. The long-range outcome may be different from the short-term outcome.

Mr. White reminded the Committee that the first item in the MDOT letter states that members representing 75 percent of the voting membership must approve the request for WATS to separate. Mr. White asked if it is realistic to think that SEMCOG might vote us out?

Ms. Kelly noted that it is important to collect the data and in the end, we should try to convince SEMCOG to be better.

Mr. Cooper reminded the Policy Committee members that it is important that they be active not only at WATS but also at SEMCOG. Because the other counties in the region don't assert their leadership so SEMCOG staff continues to drive the agenda.

Mr. Rabhi agreed with Mr. Cooper. He noted that part is "what can the Washtenaw County elected leaders do to assert their position" and part is the interpersonal aspect because typically he is the only attendee. The current composition of county commissioners is not very interested in SEMCOG. If we are part of SEMCOG, we need to be involved and engaged. He noted that there has been pushback, and even if all of the County commissioners talked with SEMCOG that they would not listen.

Ms. Driskell noted that she is frustrated and feels the new SEMCOG Chair does not fully understand the value of transit. She added that SEMCOG staff is trying to promote transit with initiatives such as the Transit Task Force that was stopped because there is no Regional Transit Authority. She noted that personally she has tried to talk with staff and been unsuccessful. At the end of the day, the County not supporting SEMCOG is debilitating. She noted that we need a quantitative analysis and then need to talk with the elected peers and maybe at the end of the day, they may not care.

The other issue is that the process requires the governor's signature. Mr. Rabhi asked we should request a letter from the Governor to find out his position. Ms. Driskell reminded the Committee that they were a subcommittee and that would require action from the entire Policy Committee. The Policy Committee does not have a formal position. Mr. Derezinski suggested that it could be done informally. Ms. Driskell repeated the Committee needs to collect more facts and develop a case. Ms. Kelly indicated that the group also needs to record the Committee's thoughts both long term and short term and articulate a position.

Mr. Derezinski reminded the Committee that the Governor only has a small amount of time to devote to this concern and the Committee needs to be certain about what it is asking for before contacting them. Mr. Carson agreed that we need the information and only go to SEMCOG when we know what we want.

Mr. Fuller asked if the questions could be answered by the next meeting under the leadership of Mr. Cooper.

Mr. Rabhi indicated that some of the information is available, with the costs of staying in SEMCOG, have we received our fair share of funding. What period is needed? Ms. Blackmore indicated that at least a month. Mr. Cooper suggested that next month maybe too soon to bring in SEMCOG or MDOT. At the next meeting, the staff provides the suggested policy questions that need answering. He also asked that Ms. Blackmore contact SEMCOG to find out the Board and Officers selection process.

Mr. Rabhi asked if the group could set a meeting. After discussion, the meeting was set for October 20 at 9:00 am.

Mr. White reminded Ms. Blackmore that the MOU needs to be completed for SEMCOG to fulfill the federal requirements. Ms. Blackmore noted that WATS needs to ensure that the Washtenaw County plan is incorporated into the Regional Transportation Plan.

Mr. Fuller moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Rabhi supported the motion and adjourned the meeting at 10:50 am.



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MEMORANDUM

To: Policy Committee
 From: Terri Blackmore, Executive Director
 Date: November 4, 2011
 Re: State Transportation Funding Options Presentation

Background

WATS hosted its first Legislative Day in June 2011 with many state Representatives and Congressional staff members attending. The WATS Policy Committee, and Technical Committee member present, provided comments and insights on local priorities to those in attendance.

On October 26, 2011, Governor Snyder rolled out his transportation message providing insight into the transportation revenue enhancements options under consideration. The two primary options identified were changing the gas tax collection from retail to wholesale and the use of increased vehicle registration fees at both the State and local levels. As part of his message, he also requested a public dialogue that provided preferred options for increased infrastructure investment.

Representative Rick Olson will be presenting additional information at the Policy Committee meeting and will be expecting recommendations from local elected officials on funding options the State should pursue.

Action

The Policy Committee should come with ideas for transportation revenue enhancements at the State and local level.

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- CITY OF ANN ARBOR • ANN ARBOR DDA • ANN ARBOR TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY • ANN ARBOR TOWNSHIP • CITY OF CHELSEA • VILLAGE OF DEXTER • DEXTER TOWNSHIP • EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY • MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION • CITY OF MILAN • 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**



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MEMORANDUM

To: Policy Committee
From: Ryan Buck
Date: November 4, 2011
Re: Complete Streets Draft Documents

Background

In January 2011, WATS initiated development of the Complete Streets Plan for Washtenaw County. At the October meeting, the Policy Committee adopted the four complete streets policies. In addition to the Plan, WATS also developed a Complete Streets Toolbox, a Checklist, and model ordinance for local agencies use.

WATS compiled a draft document of both the Complete Streets Plan and the accompanying Toolkit. Both documents are available for the Committee's review on the Agency website and WATS will provide copies at the November 16 meeting upon request.

Plan: http://www.miwats.org/WATS/leftside/completestreets/plan/Draft_Complete_Streets_Plan_November_1.pdf

Toolkit: http://www.miwats.org/WATS/leftside/completestreets/plan/CS_Toolkit_PDF.pdf

Comments on the draft are due by December 16 to buckr@miwats.org. Approval of the final document will be at the December meeting. If you have any questions, please contact the WATS office.

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