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MINUTES OF MEETING

TECHNICAL ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: February 6, 2008

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: 827 North Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Members Present: City of Saline – Gary Roubal, Chair
 University of Michigan – Dave Miller, 1st Vice-Chair
 Ypsilanti Township – Dave Nicholson, 2nd Vice-Chair
 AATA – Chris White
 City of Ann Arbor Engineering – Homayoon Pirooz
 City of Ann Arbor Planning – Eli Cooper
 City of Chelsea – Christine Linfield
 Village of Dexter – Rhett Gronevelt
 Eastern Michigan University – John Donegan
 MDOT Region – Kari Andrewes
 Pittsfield Township – Bruce Fowler
 City of Ypsilanti DPW – Stan Kirton
 Washtenaw County Road Commission Engineering – Sheryl Siddall (for Roy Townsend)
 Washtenaw County Planning & Environment – Anya Dale (for Brett Lenart)

Members Absent: MDOT Planning – Ola Williams
 City of Ypsilanti Planning – Karen Hart

Others Present: AATA – Jamie Cohen, Jeff Murphy
 HRWC – Elizabeth Riggs
 MDOT – Paul Lott
 Pittsfield Township – Ian Brown
 SEMCOG – Jeff Tumidanski
 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 Roubal called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

2. Public Participation

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

3. Approval of the November 7, 2007 Minutes

Mr. Nicholson made a motion to approve the December 5, 2007 minutes. Ms. Linfield supported the motion and the motion passed.

4. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore reported that four applications were received for the vacant Associate Transportation Planner position. WATS interviewed three candidates in early January and Nick Sapkiewicz was hired with a start date of January 4.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the Drive MI campaign is looking at the lame duck session as a possibility for passing of the gas tax increase. Ms. Blackmore also reported that there is still a need for constituents to contact their Representatives and Senators to support more funding for transportation and she recommended that those that receive complaints from residents to request that they share their complaint with the state legislators and the governor.

The handouts distributed at the meeting included:

1. Upcoming meetings
2. Complete the Streets brochure
3. At the Crossroads (National Center for Pavement Preservation)
4. Ann Arbor-Detroit Rail update
5. 2004-2007 Amtrak Ridership/Revenue
6. Michigan Asset Management Conference brochure
7. November and December Crashes

5. WATS Activities

Ms. Blackmore reported that an update of the Ann Arbor to Detroit Rapid Transit Study has been provided at your place.

Ms. Blackmore reported the North – South Rail Coalition is working towards the formation of a two county regional transit authority. There is a technical group preparing a business plan and scope of work for a validation review. The State of Michigan is working on a list of capital improvements that need to be completed to allow for high quality bi-directional service. A meeting to discuss the coalition's CMAQ application was held on December 17 and the project is going to proceed through the SEMCOG grant process.

Ms. Blackmore reported the Asset Management data has been processed and the tables, charts and maps are available on the WATS website. The date of the 2008 Asset Management Conference has been included on the Upcoming meetings list as well as the Asset Management Conference brochure.

Ms. Blackmore reported WATS had submitted the annual HPMS data to MDOT for their review. She mentioned that additional work often needs to be done with errors returned back from MDOT.

Ms. Blackmore reported that staff recently completed a review of the City of Ypsilanti Recreation Plan and would provide comments to the City that day.

Ms. Blackmore reported that Susan Burleigh is currently working on the first of the January crashes and waiting on the December corrections. The office is operating close to real time processing. MSP has requested a review of their locating procedures. Those procedures were provided to Technical Committee members last week in a memo. Ms. Blackmore asked that Committee members review the memo and procedures and provide any comments to Mr. Bombery by February 20, 2008.

Ms. Blackmore reported there were two statewide meetings on local funding options on December 11 and December 14 in Lansing. At the December 11 meeting, the group voted to change the name to Businesses for Better Transportation (BBT) from BBR. There was uniform agreement that without the gas tax increases this effort will not address the maintenance needs of the existing transportation system. The BBT has finalized a white paper on the transportation needs facing the state and has presented it to four Senators and three Representatives. The proposal was well received and all but one was very supportive. The BBT group is working hard to make sure the legislators understand that the local options cannot replace a gas tax increase. A meeting with the Transit providers will be held on February 21 in Lansing to present the proposal.

