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MINUTES OF MEETING

TECHNICAL ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: April 1, 2009

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Scio Township Hall, 827 N. Zeeb Rd

Members Present: University of Michigan –Dave Miller, Chair
City of Ann Arbor Planning – Eli Cooper, 2nd 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
City of Saline – Gary Roubal
Washtenaw County Strategic Planning – Brett Lenart
Washtenaw County Road Commission Engineering – Roy Townsend
City of Ypsilanti DPW – Stan Kirton
MDOT – Kari Martin
City of Chelsea - Christine Linfield
Pittsfield Township – Paul Montagno

Members Absent: Ypsilanti Township – Joe Lawson

Others Present: FHWA – Chris Dingman
MDOT – Larry Dropiewski, Paul Lott
WBWC – Larry Deck
Washtenaw County Strategic Planning – Anya Dale
WATS – Terri Blackmore, 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 9:30 am and asked those present to introduce themselves.

2. Public Participation

Chair Miller asked if anyone from the public would like to address the Committee. No one present wished to address the Committee at that time.

3. Approval of the March 4, 2009 Minutes

Ms. Linfield made a motion to approve the March 4, 2009 Technical Committee minutes. Mr. Cooper supported the motion and the minutes were approved as presented.

4. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore encouraged all of the agencies to obligate their Stimulus/ARRA projects as soon as possible. The State anticipates that there will be redistributions nationally in July 2009 and March 2010. The State has agreed to share the additional funds received as part of the redistributions 75%-25% with areas that have obligated at least 50 percent of the funds by July, 2009 and 100% of the funds by March, 2010.

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS is helping Ann Arbor and Dexter prepare applications for possible earmarks and discretionary stimulus funds. The projects are the E. Stadium bridges, Ann Arbor-Saline crossing of I-94, and Dexter alternative to the railroad viaduct. Mr. Pirooz reported that the E. Stadium Bridge over State is rated a 2 out of 100; if the City closes the Stadium Bridge over State Street, they will also close State Street under the bridge. Mr. Townsend reported that since the state revamped the application process for bridge funding there has been a bias given to the rural areas over the urban areas. Also, MDOT has not fully funded the bridge program through the formula.

Handouts at place:

1. Upcoming meetings
2. Newsletter

5. WATS Activities

Ms. Blackmore reported that AATA cancelled the WALLY Coalition meeting scheduled for March 30.

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS sent a list of counts needed for the 2009 HPMS submission. WATS has submitted an amendment to its Work Program to add the STP funding for the traffic counter purchase.

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS received a copy of the Freedom Township Plan update and the comments were approved by the PAB on March 23 and will be considered at the next County Board meeting.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the delay in the approval for FY 2010-2013 TIP is confirmed so the next TIP amendment for FY 2008-2011 is critical to align 2010 and 2011 to cover until the new TIP is approved. The expected date for approval is no sooner than December 2009.

Ms. Blackmore reported on the 2035 Long Range Plan: All six deficiency identification lists and maps are complete. WATS received STP and TEDFD financial estimates from SEMCOG but WATS is preparing Safety, Bridge, CMAQ, Enhancement and Local estimates. WATS is in the process of setting meeting times for the public meetings for the 2035 Plan. Contact Nick Sapkiewicz if you are interested in a meeting in your community. The meetings will be held in June and the first two weeks of July. Please also provide Nick with updated contact information for your community's Neighborhood groups. The WATS Blog has posted all of the deficiencies types included in the plan on the blog.

Ms. Blackmore reported the final Transit plan has been presented at five of the regional planning groups, three City Councils (AA, Saline, and Ypsilanti), the county CEO's, three DDAs, three chambers, and three Township Boards. This is primarily an education effort to help the communities understand the recommendations of the plan. A presentation is planned for the People's Express on April 8 and Lyndon Township on April 14. Anyone interested in a presentation should contact the WATS office. The WATS plan was endorsed by the Ypsilanti DT DDA.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the next mobility management meeting in April 2nd in the WATS office.

6. Old Business

There was no old business.

7. New Business

A. MDOT Five Year Plan Presentation

Ms. Martin gave a presentation on the University Region 5-year plan for projects. A copy of the presentation is attached to the meeting packet in the WATS office.

