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MINUTES OF MEETING

TECHNICAL ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: October 1, 2008

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Scio Township Meeting Room, 827 North Zeeb

Members Present: University of Michigan – Dave Miller, Chair
 AATA – Chris White
 City of Ann Arbor Engineering – Homayoon Pirooz
 City of Ann Arbor Planning – Eli Cooper, 2nd Vice-Chair
 City of Ann Arbor – Pat Cawley
 City of Chelsea – Christine Linfield
 Village of Dexter – Kristine Kale (for Rhett Gronewelt)
 Eastern Michigan University – Dieter Otto
 MDOT Planning – Ola Williams
 Pittsfield Township – Bruce Fowler
 City of Saline – Gary Roubal
 Washtenaw County Planning & Environment – Anya Dale (for Brett Lenart)
 Washtenaw County Road Commission Engineering – Roy Townsend
 City of Ypsilanti DPW – Stan Kirton
 SEMCOG – Jeff Tumidanski,
 MDOT – Kari Andrewes

Members Absent: Ypsilanti Township – Dave Nicholson, 1st Vice-Chair
 FHWA – Chris Dingman

Others Present: MDOT – Paul Lott
 Ann Arbor Resident – Andrew Hromadka
 WATS – Terri Blackmore, 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 one wished to address the Committee so public participation time was closed.

3. Approval of the September 3, 2008 Minutes

Mr. Townsend made a motion to approve the September 3, 2008 minutes. Mr. Otto supported the motion and the minutes were approved.

4. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore noted that she had just received a brochure for a SEMCOG University training on Winter Maintenance and it was passed around for those present to see. She also discussed the changes that had been made to the BBT draft legislation.

Handouts at place:

1. Upcoming meetings
2. Ann Arbor to Detroit Update
3. August Crashes
4. PowerPoint on MDOT Presentation
5. PowerPoint on Statewide Transit Vision and Executive Summary
6. October WATS Newsletter
7. Environmental Justice - TIP Amendment

5. WATS Activities

Ms. Blackmore reported that the WALLY Coalition met on September 29, 2008 at the Northfield Township Public Safety building to discuss funding environmental work that must be completed for the project. The meeting held with Congressman Dingle and representatives from Senator Levin and Representative Rogers offices was positive; however, Congressman Dingle stressed the need for an authority to be developed and a local funding commitment. The WALLY business plan is available at www.ewashtenaw.org/wally.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the 2008 asset management data has been collected and everything except the updated map is available on the WATS website. The data has also been provided to several communities for consideration in their master plan developments.

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS has sent out the requests for 2008 HPMS counts and has begun to receive counts. STP Urban Funding is being included as part of the funding for the purchase of a new pool of traffic counters. When the bid process commences, WATS will need to know which

agency will handle the federal paperwork and will work with that Agency to make sure a portion of the funds for the pool counters and each agency's local match is accurately assessed.

Ms. Blackmore reported that staff has reviewed the Ann Arbor Township Master Plan update.

Ms. Blackmore reported that Susan Burleigh is currently working on September crashes, and on August and September corrections. A meeting will be scheduled in October to discuss whether to continue of the WATS crash correction program. All similar programs in the state have ended.

Ms. Blackmore reported a contract with Cambridge Systematics to implement Asset Manager NT in the development of the 2035 Transportation Plan for Washtenaw County was approved by the WATS Policy Committee. The kick off meeting will be held on October 14, with the contract to be completed by February.

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, Saline City Council, SWWCOG, the Ann Arbor Township Board and Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce. The presentations have been mainly educational. Upcoming presentations include: the Ann Arbor Chamber Board members, Public Policy Committee members and Chamber members on October 27th.

Ms. Blackmore reported that two meetings to explore preservation of transit service in the eastern portion of the County have taken place with the WCC president and with the EMU President with the DDA's, Cities and other interested parties. WATS completed an analysis of the origin of employees and students of EMU, UM, WCC and Saint Joseph Mercy Hospital. The WCC president supported several commitments to transit, including: purchasing semester bus passes to sell to students at a reduced rate, to possibly fund a circulator route to connect student to a nearby transfer site, and a special ridesharing portal for WCC students and staff – possibly with Saint Joseph Mercy Hospital staff for ridesharing.

Ms. Blackmore reported that as part of effort to implement the county wide plan, WATS has been collecting data on other Michigan transportation authorities funding, organizational laws, and board makeup. Work with AATA has also been done to obtain funding for a general public survey and education campaign.

Ms. Blackmore reported the *Statewide Transit Vision*, developed by: TRU, WATS, MEC Disability Advocates of Kent County and the City of Ann Arbor, was presented to the TF2 in Lansing on September 8. Copies of the executive summary were distributed.

Ms. Blackmore reported ongoing development of the County Mobility Management effort and a manager has been hired, the budget adopted by funders (People's Express, WAVE and AATA), and an agreement between funders drafted. The effort will be funded by grants and allocation of funds for JARC and New Freedom funds.

6. Old Business

There was no old business.

7. New Business

A. MDOT Presentation on Financial Outlook (Ola Williams) – Action

Mr. Williams gave a presentation on MDOT's financial outlook. Mr. Williams' presentation explored uncertainty in federal funding, along with trends in state and federal funding. Also covered in the presentation was the "cost of doing nothing", which was said to result in: the inability to match federal funds, deterioration of facilities and the loss of jobs. Steps forward for MDOT include: obtaining new policy direction, establishing priorities and stretching and adjusting the program. Next steps for MPOs include: indentifying local revenue gaps, identifying local projects to be coordinated with trunkline projects, coordinate projects with MDOT (Regions and TSCs) and assist in prioritizing decisions. The presentation was included in with the handouts.

