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WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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

NOTICE OF MEETING

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, December 7, 2011

TIME: 9:30 am

PLACE: WATS Meeting Space, 705 N. Zeeb Road, Scio Township

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order/Introductions
2. Public Participation
3. Approval of Minutes – November 2, 2011 Technical Committee Meeting (attached) – Action
4. Communications and Announcements
5. Report on WATS Activities
6. Old Business
7. New Business
 - A. Draft 2040 Regional Development Forecast - Xuan Liu – Presentation and discussion
 - B. Complete Streets Toolbox and Checklist – Ryan Buck and Nick Sapkiewicz - Presentation

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 • CITY OF MILAN • 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

8. Agency/Interests Reports

City of Ann Arbor	Ann Arbor DDA	AATA
City of Chelsea	Village of Dexter	Dexter Township
EMU	FHWA	Pittsfield Township
City of Milan	MDOT Planning	MDOT Region/TSC
City of Saline	SEMCOG	U of M
WCRC	City of Ypsilanti	Ypsilanti Township
Washtenaw County	Disabled	Environmental
Freight	Non-motorized	Senior

9. Adjournment

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TECHNICAL ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: November 2, 2011
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: WATS Meeting Space, 705 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Members Present: City of Ann Arbor – Eli Cooper, Chair
Pittsfield Township – Paul Montagno, 1st Vice-Chair
AATA – Chris White
Washtenaw County Road Commission – Roy Townsend
Eastern Michigan University – Dieter Otto
Village of Dexter – Rhett Gronevelt
MDOT University Region – Larry Dropiewski
MDOT Planning – Ola Williams
University of Michigan – Steve Dolen
Non-Motorized Representative – Larry Deck
Dexter Township – Patrick Sloan
Disabled Representative – Dave Reid
Ypsilanti Township – Joe Lawson
City of Ann Arbor Engineering – Homayoon Pirooz
City of Saline – Jeff Fordice (for Gary Roubal)
Senior Representative – Wes Armbruster
Ann Arbor DDA – Amber Miller

Members Absent: City of Chelsea - Christine Linfield, 2nd Vice-Chair
Freight Representative – Lance Hagler
Environment Representative – Timothy Fischer
Washtenaw County Public Health – Lily Guzman
City of Milan – Robert Grostick
City of Ypsilanti DPW – Stan Kirton

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- MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION • CITY OF MILAN • 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 •
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Others Present: WATS – Terri Blackmore, Ryan Buck, Eric Bombery, Nick Sapkiewicz, Mark Ferrall
FHWA – Andy Picard
MDOT – Kari Martin

1. Call to Order

Chair Cooper called the Technical Committee meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

2. Public Participation

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

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Townsend made a motion to approve the September 7 and the October 5 meeting minutes. Mr. White supported the motion and the Committee approved the minutes.

4. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore reported that TheRide would be holding a series of transit meetings in November and December in each of the new countywide transit districts to gain public input and offer a chance for the public to meet each of the district representatives on the unincorporated countywide transit board.

Ms. Blackmore announced that WATS would be hosting several public meetings on the Complete Streets plan.

Ms. Blackmore explained that State Representative Rick Olson would be presenting several options to address transportation funding shortfalls at the November 16 Policy Committee meeting.

Ms. Blackmore noted that the Office of Highway Safety Planning is accepting nominations for Outstanding Contributions to Traffic Safety Awards for 2011 and WATS staff would be able to assist those interested in making a nomination.

Ms. Blackmore reported that all 2012 federal discretionary funding calls occur at the same time in November with awards announced in summer 2012.

Handouts at place:

1. Upcoming meetings

5. Report on WATS Activities

Ms. Blackmore reported that SEMCOG and MDOT are proceeding with an Environmental Assessment for the Ann Arbor to Detroit rail project and plan to hold public meetings on the matter.

Ms. Blackmore added that Amtrak is planning to operate special event trains and final passenger car inspections.

Ms. Blackmore noted that the call for federal discretionary funds would occur together within the next month.

Ms. Blackmore explained that WATS transportation model updates were nearly complete.

Ms. Blackmore reported that Census Bureau would release Census Transportation Planning Package in fall 2012.

Ms. Blackmore reminded members that WATS is continuing to develop scoring for new federal funding criteria for the Technical Committee to review and recommend to Policy Committee.

Ms. Blackmore added that the draft Complete Streets document is available for review on the WATS website.

Ms. Blackmore explained that WATS has begun to transition P4T activities to the Suburbs Alliance for ongoing Transit Master Plan support.

6. Old Business

There was no old business.