Mr. Cooper stated that there is a lack of multi-modal projects in the 5-year plan and asked why the north/south rail improvements were not included. Ms. Martin said she would add the rail improvements. Mr. Cooper explained the importance of MDOT in bringing this project as the commuter shed crosses County borders making transit planning a challenge. Ms. Martin reported that in June MDOT will come for official comments from WATS on the development of the next 5-year plan. By December, MDOT hopes to have a complete wish list of projects complete. Mr. Cooper asked why the recommended US-23 improvements were not included. Ms. Martin explained that the US-23 report was not yet complete. The costs of the alternatives have to be completed. The US-23 improvements will have to be broken out into manageable segments to complete over time.

Mr. Lenart asked what the MDOT commitment to US-23 multimodal plans is. Ms. Martin explained MDOT is trying to expand plans, but is having difficulty acquiring right-of-way, etc.

B. Evolving Washtenaw Avenue Presentation

Ms. Dale gave a presentation on the future of the Washtenaw Avenue corridor. The presentation focused on the rate of vacant retail fronts in comparison, the residential development and the opportunity for redevelopment along the major transit corridor. A copy of the presentation is attached to the meeting packet in the WATS office.

Mr. White stated that this project could be a model corridor for transit. The corridor can support 7-8 minute bus lead times and service later than 11:30pm.

8. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Cooper reported that the Ann Arbor Planning Commission approved the Ann Arbor Transportation Plan on March 17 with a few amendments that will be added to the final version. On May 4, the Ann Arbor City Council will likely give their support to the corridor feasibility study. On Thursday, May 7, the City will seek input from the public on non-motorized plan investments.

Mr. Pirooz reported that in mid-April a few projects will get started including: Nixon/Huron Parkway roundabout, Huron River, and W. Stadium from Pauline to 700 feet east. A water main under Washtenaw will be replaced, requiring the closure of one eastbound lane. The new water main will be build under the service drive. The City will construct a roundabout at Geddes and Earhart as part of the MDOT project to build roundabouts at the Geddes/US-23 interchange. Concordia University has donated 2 acres of land and the public input has been positive. The construction will take place in 2010.

B. AATA

Mr. White reported that seven more hybrid buses will be in service by May.

C. City of Chelsea

Ms. Linfield reported that there will be a road project on E. Industrial and some preventive maintenance jobs this summer.

D. Village of Dexter

Mr. Gronevelt reported that a DDA projects on Jeffords will be underway shortly as well as some preventive maintenance work.

E. Eastern Michigan University

Mr. Otto had nothing to report.

F. FHWA

Mr. Dingman reported that the reporting requirements have a compressed timeline and he will distribute that information to those who need it. An inquiry from MDOT about delaying the 2010-2013 TIP was received and they were reviewing it.

E. Pittsfield Township

Mr. Montagno reported that he would be the new representative on Technical Committee from Pittsfield Township.

F. MDOT Planning, TSC and Region

Ms. Martin reported that Mark Geib is the new TSC manager which includes Washtenaw County. Mr. Dropiewski reported that work on Michigan Avenue/US-12 at Moon will start soon. Also, capital preventive maintenance on M-17 will start May 4.

G. City of Saline

Mr. Roubal reported that there is an update of the master plan underway that will include transportation throughout the City.

H. SEMCOG

Mr. Tumidanski was not present.

I. U of M

Mr. Miller reported that work on the Thompson parking structure work will begin in April; the work will include adding bike, moped, and motorcycle parking.

J. WCSP

Mr. Lenart reported that there has been work on mapping communities in Washtenaw County. Also, there has been work with regional planning groups to expand or combine.

K. WCRC

Mr. Townsend reported that the Platt Greenway path will be included in the June letting. The work on Jackson will resume in April. The E. Delhi bridge rehabilitation work will resume once the river level drops.

L. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Kirton reported that environmental cleanup has started at I-94 and Huron for a tanker spill. Ypsilanti's projects are listed in the WATS newsletter.

M. Ypsilanti Township

Mr. Lawson was not present.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Roubal made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Linfield seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 11:15.