



705 NORTH ZEEB ROAD 2ND FLOOR  
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48103-1560  
PHONE: (734) 994-3127 FAX: (734) 994-3129  
WEBSITE: WWW.MIWATS.ORG  
E-MAIL: WATS@MIWATS.ORG

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

### **TECHNICAL ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE**

DATE: November 5, 2008

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Washtenaw County Road Commission, 555 North Zeeb

Members Present: University of Michigan – Dave Miller, Chair  
Ypsilanti Township – Dave Nicholson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair  
City of Ann Arbor Planning – Eli Cooper, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair  
AATA – Chris White  
City of Ann Arbor Engineering – Homayoon Pirooz  
Village of Dexter – Rhett Gronevelt  
Eastern Michigan University – Dieter Otto  
MDOT Planning – Ola Williams  
Pittsfield Township – Bruce Fowler  
City of Saline – Gary Roubal  
Washtenaw County Planning & Environment – Brett Lenart  
Washtenaw County Road Commission Engineering – Roy Townsend  
City of Ypsilanti DPW – Stan Kirton  
MDOT – Kari Martin

Members Absent: City of Chelsea - Christine Linfield  
City of Saline - Gary Roubal

Others Present: MDOT – Paul Lott, Larry Dropiewski  
FHWA – Chris Dingman  
City of Ann Arbor – Pat Cawley  
City of Milan – Ben Swayze  
SEMCOG – Jeff Tumidanski  
Ann Arbor Biking and Walking Coalition (BWC) – Larry Deck  
WATS – Terri Blackmore, Ryan Buck, Nick Sapkiewicz, Eric Bombery

---

#### **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.

Larry Deck of the WBWC stated that the organization has undertaken the task of prioritizing non-motorized projects for WATS consideration. As part of this prioritization Mr. Deck emphasized linking Ann Arbor and Saline, along with reactivating the committee to explore I-94 crossing alternatives.

Ben Swayze from the City of Milan introduced himself as the acting administrator (replacing Dan Bishop) and explained Milan's interest in updating NFC roads within the city.

3. Approval of the October 1, 2008 Minutes

Several corrections were made to the October 1, 2008 minutes. The changes include: Ann Arbor to Chelsea Express bus service is at 50% of capacity rather than 80% capacity; Mr. Cawley was listed as a WATS member rather than other present; and Ypsilanti Township provided assistance with the WCRC Bemis Rd project rather than grant assistance. Mr. White made a motion to approve the October minutes with corrections. Mr. Townsend supported the motion and the minutes were approved.

4. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS met with Cambridge Systematics on October 14 to outline the Asset Manager NT applications as they will apply to the 2035 Long Range Plan and eventually to the TIP. A draft outline and spreadsheet for analysis has been provided.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the Michigan State Police (MSP) notified enforcement agencies that they will be contacting them to correct errors made on forms for the following reasons:

- Missing primary or intersecting road name
- Missing direction
- Missing distance
- Diagram is missing or incomplete

Ms. Blackmore reported that subsequently WATS held a meeting on October 23 where present members made the recommendation to terminate the WATS crash program at the end of the 2008 collection. Without a special request from an agency that the crash program continue, WATS will complete 2008 crash corrections and 2009 crashes will need to be sent directly to the MSP. WATS will inform enforcement agencies of the change.

Handouts at place:

1. Upcoming meetings
2. Resolution to Legislators, TF2 and Governor
3. September Crashes

4. Recent Legislation

5. WATS Activities

Ms. Blackmore reported that the Ann Arbor to Detroit rail service is currently planning a schedule of four round trips per day starting in October 2010. This service will be in addition to the three daily roundtrips made by Amtrak.

Ms. Blackmore reported October 28<sup>th</sup> the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority (AATA) Board took action to become the authority for WALLY service and allocate staff to the project. The WALLY Coalition's next meeting will be November 17 at Northfield Twp Public Safety building.

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS has begun to receive and process traffic counts for the 2008 HPMS data collection.