Mr. Buck reported that the WATS model update is still on schedule. WATS and LSA are currently working on determining a course of action for handling trips between the major campuses of the University of Michigan.

Ms. Blackmore reported the Transit Steering Committee, the Technical Committee and the Policy Committee have reviewed the draft transit plan. All of the comments have been considered and incorporated where appropriate. She mentioned that there will be a Transit Town Hall on March 24 at 7:00 pm at Washtenaw Community College to discuss moving forward by implementing the Plan.

Ms. Blackmore reported the draft 2006 Transportation Profile has been reviewed by the Technical Committee and the Policy Committee. The profile will be organized into a graphically enhanced version and printed after the final version of the text is approved.

6. Old Business

A. 2006 Transportation Profile

Mr. Bombery stated that at the December 5th Technical Committee meeting a draft of the 2006 Transportation Profile was distributed for review. All comments were considered and incorporated where appropriate.

Mr. Bombery stated that there are a few copies of the profile available for anyone to take. However, a graphically enhanced version of the profile will be complete and distributed at the next Technical Committee meeting.

Mr. White recommended Policy Committee approval of the 2006 Transportation Profile. Ms. Linfield seconded the motion and the motion passed.

B. Transit Plan for Washtenaw County

Ms. Blackmore stated that at the December 19, 2007 Policy Committee meeting staff provided a copy of the draft Washtenaw County Transit Plan with the Technical Committee changes to those in attendance. Copies were also mailed to all of the Policy Committee members that were not in attendance.

Ms. Blackmore stated that comments from Technical and Policy Committee members have been incorporated into the plan. The draft plan was posted to the Agency's website on December 21, 2007 for the 45 day review. To date there have been no comments from the public.

Ms. Blackmore stated that a new map of the Plan's recommendations is now included. A section of next steps was also added.

Ms. Blackmore stated that, just like the transportation profile, the Transit Plan will be organized into a graphically enhanced version and distributed at the next Technical Committee meeting.

Mr. Cooper made a motion to recommended Policy Committee approval of the Transit Plan for Washtenaw County. Mr. Nicholson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

7. New Business

A. Transfer of Development Rights Presentation

Elizabeth Riggs from the Huron River Watershed Council passed out some materials and gave a presentation on transfer of development rights. A copy of the presentation is attached to the filed copy of minutes in the WATS office.

B. FY 2008-2011 TIP Amendments

Mr. Bombery stated that the call for amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) program was issued on December 20, 2007, which is the second of three amendments for FY 2008. Of the 18 projects being amended, 3 projects are additions and 1 project is being deleted from the FY 2008-2011 TIP. The remaining 14 projects include 6 that changed the limits and cost and 8 projects that changed the year. There was no federal funding for the three new projects, therefore the FY 2008-2011 TIP will remain fiscally constrained.

Mr. Bombery stated that all of the 3 new projects being amended to the FY 2008-2011 TIP impact Environmental Justice (EJ) protected populations. The City of Ann Arbor has 2 new projects that

will be constructed within an EJ area. One project will resurface the roadway, however, providing a needed repair and will positively impact the EJ area. The other City of Ann Arbor project will reconstruct an intersection providing bike lanes and improved pedestrian movement at the intersection which will also positively impact the EJ area. The City of Ypsilanti has 1 new project that will be constructed within an EJ area. The project will reconstruct an industrial park cul-de-sac that will have minimal effect on the adjacent EJ areas.

