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MINUTES OF MEETING

TECHNICAL ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: August 6, 2008

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: 705 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Members Present: University of Michigan – Dave Miller
AATA – Chris White
City of Ann Arbor Engineering – Homayoon Pirooz
City of Ann Arbor Planning – Eli Cooper
Village of Dexter – Rhett Gronewelt
Eastern Michigan University – Chris Grant (for Dieter Otto)
MDOT Planning – Ola Williams
Pittsfield Township – Bruce Fowler
City of Saline – Jeff Fordice (for Gary Roubal)
Washtenaw County Planning & Environment – Brett Lenart
Washtenaw County Road Commission Engineering – Sheryl Siddall (for Roy Townsend)
City of Ypsilanti DPW – Stan Kirton
SEMCOG – Jeff Tumidanski,
MDOT – Larry Dropiewski (for Kari Andrewes)

Members Absent: Ypsilanti Township – Dave Nicholson, 2nd Vice-Chair
FHWA – Chris Dingman
City of Chelsea – Christine Linfield

Others Present: City of Ann Arbor Engineering – Pat Cawley
MDOT – Paul Lott
SEMCOG – Joan Weidner, Jennifer Evans
WATS – Terri Blackmore, Eric Bombery, Ryan Buck, Nick Sapkiewicz

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 Miller called the meeting to order at 9:35 am and asked those present to introduce themselves.

2. Public Participation

Chair Miller asked if there was anyone from the public who would like to address the Committee. No public was present so public participation time was closed.

3. Approval of the May 7, 2008 Minutes

Mr. Lenart made a motion to approve the June 4, 2008 minutes. Mr. Gronevelt supported the motion and the minutes were approved.

4. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS will provide a copy of introduced State Legislation including sponsors and short summary of the impact if passed.

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS held a meeting with Ann Arbor and the WCRC about purchasing a new traffic counters. She noted that some of the counters purchased would also be able count bicycles. Ann Arbor recently had a building fire that damaged most of their counters. Mr. Cooper asked if the counters could count bikes on the sidewalk to get an accurate count. Ann Arbor has witnessed 60-70% of bikers move to the road when a bike lane is constructed with the rest remaining on the sidewalk. Mr. Cooper stated that counters that can only count the road would not be accurate and if the cost is much higher than a normal counter it may not be worth it.

Handouts at place:

1. Upcoming meetings
2. Important Legislation
3. US DOT Brochure "Roundabouts, a Safer Choice"
4. Ann Arbor to Detroit Update
5. May and June Crashes

5. WATS Activities

Ms. Blackmore reported that a summary of the Ann Arbor to Detroit Rapid Transit Study is at the committee members place. There is also a short video of the service that will be shown at the next Technical Committee.

Ms. Blackmore reported that R.L. Banks staff will arrive today and will present their study results to the Washtenaw and Livingston County boards tonight and tomorrow morning on the North-South rail. The final report is available on the WALLY website at www.ewashtenaw.org/wally.

Ms. Blackmore reported the 2008 asset management data has been collected and will be posted to the website soon. Previous year's data including tables, charts and maps are available on WATS' website. The Asset Management Council allowed collection of only 50% of the samples this year with the

planning agencies concentrating on assisting local agencies with complying with the reporting requirement. MDOT has indicated that they can withhold Act 51 dollars from agencies that do not report.

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS has sent out the requests for 2008 HPMS counts and has begun to receive counts.

Ms. Blackmore reported that staff has reviewed an amendment to the City of Ypsilanti Master Plan and assisted with drafting a Transportation Chapter for the Joint Manchester Planning Commission Plan.

Ms. Blackmore reported that Susan Burleigh is currently working on the June and July crashes and waiting on the June corrections. It is not looking as though the County law enforcement agencies will be applying for an electronic submission grant so a decision will need to be made on whether to continue the WATS correction program. All other correction programs in the state have ceased.

Mr. Buck reported that the travel demand model is fully functional however, validation of the transit network continues which will require a revalidation of the road network.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the final transit plan has been presented at several of the regional planning groups including: Washtenaw Metro Alliance, Milan Organization for Regional Excellence, Saline Sustainability Committee, the CAPT/DART group and Saline City Council. Meetings are being held to discuss the future of transit in Washtenaw County that explores ways to protect the transit in the eastern portion of the county and implement the County wide plan. As part of this effort, WATS has been collecting data on other authorities funding, organizational laws and board make up. WATS also worked with AATA to apply for transit funding for a general public survey. There also is an effort underway to develop a statewide transit vision.

6. Old Business

There was no old business.

7. New Business

A. Air Quality Conformity Update Presentation

Ms. Weidner from SEMCOG gave a presentation on the new air quality standards. A copy of the handout is attached to the meeting packet filed in the WATS office.

Ms. Weidner explained that the new air quality standards are required in all non-attainment areas. The budget provided for air quality analysis was cut substantially. The greatest impact the reduction in budget will have is likely the time it will take to evaluate a project. Ms. Weidner stated that the new standard will require the region to show that the TIP and LRP meet and conform to the emission standards, as well as any amendments added to either. Both adding and reducing road capacity will require an analysis. Ms. Weidner reported that CMAQ projects will help the overall TIP and LRP as the emission reduced from the projects can be subtracted off the top of the final analysis prior to the comparison with the budget.

Mr. Lenart asked if non-motorized and transit improvements require analysis as the impacts would likely be positive. Ms. Weidner stated that transit and non-Motorized projects can require air quality analysis but most likely will have a positive impact.