Mr. Buck inquired as to MDOT's request for assistance in prioritizing projects. Mr. Williams explained the effort is to better integrate the timing of MDOT projects and local projects taking place in the County.

Mr. Cooper asked if the MDOT plan accounted for federal money going to efforts that increase vehicle fuel efficiency and reduce vehicle miles traveled. Mr. Williams stated the plan does not, but the TF2 may be looking into the issue.

Mr. Cooper inquired as to what effort would be necessary from MPOs to help MDOT recognize the need for additional transportation options. Mr. Williams explained that committee level awareness across the state would help, and could eventually help influence the laws that govern MDOT.

Ms. Blackmore expressed concerns about the state not being able to match all federal funds and subsequently sending money to other states that could. Ms. Blackmore also explained that the necessary fixes for adequate transportation in the state are in the billions of dollars, while the TF2 is exploring options that raise as little as \$300,000 and therefore may not providing a meaningful solution. Ms. Blackmore clarified MDOT's request for assistance in prioritizing projects for coordinated timing rather than influencing projects that are brought forward.

Mr. Cooper asked what action could be taken at a household level. Ms. Blackmore recommended advising citizens to contact their legislators, to increase state transportation funding in order to ensure federal money allocated to the State is spent in the State.

Mr. Cooper made a motion to encourage action on TF2 recommendations by directing WATS staff to create a policy statement that would provide input in State and Federal funding considerations to allow locals to take advantage of resources and to expand transportation alternatives, as well as options to enable individuals and households to have more choices when they travel.

Mr. Townsend seconded the motion and made a friendly amendment to add in a section to the policy statement about the funding crisis, and to make sure the recommendation is forwarded to both legislators and the TF2. Mr. Cooper accepted the friendly amendment and the motion passed.

B. FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program - Action

Ms. Blackmore reported that one (Golfside from Packard to Clark) TIP project is being dropped from the amendment as it already exists in the TIP. Ms. Blackmore also reported that 8 out of the 10 projects in Environmental Justice areas will have positive affects.

Mr. Townsend made a motion to approve the TIP amendment. Mr. White seconded the motion and the motion passed.

C. Presentation on Statewide Transit Vision (WATS) - Information

Ms. Blackmore gave a presentation on the Statewide Transit Vision, prepared by Michigan Transportation Advisory Group. The vision focused on: transit promoting economic development, Michigan residents need for transit, the pattern of underfunding transit in Michigan, barriers to transit, the need for comprehensive statewide transit, options for Michigan to invest in transit and first step changes that can be made presently. The presentation is available at the WATS office.

8. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Cooper reported that the Ann Arbor Transportation Plan Update meeting was successful with more than 60 people in attendance. The plan focuses on linking land use and transportation, and will be circulating for review beginning in October. Mr. Cooper also reported there will be a 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation press event at Ann Arbor City Hall on October 20th. The campaign will be advocating for increased investment in active transportation such as non-motorized and transit. The City of Ann Arbor has also completed its annual bike lane restriping program.

Mr. Pirooz reported that the major road resurfacing projects are complete and only several local street projects remain. Presently the city is designing 2009 projects and obligating funds. The Nixon/Huron Parkway roundabout and bike lanes project is obligated. Phase I of W. Stadium Blvd is obligated and will start April of 2009. The citizen-advisory-committee is currently reviewing options for phase II, taking place in 2010. Major street projects for 2010 include: Maiden Lane from Fuller/Bridge to Plymouth, N. Maple from Dexter to Miller, and Liberty from Main to Division.

B. AATA

Mr. White reported that AATA ridership was up to 28,000 riders daily in September, and that over the last four years AATA ridership has grown 40%, while only increasing service by 5%. UM has agreed to pay half of employees' fares for the Ann Arbor/Chelsea express bus service, which is currently at 80% capacity.

C. City of Chelsea

Ms. Linfield reported all Chelsea local road projects are complete and 2009 projects are being planned.

D. Village of Dexter

Ms. Cale reported the Dexter – Ann Arbor Rd project is complete and the public process for the park development that will follow the removal of the Mill Creek Dam has begun.

E. Eastern Michigan University

Mr. Otto 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 reported the new MDOT budget has been passed.

Ms. Andrewes reported the US-23 Feasibility Study findings will be presented within the next month. She added that virtually all 2008 construction projects have been completed.

G. City of Saline

Mr. Roubal reported the Maple/Mills project has been completed and Forestbrook is underway.

H. SEMCOG

Mr. Tumidanski reported new projects in the RTP are part of the Aerotropolis concept and including widening Warren Rd. between Metro and Willow Run airports to three lanes. Additionally, \$600 million is being spent to develop an intermodal (rail/truck) freight terminal in southwest Detroit.

I. U of M

Mr. Miller noted that the UM parking structure and transit center projects on Wall Street are moving forward, but have been met with some opposition, which the University is considering.

J. WCPE

Ms. Dale reported on research the County Planning and Environment has been working on to support a talent center corridor between Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti on Washtenaw Ave. The redevelopment opportunities highlighted in the plan build on the recently completed access management study for I-94 BL/US-23 BR/M-17/Washtenaw Ave.

K. WCRC

Mr. Townsend reported Jackson Rd. work is ongoing, as is the Main St. Bridge in Dexter. The E. Delhi Bridge will be a slow going rehabilitation project. Holmes Rd. east has been completed, while Holmes Rd. west is scheduled to be completed in November. Bemis will be paved on a portion of the Ypsilanti/August township border near the school with grant assistance from Ypsilanti Township. The Old State Rd. improvements near Wal-Mart in Pittsfield Township are underway, State and Michigan Ave improvements near the site will commence in 2009.

L. City of Ypsilanti

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

M. Ypsilanti Township

Mr. Nicholson was not present.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Cooper made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kirton supported the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:27.