Ms. Blackmore reported that a review of the Scio Township Master Plan was recently completed, and staff is currently reviewing the Ann Arbor Transportation Plan.

Ms. Blackmore reported that Susan Burleigh is nearly finished with October crashes, and is working on August and September corrections.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the WATS model contract is complete and is being used in the development of the 2035 Long Range Plan.

Ms. Blackmore reported on the 2035 Long Range Plan: compilation and analysis of intersection crash deficiencies has been completed, and that congestion, bridge, transit, pavement and non-motorized deficiency analyses are underway. She noted that the LRP Blog has requested public comments on pavement, bridge and congestion deficiencies. To date the blog has received 5-6 comments, and has been linked to other blogs for greater internet visibility.

Ms. Blackmore reported on presentations given on the Transit Plan for Washtenaw County to several regional planning groups including: the Ypsilanti Chamber Public Policy meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup> and the Ann Arbor Chamber Public Policy meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Upcoming presentations include: the Ann Arbor City Council on November 10<sup>th</sup>, Ypsilanti City Council work group meeting in December and the Dexter Chamber meeting in January.

Ms. Blackmore reported that although there has not been a recent meeting on Urban Service Area Protection, she is working to provide EMU staff with a complete analysis.

Ms. Blackmore reported that in an effort to implement the countywide plan, WATS has been collecting data on other Michigan transportation provider's funding, organizational laws and board make up. WATS has been working with the County Board chair to meet with Ann Arbor City Council members in an effort to advance the countywide transit plan.

Ms. Blackmore reported on the development and endorsement of the Statewide Transit Vision. The document has been endorsed by:

- Michigan Municipal League
- Michigan Land Use Institute
- Lets Get Moving coalition
- Disability Network of Northern Michigan
- Disability Connection of West Michigan

A presentation on Transit was made to the Michigan Association of Counties on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Blackmore reported that Nick Sapkiewicz and Vanessa Hansle, the mobility management director, attended Coordinated Plan Writing training on October 16<sup>th</sup>. The next mobility management advisory board meeting will be held on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

6. Old Business

There was no old business.

7. New Business

A. 2030 Plan Amendments

Mr. Bombery reported WATS issued a call for FY 2009 amendments to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan for Washtenaw County on October 3, 2008. Mr. Bombery summarized the projects and explained the project funding as well as the potential impacts to Environmental Justice areas.

The total cost of the ten amendments is \$9,197,000. Seven of the projects are adding federal funding including \$2,687,000 in STP Urban funding for five projects and two projects using \$395,000 of STP Safety funds. Three of the projects add \$2,225,000 of federal transit funds. One project will use only local funding. By replacing LRP project line items with these additions, the attached amendments for the 2030 Long Range Plan will remain fiscally constrained.

The proposed amendments do not disproportionately effect Environmental Justice (EJ) protected populations. Only two of the twelve projects and a possible third are within the EJ area. The countywide Border to Border non-motorized project may fall within an EJ area. If the Border to Border project does go through an EJ area, the project will have a long term positive affect on the EJ area by improving non-motorized conditions although short term disruptions will negatively impact the area during construction.

Mr. Townsend stated that not all the recently approved STP Safety projects were included in the list. Mr. Bombery stated that two project were approved for funding but not submitted for amendment. The projects will be included in the memo to the Policy Committee.

Mr. Lenart made a motion to approve the LRP amendment with the addition of two STP Safety projects. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion passed.

B. Milan NFC Amendments

Mr. Buck reported the City of Milan has requested updates to the National Functional Classification (NFC). Once a road is classified as part of the NFC system that road is eligible for federal funding. Although changes to the NFC are completed every 10 years after the census, the City of Milan has requested that six of their roads be added or upgraded as NFC routes.

The City of Milan requested the following changes:

- Lewis Street (Dexter to North) - Serves two schools. It also collects traffic from a number of residential streets carrying the traffic to a minor arterial to the east.
- Arkona Road (Dexter to City Line) - Connects a large portion of the residential population and completes a county Rural Major collector with routes in the city.
- Marvin (County to Lewis) – Provides access between the residential area and the educational area or the CBD with direct access to two schools.
- Dexter (County to Main) – Provides access to US-23 and completes connection of existing north-south arterial to E. Main Street which is recommended to be upgraded to minor arterial.
- E. Main (County to US-23) – Addition extends existing minor arterial that bisects the city to the freeway interchange at Plank Road and US-23.