Mr. Bomberly stated that SEMCOG provides the environmental analysis which determined the areas might be impacted by the projects:

Mr. Bomberly stated that staff recommends that the Technical Committee recommend that the Policy Committee approve the attached amendments to the FY 2008-2011 TIP pending positive outcome of the public comment period. Mr. White made a motion to recommend approval by the Policy Committee of the amendments to the FY 2008-2011 TIP. Mr. Nicholson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

C. 2007 Federal Funding Mode Split Report

Mr. Buck stated that at the October 17, 2006 Policy Committee meeting, the Committee approved an updated Federal Funding Split Policy with revised funding targets of 80 percent for roads, 10 percent for transit and 10 for non-motorized improvements. He stated that the amended policy also requested a reevaluation of the federal funding mode split to occur in late 2007 or early 2008. A survey of agencies that spent STPU, STPR or TEDF-D dollars in 2007 showed the total federal amount spent on those projects was \$12,498,120. Of the total, \$1,140,130 or 9.1% was spent on non-motorized improvements and 71,100 or 0.5% was spent on transit supportive improvements. Mr. Buck explained that many of the non-motorized improvements also benefit transit. Mr. Buck also explained that if any project was missing in the spreadsheet that he would add it to the evaluation if the agency provided the information.

Mr. White recommended changing the title of the summary spreadsheet to clearly indicate that this did not represent all federal funding. Mr. Cooper suggested that the subcommittee that recommends these goals reconvene based on the fact that the goals are not being met. Mr. Cooper also stated that there are many projects mentioned in the Non-Motorized and Transit plans that could be built to meet the goal.

Mr. Gronevelt asked if when the goals were established if any previous years were evaluated. Ms. Blackmore stated that 2007 was the first year evaluated. Mr. White also suggested that the subcommittee reconvene to talk about the issues raised. Mr. Pirooz stated that all funds eligible for non-motorized or transit improvements should be included rather than just funds WATS allocates.

Mr. Cooper made a motion that the subcommittee reconvene to discuss the findings of the evaluation after all eligible federal funds are added or within 3 months, whichever comes first. Mr. Gronevelt seconded the motion and the motion passed.

D. 2009 Safety Project Prioritization

Mr. Bombery stated that 6 projects were received in the FY 2009 Safety call. The City of Ann Arbor submitted 2 projects, the WCRC submitted 3 projects, and The City of Saline submitted 1 project. The projects were ranked in order of benefit to cost ratio based on crashes related to the deficiencies to be corrected. Ms. Siddall stated that the Road Commission's project on Waters, ranked 2nd by cost benefit, be moved to 4th below the other two road commission projects. Ms. Siddall explained that this was the recommendation of the WCRC board based on its priorities. Mr. Bombery stated that the change could be made and would be submitted to SEMCOG as a recommendation if the Policy Committee also approved it in that order, but SEMCOG does not have to abide by our rank order.

Mr. Cooper made a motion to approve the order of the projects based on Ms. Siddall's suggestion. Ms. Linfield seconded the motion and the motion passed. The rankings of the projects are as follows:

Rank	Agency	Location	Safety Deficiency	Proposed Project	Total Cost	Federal Cost	Benefit/ Cost ratio (Present)
1	City of Ann Arbor	Huron (BL-94), Thayer to Fletcher	Pedestrian injuries crossing 4 lane unsignalized stretch of Huron	Construction of 60 long pedestrian refuge island with crosswalk and signage.	\$100,000	\$80,000	32.0 : 1
2	WCRC	Plymouth and Gotfredson	High crash unsignalized intersection. High percentage of angle crashes.	The scope of the project includes installation of a fully-actuated traffic signal and construction of dedicated left turn lanes on Plymouth.	\$462,000	\$385,000	11.9 : 1
3	WCRC	Rawsonville and Bemis	High crash unsignalized intersection. High percentage of angle and rear-end left turn crashes.	The scope of the project includes installation of a fully-actuated traffic signal and construction of dedicated left turn lanes on all approaches.	\$480,000	\$400,000	2.6 : 1
4	WCRC	Waters, Wagner East to begin of pavement	Multiple road runoff injury crashes	Remove obstacles, improve drainage, surface condition, and create recoverable slopes.	\$560,000	\$400,000	29.2 : 1
5	City of Ann Arbor	Geddes, Hickory to entrance of Gallup Park	Multiple road runoff crashes with some involving pedestrians or bicyclists	Install guardrail while increasing clear area to guardrail, improve pavement surface and add dedicated pedestrian pathway.	\$559,540	\$400,000	1.1 : 1
6	City of Saline	Woodland, between Wildwood and Sycamore Run	Injury pedestrian crash	Install midblock crossing with pedestrian island and pavement imbedded pedestrian activated LED lights.	\$47,000	\$37,600	1.0 : 1

8. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Pirooz reported that the Huron Parkway and Nixon roundabout project is designed and will have Grade Inspection in the next few weeks; easements have also been completed. Mr. Cooper also reported that this project will include public parking near the AATA stop on Huron Parkway.

