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WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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TECHNICAL ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: September 2, 2009

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Scio Township Hall, 827 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Members Present: University of Michigan –Dave Miller, Chair
Washtenaw County Strategic Planning – Brett Lenart, 2nd Vice Chair
AATA – Chris White
City of Ann Arbor Engineering – Homayoon Pirooz
MDOT Planning – Ola Williams
Washtenaw County Road Commission Engineering – 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

Members Absent: City of Ann Arbor Planning – Eli Cooper, 1st Vice-Chair
Village of Dexter – Rhett Gronevelt
City of Saline – Gary Roubal
Ypsilanti Township – Joe Lawson

Others Present: City of Ann Arbor – Pat Cawley
SEMCOG – Jeff Tumidanski
MDOT – Paul Lott, Larry Dropiewski
WATS – Terri Blackmore, Eric Bombery, Ryan Buck

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 9:34 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.

3. Approval of the August 5, 2009 Minutes

Mr. White made a correction to the minutes removing “acting” before CEO in his report.

Mr. Lenart made a motion to approve the August 5, 2009 Technical Committee minutes as amended. Mr. Kirton supported the motion and the Technical Committee approved the minutes as amended.

4. Communications and Announcements

Handouts at place:

1. Upcoming meetings
2. WATS TIP Schedule
3. TIP Admin/Full Amendment Criteria

5. WATS Activities

Ms. Blackmore reported there was no new information on the Ann Arbor to Detroit rail since the June update.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the next meeting for WALLY is on September 28th at 10:00 am at the Northfield Township Public Safety building.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the City of Ann Arbor has issued an RFP for the traffic counter purchase. All agencies participating to the counter purchase will have to provide the local match.

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS reviewed the Webster Township Master Plan amendment and provided comments on September 1.

Ms. Blackmore reported that comments were received from the County Office of Strategic Planning on the 2035 Long Range Plan.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the Transit Plan was presented at the Chelsea City Council meeting on August 25.

Ms. Blackmore reported as part of the implementation of the transit plan, WATS is managing the Transit Team for the Ann Arbor Regional Success. This will be one of the breakout groups for the Ann Arbor Chamber’s Impact 2009 meeting on September 30. The group has established two

subcommittees – one for communications and one for governance. WATS continues working with a member of the County Board to meet with County leaders to advance the countywide transit plan.

Ms. Blackmore reported the Mobility Management office is open and taking calls for transit needs and connecting the callers with providers. Signs and key chains are available from the office.

6. Old Business

Ms. Blackmore reported that Policy Committee approved the bylaws change to add 5 public members to Technical Committee. Members will be appointed in January.

7. New Business

A. 2035 Plan for Washtenaw County

Ms. Blackmore reported that the 2035 Long Range Plan (LRP) draft needed final approval from the committee. The final will be reformatted with larger maps but the content will remain the same. The plan needs to be approved for the County to be able to spend federal funding on transportation..

Mr. Lenart inquired whether SEMCOG would be incorporating all of the WATS 2035 Plan in their regional plan. Ms. Blackmore responded that she did not know.

Mr. Townsend made a motion to recommend Policy Committee approval of the 2035 LRP for Washtenaw County. Ms. Linfield supported the motion and the motion passed.

B. FY 2008–FY 2011 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment

Mr. Bombery reported WATS issued the first call for amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) program on July 27, 2009. He noted that the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, City of Ann Arbor, and People's Express submitted projects for amendment. Of the 16 project amendments, 10 projects are additions and six are changes.

Mr. Bombery reported the 10 new projects for amendment to the FY 2008-2011 TIP total \$705,000. The new projects are using federal and state transit funds, and are not fiscally constrained by WATS but are fiscally constrained by MDOT and SEMCOG. All the added projects are transit equipment purchases or operations; therefore result in a positive Environmental Justice impact.

Mr. White reported that AATA would like to add an ARRA operating expense project to the amendments to continue operating service in Ypsilanti in the short term. Mr. Tumidanski reminded AATA that the new ARRA project would have to go through the approval process. Mr. Bombery told AATA to provide the amendment information and it would be added to the amendment list provided to Policy.

Mr. White made a motion to approve the FY 2008–FY 2011 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment as amended. Mr. Lenart supported the motion and the motion passed.

C. FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications

Mr. Bomberly explained WATS completes administrative amendments as needed and provides them to the Committees along with the full amendments. Administrative amendments are minor changes made to TIP projects without going through the committee process. WATS and SEMCOG use administrative amendments to expedite the processing of small changes without delaying a project. WATS and SEMCOG made four modifications in the last amendment period and are provided for the committee's information.