Mr. Buck stated an important guideline MDOT uses when reviewing NFC changes is the percentage of roads classified as local, collector, or arterial. Specifically, the target is 65% local, 10% collector and 25% arterial. The proposed changes will bring the percentage split of roads for collector and arterial in the City of Milan closer to the percentage targets.

Upon approval, the requested upgrades will be sent to SEMCOG for their action. Following SEMCOG action, the requests will be sent to MDOT for recommendation to Federal Highway Administration.

Mr. Swayze, of Milan, explained that traffic has increased on the roads due to several new subdivisions and when combined with school traffic volumes are the same as arterials and collectors.

As such, Milan is requesting a recommendation be made to the WATS Policy committee, as well as the Monroe planning commission that changes in the NFC classification be made.

Mr. Townsend asked if the roads being changed are Act 51 major roads. Mr. Swayze replied that they were. Ms. Blackmore added that changes would not impact the STP rural programs as Milan was a small urban area.

Mr. Townsend made a motion to recommend the NFC upgrades to the roads within the City of Milan to both the Policy committee and the Monroe Planning Commission. Mr. Nicholson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

#### C. WATS Model Presentation

Mr. Buck gave a presentation on the WATS Travel Demand Model. The presentation covered key components of the county transportation network as they pertain to the model, inputs and model

results, and improvements over the old model. A copy of the presentation will be attached to the minutes at the WATS office.

Mr. White asked if the speed feedback tool built into the model works with transit network. Mr. Buck indicated that it does. Mr. Townsend asked if the model would be able to simulate actions such as road diets. Mr. Buck indicated that the model can simulate road diets. Mr. Nicholson asked if the model would account for fuel costs. Mr. Buck explained that not only would the model account for fuel costs, but since it was calibrated to current fuel costs it would produce cautious results. Mr. Miller asked how the model would handle multi-modal trips. Mr. Buck explained that the county's park-and-ride information is included in the model and is used. Mr. Townsend asked if WCRC would be able to get a tally of the county lane miles from the model. Mr. Buck said that would not be a problem for the federal aid system. Mr. Cooper asked if the model would be able account for train service. Mr. Buck explained not so much. Mr. Cooper asked if the SEMCOG employment data could be changed for scenarios. Mr. Buck said the changes could be made but not in the way that the SEMCOG UrbanSim model does.

#### D. 2035 Long Range Plan Schedule

Mr. Buck reported that Long Range Plan Schedule will need to include a SEMCOG October 2009 adoption with WATS policy approval in July 2009. Mr. Tumidanski noted that identification of all projects at Tech and Policy meetings can also serve as public involvement time to expedite plan development. Mr. Dingman recommended using the former plan as a base, as a time saving measure, rather than recreating the entire plan. Mr. White inquired how the plan would remain fiscally constrained while the upcoming budget is uncertain. Ms. Blackmore stated that projects could be added base on the reasonable probability of funds, or that projects could be added as unfunded projects. Mr. Williams stated that projected funding had recently been sent to SEMCOG and would be sent to WATS soon.

### 8. Agency Reports

#### A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Pirooz reported that the Huron Parkway and Nixon roundabout project will be presented to city council Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup> and is scheduled for December letting.

A public presentation on the Washtenaw Ave. non-motorized path from Tuomy to Glenwood is scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Tappan School.

Beginning November 9<sup>th</sup>, Ann St. will become one-way eastbound for the block north of city hall, and the City will install backward angle parking.

Mr. Cooper reported that the Ann Arbor Transportation plan is currently out for review and comments are welcome. Mr. Cooper also reported that a media event for the 2010 campaign was held at city hall on October 20<sup>th</sup> and was well attended. Ann Arbor city council will be voting on a resolution to support the 2010 Campaign November 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Cooper also reported that the Ann Arbor to Detroit rail service is working to develop a business plan that will focus on access to the service. Parking at the Ann Arbor end may need to be addressed as parking at the existing Amtrak service is deficient.