Mr. Pirooz reported that the E. Stadium project has been split in to two separate projects. First in 2008 will be the reconstruction of the Stadium and Pauline intersection. Then in 2009 Stadium will be reconstructed from Pauline to 7th. There will be one more public meeting on the projects.

Mr. Pirooz also reported that the annual resurfacing program will resurface 20 streets and will be bid out next week.

Mr. Cooper reported that the Washtenaw non-motorized path has been delayed until 2009. Also, the projects to reconstruct the Stadium bridges and construct a non-motorized path has been delayed by the University of Michigan reconstruction of the football stadium. As of now the earliest the project could be obligated is 2011 with construction in 2012.

Mr. Cooper also reported that there was an Ann Arbor 2010 Campaign meeting held to discuss the region's non-motorized priorities and that the meeting was well attended.

B. AATA

Mr. White reported that AATA had hired a commuter service coordinator.

C. City of Chelsea

Ms. Linfield had nothing to report.

D. Village of Dexter

Mr. Gronevelt reported that the upcoming construction project on Dexter-Ann Arbor made the last bid letting for jobs today funding.

E. Eastern Michigan University

Mr. Donegan had nothing to report.

F. FHWA

Mr. Dingman was not present.

E. Pittsfield Township

Mr. Fowler reported that the Washtenaw access management plan had been presented to the township.

F. MDOT Planning, TSC and Region

Ms. Andrewes reported that MDOT will conduct a public meeting in Manchester about the upcoming M-52 project realignment of the intersection with Main. A structure of possible historical significance must be purchased and demolished to complete the project as designed. The meeting will be on February 20th at the Manchester Village Hall.

Mr. Lott reported that the Washtenaw access management study had been presented to Ann Arbor, Pittsfield Township, and Ypsilanti; the presentation to Ypsilanti Township was still to come. A region wide bike map was underway by the Greenways Collaborative. Mr. Lott stated that the bike map was the first step to a MDOT region wide non-motorized plan.

G. City of Saline

Mr. Roubal reported that two projects for 2008 are in design, Maple from US-12 to the library and Mills from US-12 to Hollywood.

H. SEMCOG

Mr. Tumidanski reported that the FY 2008-2011 STIP has finally been approved.

I. U of M

Mr. Miller reported that the University is in talks with the City of Ann Arbor to request closing one lane of Main to accommodate upcoming construction on the football stadium. There will be a public meeting on the project on February 17th at 6:30 at the Young Family Center. Mr. Miller also reported there will be an addition to add 300 new spaces to the Thompson St. parking garage; there will be intermittent access and sidewalk closings.

J. WCPE

Ms. Dale had nothing to report.

K. WCRC

Ms. Siddall reported that the Toyota project and Carpenter project have been carried over from last year. Other projects for 2008 include Dexter Main bridge, Geddes/Superior roundabout, Geddes/Leforge left turn lanes, Holmes from Rue Deauville to Spencer, Rawsonville south of Bemis, Jackson Blvd phase 2 start, and E. Delhi bridge rehabilitation.

L. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Kirton reported that there are 2 projects slated for 2008, one is an MDOT project on Huron, Hamilton, and Washtenaw and the other is on S. Mansfield.

M. Ypsilanti Township

Mr. Nicholson had nothing to report.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Blackmore reported that Technical Committee members will be invited to attend the Policy Committee on March 19th for the presentation on the Eastern Washtenaw Access Management Plan. The meeting was adjourned at 11:13.