D. MDOT Procedure for use of all ARRA funds

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS received a letter from Chris Mann at SEMCOG outlining the options for redistributing ARRA funds in projects are under bid. SEMCOG's recommendation is to give the possible additional funds to a project ready to go. Mr. Lenart recommended giving WATS the power to distribute any left over ARRA funds in the most productive way to keep the funds within the County. Ms. Blackmore explained that the WCRC had one uncertified project and recommended providing any leftover funds to that project. The extra funds the WCRC would receive in ARRA would be made up to other communities in future STP allocations. The technical committee agreed and Mr. Townsend stated that he would put together a list of additional force account work in case funding becomes available.

8. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Pirooz reported that Packard opened today with a couple more weeks of work needed to complete the project. He noted that work on State was complete. Work on the remaining lanes on N. Maple will start within the week between Dexter and Miller. The Stadium lanes at the of intersection at W. Stadium and Pauline will open Friday. The design for the Stadium bridges is complete and construction plans are underway. The City received many letters of support for the project to apply for grants. The City plans to construct the roundabouts on Geddes at Earhart and US-23 next year including the pedestrian bridge across US-23. There was a planning workshop on the intermodal station planned for Fuller; the project will start as a parking structure then expand into an intermodal facility. Mr. Townsend noted that Ann Arbor and the WCRC would be conducting the winter maintenance on the pedestrian bridge over US-23 for MDOIT but doubts local agencies will be able to maintain MDOIT facilities in the future.

Mr. Cawley reported that the citywide pedestrian enhancement project was underway.

B. AATA

Mr. White reported that AATA will financially support the connector feasibility study. He also noted that AATA received a Department of Energy grant for incremental cost of 10 hybrid buses through the Michigan Clean Energy Coalition. Options for the level of service for Ypsilanti are still being discussed. AATA will use ARRA funding to continue current

Ypsilanti service through May. The AATA moved the stops at Arborland to Washtenaw and although AATA talked with the owner of the property about AATA and owner's concerns.

C. City of Chelsea

Ms. Linfield reported the only road project still to be done this year was on E. Industrial. All the other summer projects in the City are complete.

D. Dexter Township

Mr. Sloan had nothing to report.

E. Eastern Michigan University

Mr. Otto reported that EMU had made significant expansion of bike routes adding two miles to the non-motorized system and the border to border trail over the summer.

F. Pittsfield Township

Mr. Montagno reported that the road projects around Walmart are progressing on schedule. The Platt Greenway is under construction. The township is constructing some sidewalk gaps.

G. MDOT Planning

Mr. Williams reported that the obligation period for FY09 projects closed at the end of the week. MDOT will not prioritize TIGER grants and the grants should be submitted directly to USDOT.

H. MDOT Region

Mr. Dropiewski reported that the federal ARRA team is coming to the Brighton offices for an audit on the current ARRA projects. The project on M-52 from Manchester to I-94 is planned for 2010. Concrete patching will be done on the interchange ramps on Ann Arbor/Saline at I-94. The cap on the sound wall along I-94 in Ypsilanti Township will be repaired this month.

I. SEMCOG

Mr. Tumidanski reported that SEMCOG added the CMAQ project awards to the TIP last month.

J. University of Michigan

Mr. Miller reported that multiple agencies were involved in the FIT intermodal station planning session. The university also received a grant from the DOE through the CEC for the incremental cost three hybrid plug-in buses and 30 sedans..

K. Washtenaw County Road Commission

Mr. Townsend reported that the Dexter Main St. Bridge had its official dedication. The E. Delhi Bridge is now open to traffic. There will be a shift of traffic on Jackson in October. The Plymouth Bridge will open in October. The Plymouth and Gotfredson safety project will be complete in October. The Sharron Hollow and Pleasant Lake intersection would be completed this fall. The roundabout at Stony Creek and Whitaker will be in the September bid letting.

L. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Kirton reported that the construction on Mansfield south of Michigan was complete. N. Mansfield from Cross to Westmoreland is also complete. The deck repair on Leforge over the Huron River is nearly complete. The ADA compliant sidewalk ramp replacement is ongoing. MDOT left curb and gutter work for the City to complete on Washtenaw.

M. Washtenaw County Strategic Planning

Mr. Lenart reported that presentations and work on the Washtenaw Ave redevelopment study was ongoing. He noted that the County received comments from WATS on the Webster Twp master plan amendment. A meeting of the Saline Sustainability Circle is scheduled for tonight to talk about urban service districts.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Lenart made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Otto seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 10:50.