Mr. Cooper asked if SEMCOG had looked at the effect of more hybrids on the road and less total VMT on air quality. Ms. Weidner said that the two factors won't be tested alone but as a whole there will be an impact.

B. Asset Manager NT Presentation

Ms. Evans from SEMCOG gave a presentation on new software called Asset Manager NT. The presentation is attached to the meeting packet filed in the WATS office.

Mr. White stated his concern about the public opinion cost allocation shown in the presentation. The results seemed to indicate that the public wants more transit but misunderstand how much it actually costs. Ms. Evans agreed that seemed to be most of the reason for low funds to transit.

Mr. Cooper stated that the congestion relief graphs were only road expansion since transit expansion is not in the formula. Mr. Lenart asked if locals could use this program and what the difference was from the Roadsoft program? Ms. Evans said that local could definitely use the program and that Roadsoft would be an example of an input into Asset Manager NT. Members present were able to provide a recommendation for the funding splits between modes.

C. STP Rural and TEDF D Amendments update

Mr. Bombery stated that the Washtenaw County Road Commission requested administrative changes to FY08 and FY09 of the STP Rural and TEDF-D programs in July of 2008. The changes requested were a transfer of funds between the WCRC's own projects.

Mr. Bombery explained that the amount of STPR funds the Oakland County returned to the WCRC was \$263,000 raising the amount of available STPR funds in FY 2008 to \$710,568.

Mr. Bombery reported on the changes made which include a transfer of \$99,408 STPR in FY08 from North Territorial to Milan-Oakville, a transfer of \$109,432 STPR from Willis FY09 to Milan-Oakville, and an increase of Milan-Oakville project from \$1,820,000 to \$1,990,000 using TEDF-D funds in FY08 by transferring funds from North Territorial.

Mr. Bombery explained there was no action required on these administrative amendments as they were provided for information only.

D. TIP Administrative Amendments Update

Mr. Bombery stated WATS completed 10 administrative changes to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) program at the request of the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, City of Chelsea, City of Saline, and the Washtenaw County Road

Commission. The administrative changes made reflect the changes made to the rural surface transportation program, add a transit-funding source, and a few local funding changes.

Mr. Bomberly explained that WATS added no new projects or new federal funds to the projects, only the transfer of funds between existing projects. The environmental justice analysis for the projects in the Rural Surface Transportation Program was approved when the FY 2008-2011 TIP was approved on March 21, 2007 and subsequent amendments.

Mr. Bomberly reported that the information on the administrative changes do not require a 30-day public comment period, but WATS posted the changes on the website for public information.

Mr. Bomberly explained there was no action required on these administrative amendments as they were provided for information for the committee members.

8. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Cooper reported that a newsletter will be sent out on the Transportation Plan update meeting on Sept. 9th; the public will have a chance to go over the draft report at the meeting. The 2010 campaign draft report is done and being reviewed for the metro rail to trails. The City has surveyed its workforce on commuting choice and locations. The City in their early analysis has discovered a definite difference in commuting choices of workers that live in the City compared to outside the City.

Mr. Pirooz reported that Huron River Drive was closed to traffic from Bird to Main but is half done and on schedule. The construction will suspend in September and then resume in the spring of 2009 with completion in the fall of 2009. The intersection at Eisenhower and Main has been paved and is complete. Five local roads are under construction in the local program leaving seven more this year to be completed. The intersection at Newport and Sunset is closed for sewer main repairs and will reopen shortly. The city received approval for the CMAQ grant for the Nixon and Huron Parkway roundabout.

B. AATA

Mr. White reported that service changes will go into effect August 24th with no change in service hours; service is being changed between routes to provide more options for commuting. There have been discussions at the AATA board about reorganization into county wide or service area provider.

C. City of Chelsea

Ms. Linfield was not present.

D. Village of Dexter

Mr. Gronevelt reported that the project on Ann Arbor St has been delayed a bit but has started; it will be done before Labor Day.

E. Eastern Michigan University

Mr. Grant had nothing to report.

F. FHWA

Mr. Dingman was not present.

E. Pittsfield Township

Mr. Fowler had nothing to report.

F. MDOT Planning, TSC and Region

Mr. Williams introduced a new employee, Brian Wilcox, who is replacing Nick Perfilli and will be attending MPO meetings .

Mr. Dropiewski reported that Washtenaw improvement is nearly done. The Huron project should be complete by the end of the month.

Mr. Lott reported that the only community yet to adopt the Access Management Plan is the City of Ann Arbor.

G. City of Saline

Mr. Fordice reported that the pavement projects are almost complete. The sewer on Mills is also being replaced.

H. SEMCOG

Mr. Tumidanski was not present.

I. U of M

Mr. Miller reported that Hospital Dr was closed for work and has impacted employees trying to get to work at the hospital.

J. WCPE

Mr. Lenart reported that he was working on green planning for the county by exploring a four-day work week and telecommuting among other options. The RL Banks presentation on WALLY was on the county's website at www.ewashtenaw.org/wally.

K. WCRC

Ms. Siddall reported that the Carpenter project was nearly done and only needs pavement markings. The rehabilitation of the E. Delhi Bridge has just started. The Geddes superior roundabout is complete and open to traffic. The Holmes project is still underway. Jackson Blvd water main construction was almost complete and the road will be milled shortly to make a temporary road. The work on the Main St. Bridge will halt during Dexter Daze. The grade inspection for next year's project on Milan-Oakville is under way.

L. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Kirton reported that the paving on the one local project on First Ct and Armstrong has started.

M. Ypsilanti Township

Mr. Nicholson was not present.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Cooper made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Lenart supported the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:20.