7. New Business

A. Complete Streets Plan for Washtenaw County

Mr. Buck reported that WATS will accept comments on the Draft Complete Streets Plan for Washtenaw County through December 15 and that the document is available on the WATS website. Mr. Buck added that the Policy Committee approved the Complete Streets policies. Mr. Buck thanked those who participated on the Complete Streets steering committee.

Mr. Deck provided several comments on the Complete Streets plan and asked how WATS identified individual needs.

Mr. Buck explained that the needs identification process made use of the most current data available and included manually adding needs to priority corridors. Mr. Buck encouraged committee members to comment on any errors they find.

B. Technical Committee Special Interest Seats

Mr. Buck reported that WATS has received several applications to fill Technical Committee special interest seats and that WATS would accept applications through November 10. Mr. Buck added that WATS would not count any unfilled seats toward the minimum number of representatives required for a quorum.

C. Bicycle Counts

Mr. Sapkiewicz reported that transportation agencies using pool traffic counters purchased by WATS have the ability to collect bicycle data and are encouraged to do so. Mr. Sapkiewicz added that WATS could use bicycle traffic counts to improve the WATS model. Mr. Sapkiewicz noted that WATS would hold a meeting to discuss bicycle counts on November 28 and asked the committee to attend with their traffic counting staff.

Mr. Townsend acknowledged the benefit of having bicycle count data but explained that the budget and timeframe for carrying out the traffic count program may prohibit incorporating the regular collection of bicycle data.

Ms. Blackmore explained that WATS purchased the traffic counter with the intent that they would be used to collect bicycle data.

Mr. Fordice noted Saline would be interested collecting bicycle data.

Mr. Dropiewski asked that MDOT be included in the bicycle count meeting.

8. Agency Reports

A. Ann Arbor

Mr. Pirooz reported that work on the Stadium bridges would commence November 7 and that Stadium would close for construction November 28. Mr. Pirooz also noted that Ann Arbor City Council voted to put the cities road and sidewalk millages on the ballot.

Mr. Cooper reported that Ann Arbor staff would be reviewing the city's five-year transportation plan as well as the city's pedestrian ordinance.

B. Ann Arbor DDA

Ms. Miller reported that the DDA stored their on-street bicycle parking for the year and that pedestrian improvements at Fifth Avenue and Division were complete with the exception of the area near the underground parking structure.

C. AATA

Mr. White reported the AATA began hosting district meeting for the Transit Master Plan and that the meetings provide an opportunity for the public to provide comments on desired services. Mr. White added that the countywide funding task force would meet again on November 18. Mr. White also reported that construction on bus pullouts and stop improvements at Washtenaw and Pittsfield had begun and would be complete by December.

D. Dexter Village

Mr. Gronevelt reported that the Village would have its non-motorized and water main projects complete by spring. Mr. Gronevelt added that in the next construction season the Village would focus on the first phase of Central street reconstruction, adding bike lanes and a crosswalk.

E. Dexter Township

Mr. Sloan had nothing to report.

F. EMU

Mr. Otto had nothing to report.

G. FHWA

Mr. Pickard reported the FHWA announced Tiger III grant awards earlier in the month.

H. Pittsfield Township

Mr. Montagno reported that Pittsfield Township passed a Complete Streets ordinance and the work continues on the Lohr Rd. Greenway.

I. MDOT Planning

Mr. Williams reported that FTA would be holding a meeting on Environmental Justice in Detroit.

J. MDOT Region

Mr. Dropiewski reported that most contract work is complete for the season. Mr. Dropiewski explained that ITS work continues throughout the region and that M-52 would have intermittent shoulder closures for restoration work. Mr. Dropiewski added that one cross walk installation remains for the Cross St. project and that M-14 would have weekend single-lane closures.

K. Saline

Mr. Fordice reported that Saline would be paving roads later in the week as part of a local street program.

L. UM

Mr. Dolen reported that UM is exploring implementation of a bike-sharing program and expects that the program would begin next year.

M. WCRC

Mr. Townsend reported that WCRC and DLZ have begun design work for a roundabout at State and Ellsworth and that the preferred alternative for the State St. environmental assessment was chosen. Mr. Townsend also reported that the Golfside and Ford bidlettings would be delayed until next year and that the Countywide Road Commission millage discussion was pushed back by the WCBOC. Mr. Townsend went on to say that the Road Commissions sign project continues and that the Road Commission would apply for funding the Austin Rd and Feldkamp bridges in 2014.

N. Disabled

Mr. Reid had nothing to report.

O. Non-motorized

Mr. Deck reported the Fuller Road Station and Main St. should be examined in context of the border-to-border trail.

Ms. Blackmore explained that the Policy subcommittee to explore a separate MPO met and discussed TIP process and slow payments from SEMCOG. Ms. Blackmore added that the subcommittee would review Memorandums of Understanding between WATS and SEMCOG at their next meeting.

9. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 10:50 a.m.