B. AATA

Mr. White reported that a new route from Blake Transit Center to the Amtrak station will begin December 1<sup>st</sup> and will run with half hour headways.

Mr. White also reported that the AATA board voted to take over management of the WALLY project, and has staff in place with rail background.

Washtenaw Community College is working with AATA to sell discounted passes to students and faculty, as well as provide an express route service to the college.

Fischer Coach Works may have a grant opportunity available for AATA to use a plug-in-hybrid bus. He noted that the plug-in hybrid is expected to get 10-11 mpg compared to 5+ for the diesel hybrids and 3.2 for the regular diesel buses.

C. City of Chelsea

Ms. Linfield was not present.

D. Village of Dexter

Mr. Gronewelt had nothing to report.

E. Eastern Michigan University

Mr. Otto had nothing to report.

F. FHWA

Mr. Dingman reiterated the importance of justifying the reclassification of NFC road in Milan, including volume changes and system continuity. Mr. Dingman also advised to show 2035 Plan projects without funding through an illustrative process, and highlight the projects that could not be completed with the normal process.

Mr. Dingman commended the Agency on the use of a blog to gain public participation in long range plan development, and noted that FHWA may submit using blogs for public participation as a "Best Practice" to FHWA.

E. Pittsfield Township

Mr. Fowler reported that Mr. Nicholson had received special recognition from the Michigan Association of Planning for his planning achievements.

F. MDOT Planning, TSC and Region

Mr. Williams was grateful to those who attended the STIP training.

Mr. Dropiewski reported that construction is nearly complete. Ford Rd. from Frains Lake to Napier would be done by the end of November.

Mr. Dropiewski reported that 2009 projects would include Washtenaw Ave. patching in Ypsilanti, and M-52 north of Manchester to I-94 resurfacing. Mr. Buck inquired if the Washtenaw work in Ypsilanti would evaluate any safety improvements near EMU campus. Mr. Dropiewski stated safety improvements would be outside the scope of work for the project.

Mr. Dropiewski also thanked all that came to the MDOT Traffic summit.

Ms. Andrewes reported the US-23 Feasibility Study findings will be presented November 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 at Northfield Township hall.

Ms. Andrewes also reported that MDOT will be working with Meijers stores to develop a pilot program using Meijer parking lots as park-and-ride lots.

Mr. Lott offered MDOT non-motorized maps to anyone needing them.

G. City of Saline

Mr. Roubal was not present.

H. SEMCOG

Mr. Tumidanski reported that TIP and LRP projects may now be submitted jointly.

I. U of M

Mr. Miller reported that UM will be conducting one neighborhood meeting per month to discuss the Wall St. parking garage and transit center with residents.

J. WCPE

Mr. Lenart reported that Washtenaw County Planning is currently reviewing plans from Scio Township and the Ann Arbor Transportation Plan update.

Mr. Lenart also reported that the County Board would be acting on recommended changes to the County's Planning Advisory Board by-laws and working to reduce the 2009 budget. He also noted that Planning and Environmental would relocate to downtown Ann Arbor at the end of November.

K. WCRC

Mr. Townsend reported Jackson roadwork continues and the sewer lines are nearly completed. The Dexter Main St. Bridge will be 90% finished this fall and will be completed in early 2009. Rehabilitation of the E. Delhi bridge is progressing slowly and the bridge abutments are proving difficult. The Bemis and Whittaker projects are nearly complete.

L. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Kirton reported that the paving on the one local project on First Ct. and Armstrong has been completed and that ADA ramp construction had begun. He noted that the City of Ypsilanti will need help from MDOT to complete ADA ramps on Washtenaw.

M. Ypsilanti Township

Mr. Nicholson reported that the Merritt project has been completed. Mr. Nicholson was thankful for everyone's notes and attention over the past several months.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Nicholson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Lenart seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 11:36.