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WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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TECHNICAL ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: November 4, 2009

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: WCRC Offices, 555 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Members Present: University of Michigan – Dave Miller, Chair
City of Ann Arbor Planning – Eli Cooper, 1st Vice-Chair
Washtenaw County Strategic Planning – Anya Dale (for Brett Lenart, 2nd Vice Chair)
AATA – Chris White
City of Ann Arbor Engineering – Homayoon Pirooz
Washtenaw County Road Commission – Roy Townsend
City of Ypsilanti DPW – Stan Kirton
MDOT University Region – Kari Martin
City of Chelsea - Christine Linfield
Pittsfield Township – Paul Montagno
Eastern Michigan University – Dieter Otto
Dexter Township – Patrick Sloan
Village of Dexter – Rhett Gronevelt
City of Saline – Gary Roubal
Ypsilanti Township – Joe Lawson

Members Absent: MDOT Planning – Ola Williams

Others Present: FHWA – Chris Dingman
SEMCOG – Jeff Tumidanski
MDOT – Paul Lott, Larry Dropiewski
WATS – Terri Blackmore, Eric Bombery, Ryan Buck, Nick Sapkiewicz, Sarah Pressprich

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 •

AN INTERMUNICIPALITY COMMITTEE ORGANIZED UNDER ACT 200 OF PUBLIC ACTS OF MICHIGAN (1957)
REPRESENTING WASHTENAW COUNTY

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 anyone from the public would like to address the Committee. No one asked to address the committee so Chair Miller closed the public participation time.

3. Approval of the September 2, 2009 Minutes

Ms. Linfield made a motion to approve the September 2, 2009 Technical Committee minutes. Mr. White supported the motion and the Technical Committee approved the minutes.

4. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore reported that a call for applicants is out for additional members of the Technical Committee to represent specific interest groups in freight, non-motorized, disabled, environmental, and senior communities. The Policy Committee will select the new members in December.

Ms. Blackmore introduced WATS' new intern, Sarah Pressprich.

Handouts at place:

1. Upcoming meetings and important dates
2. 2035 Transportation Plan for Washtenaw County
3. 2035 Transportation Plan Brochure
4. What happens if there is no transit expansion in Washtenaw County?
5. Washtenaw County needs more Public Transit.
6. Ann Arbor to Detroit Rapid Transit Update

5. WATS Activities

Ms. Blackmore reported an update on the A2 to Detroit commuter rail service is at each place.

Ms. Blackmore reported AATA held a WALLY Coalition meeting on November 2 at 10:00 am at Northfield Township Public Safety Building. There are brochures and WALLY corridor maps available.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the traffic counters arrived at WATS. Agencies must issue a purchase order or pay local cost to WATS prior to picking up the counters.

Ms. Blackmore reported WATS has been reviewing and participating in the development of an Access Plan for the CAPT/DART planning area.

Ms. Blackmore reported WATS is working with the Office of Highway Safety Planning and Wayne State University to evaluate 25 intersections in the County. WATS received the draft report from Wayne State and provided feedback prior to Wayne State's final report. WATS will schedule a

Washtenaw County Safety Summit to provide presentations on the Wayne State findings and recommendations and other relevant safety presentations.

Ms. Blackmore reported the Policy Committee received two comments at their Policy Committee meeting on the LRP. The Policy Committee unanimously approved 2035 Transportation Plan for Washtenaw County. SEMCOG agreed to incorporate the entire WATS 2035 Plan into the regional plan.

Ms. Blackmore reported as part of the implementation of the transit plan, WATS presented at the Ann Arbor Chamber's Impact event to a breakout group of about 45 people. Seventeen attendees indicated that they would like to be involved in moving to Countywide Public Transit. Staff also completed two brochures for the event including What happens if there is no transit expansion in Washtenaw County and Washtenaw needs more Public Transit! The Partners for Transit group has established two subcommittees – one for communications and one for governance. The Governance Committee has narrowed options for countywide board representation to two options that will be presented at a meeting of county leaders. WATS will host this meeting with the desired outcome of a governance structure that everyone feels is fair as possible given the population and funding provided by communities. WATS continues working with Jeff Irwin to meet with County leaders members to advance the countywide transit plan.

Ms. Blackmore reported WATS is providing assistance to the Mobility Management office to incorporate as a 501c3 with the intention of providing education to seniors and other transit dependent populations on using the bus systems in addition to matching callers with trip options.

6. Old Business

There was no old business.

7. New Business

A. 2035 Plan for Washtenaw County

Ms. Blackmore reported that the 2035 Long Range Plan (LRP) was printed and bound for agencies to pick up when the agencies return the Public Involvement binders.

B. Prepare list of State needs for MDOT

Ms. Blackmore requested the committee come to the December meeting with potential MDOT Improvements for MDOT facilities. Jeff Reid from MDOT will be at the meeting to here and MDOT will consider requests from the committee during their programming processes.

C. Update on Reimagining Washtenaw Avenue

Ms. Dale gave a presentation on the progress of the Washtenaw Corridor Improvement Plan. . 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. Townsend stated that there is a 2011 project on Golfside planned and it would be a good opportunity to incorporate ideas in this planned project.

8. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Cooper reported that the City Council will review the Fuller Rd Station plan on November 5. The station is south of Fuller and east of E. Medical Center. The first phase will include parking along with interconnection amenities for walking, biking and AATA transit.

Mr. Pirooz reported the 2009 projects are complete and design for 2010 projects is underway. The ARRA project on Plymouth and Green was submitted to MDOT and includes bike lanes on Plymouth and a road diet on Green. A public information meeting was held on the East Stadium bridges with 50 attendees. City of Ann Arbor staff explained the reasons that an at-grade intersection is not feasible. He noted that DTE power lines are being buried before construction can begin. The City will remove the sagging beam later this month and the removal requires closing State Street for three days.

B. AATA

Mr. White reported that the construction of the Plymouth/US-23 park and ride lot is under construction and AATA will begin service there in January. He noted that discussion on alternatives for the bus station closure at Arborland are ongoing; in the near future AATA will see how they can make crossing Washtenaw safer. Two transit surveys are complete (countywide transit and rider survey) and Mr. White will share the results when they are available.

C. City of Chelsea

Ms. Linfield reported that Ms. Feeney did not run for Mayor but did run for City council so the City's Policy representative may change.

D. Dexter Township

Mr. Sloan had nothing to report.

E. Village of Dexter

Mr. Gronevelt reported that the 2009 preventive maintenance work is complete. The Village is close to submitting its ARRA project to MDOT, which will fill in the last gap on Ann Arbor with a paved shoulder.

F. Eastern Michigan University

Mr. Otto had nothing to report.

G. Federal Highway Administration

Mr. Dingman asked the committee if any ARRA projects would not make the deadline. FHWA is encouraging agencies to prepare B list projects to use unspent funds from other areas. The FHWA is operating under a continuing resolution and no change in that is seen in the near future.

H. Pittsfield Township

Mr. Montagno reported that the Township kicked off its 2010 plan development. Transportation will be a main part of the 2010 plan. Public meetings on the 2010 plan are scheduled for next week Monday and Wednesday. A study is being conducted on Lohr for possible non-motorized facilities.

I. MDOT Planning

Mr. Williams was not present.

J. MDOT Region

Mr. Dropiewski reported that the federal ARRA project on I-94 from Parker to Jackson County is winding down for the year and will continue next year. The work on the US-23 rest area in Northfield has begun and the rest area will be closed for the duration of the project. Preparatory work for the US-23 and Geddes interchange project has begun. The M-52 project from Manchester Village to I-94 design work is nearly complete and the project will be built in 2010.

Ms. Martin reported the region is working on the update to the 5-year plan, which will be finalized by February or March. Ms. Martin also reminded the committee of the Washtenaw County Traffic Summit being held on November 18 at the WCRC offices.

K. SEMCOG

Mr. Tumidanski reported that SEMCOG is already having internal meetings on possible redistribution of ARRA funds. The RTP was approved by the General Assembly October 22.

L. City of Saline

Mr. Roubal reported that the 2009 construction is complete. The draft of the non-motorized plan was approved by the City Council. The 2011 project on Willis is under design and will include bike lanes on both sides.

M. University of Michigan

Mr. Miller reported that the University is excited about the cooperation on the Fuller Road Station. He noted that the University bus system will also serve the Fuller Road Station.

N. Washtenaw County Road Commission

Mr. Townsend reported that the final phase of the Boulevard project on Jackson is finishing up with only restoration work left for next year. Milan/Oakville will be complete when signage has been installed. The Plymouth/Gotfredson intersection is complete. The Plymouth bridge reconstruction is complete. The Pittsfield Greenway is 95% complete and will be completed later this month. The WCRC ARRA projects will start next year. The 2010 STP urban project on Holmes has been delayed and Oak Valley work will be moved up to 2010 to ensure the federal funding is spent.

O. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Kirton reported that the right of way acquisition on Mansfield is complete. The installation of ADA ramps continues.

P. Ypsilanti Township

Mr. Lawson reported that design has begun for expansion of the border-to-border trail along Bridge.

Q. Washtenaw County Strategic Planning

Ms. Dale had nothing to report.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Townsend made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Linfield seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 10:55.