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## WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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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, November 2, 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 – September 7, 2011 Technical Committee Meeting and October 5, 2011 Technical Committee Meeting (attached) – Action
4. Communications and Announcements
5. Report on WATS Activities
6. Old Business
7. New Business
  - A. Complete Streets Plan for Washtenaw County (link below) Ryan Buck – Information (<http://miwats.org/WATS/leftside/completestreets/Draftplan.html>)
  - B. Technical Committee Special Interest Members (To be distributed) Ryan Buck – Information
  - C. Bicycle Traffic Counts – Nick Sapkiewicz – Discussion

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#### 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: September 7, 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  
 City of Ann Arbor Engineering – Homayoon Pirooz  
 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 Dolan  
 Non-Motorized Representative – Larry Deck  
 Dexter Township – Patrick Sloan  
 Ypsilanti Township – Joe Lawson

Members Absent: City of Chelsea - Christine Linfield, 2nd Vice-Chair  
 Ann Arbor DDA – Susan Pollay  
 Freight Representative – Lance Hagler  
 FHWA – Andy Picard  
 Environment Representative – Timothy Fischer  
 Disabled Representative – Dave Reid  
 Washtenaw County Public Health – Lily Guzman  
 City of Milan – Robert Grostick  
 City of Saline – Gary Roubal  
 Senior Representative – Wes Armbruster  
 City of Ypsilanti DPW – Stan Kirton

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Others Present:           WATS – Terri Blackmore, Ryan Buck, Eric Bombery, Nick Sapkiewicz, Mark Ferrall  
                                  SEMCOG – Jeff Tumidanski  
                                  MDOT – Kari Martin, Paul Lott  
                                  OPUS – Cynthia Redinger

1. Call to Order

Chair Cooper called the meeting to order at 9:31 A.M. and asked those present to introduce themselves.

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. Montagno and Mr. Deck made corrections to the minutes. Mr. Deck made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Mr. White seconded the motion and the Committee approved the minutes.

4. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore reported that the TIGER pre-application site will open for submissions on September 9 instead of August 22 as previously reported by FHWA.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the House and Senate leadership announced the members of the new Joint Special Committee, which includes Rep. David Camp and Rep. Fred Upton from Michigan.

Handouts at place:

1. Upcoming meetings
2. LID Matrix

5. Report on WATS Activities

Ms. Blackmore reported that the WATS model update, which will add the City of Milan to the model and increase the flexibility of the mode choice model, is approximately 70% complete.

Ms. Blackmore explained that the Census would release the Transportation Planning Product (CTPP) in fall of 2012. The Census Bureau has released the 2010 Census SF1 data.

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS and WCRC identified a protocol for bikes, mopeds and motorcycles using the new traffic counters and identified locations for bike counts.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the Complete Streets Steering Committee has forwarded a set of policies to the WATS Technical committee for this meeting for their recommendation to Policy

Committee. Staff developed a sample Complete Streets ordinance and initiated the draft complete streets checklist, in coordination with the WCRC.

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS staff is supporting a HUD grant application that includes the Reimagine Washtenaw project. Mark Ouimet and Jeff Irwin will cosponsor the changes to the CIA law for Reimagine Washtenaw with passage expected by the end of the year.

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS is providing support to AATA for the countywide governance effort for an expanded transit board. Of the five areas that need to approve an Act 7 inter-local agreement, all districts have negotiated and three have approved it. The Countywide unincorporated Transit Board will meet on October 20, 2011

6. Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

7. New Business

A. Complete Streets Policies

Mr. Buck explained that in January 2011, WATS initiated development of the Complete Streets Plan for Washtenaw County. Among other accomplishments, the steering committee has created four complete streets policies. The policies listed below for Technical Committee consideration:

**General Complete Streets Policy**

Transportation agencies shall consider the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation vehicles and riders, motorists, freight vehicles, and people of all ages and abilities during planning, programming, policy development, design, construction, reconstruction, retrofit, operations, and maintenance activities and during product selection. Communities, transportation agencies, and partners should recognize all modes as integral elements of the transportation system and view all transportation improvements as opportunities to improve safety, access, and mobility for all travelers in the region.

**Policy on Federal Funds**

The Washtenaw Area Transportation Study will confirm that Complete Streets needs are considered for any improvement seeking federal transportation funds.

**Policy on Supporting the Vision of the Community**

The Washtenaw Area Transportation Study seeks to promote Washtenaw County communities' livability and sustainability goals through planning and implementing Complete Streets initiatives and improvements.

**Policy on Public Health**

The Washtenaw Area Transportation Study supports improving public health by encouraging, facilitating, and accommodating physical activity through the design and connectivity of

transportation infrastructure, including ordinances, which promote public rights-of-way as safe places for transportation, social, and recreational functions.

Mr. Townsend made a motion to recommend the Policy Committee approve the Complete Streets Policies. Mr. White seconded and the motion passed.

B. Complete Streets Toolkit

Mr. Buck explained that to facilitate and enhance development of the WATS Complete Streets Plan for Washtenaw County, WATS collaborated with the Washtenaw County Department of Community Health and awarded a small grant requiring WATS create a complete streets toolkit. The grant stipulates that the toolkit provide examples of complete streets treatments that cover all land use types (urban, urban fringe, and rural). WATS is producing two versions of the toolkit. The print version will be included within the text of the Complete Streets Plan document and a second version of the toolkit will be web-based. It will include the same information as the print version but with enhanced functionality including links to additional information, research, pictures, and embedded videos.

Mr. Buck presented two examples of treatments included in the Toolkit. Mr. Deck made a correction that shared use paths could be used in an urban context as well.

C. 2010 Crash Report

Mr. Bombery explained the draft 2010 Traffic Crash Report is available for review by the Technical Committee. Mr. Bombery asked the committee to review the report and return comments to him no later than September 16. WATS will distribute the final Traffic Crash Report in October and request approval.

D. Revised Federal Aid Criteria

Mr. Bombery explained that WATS along with a Sub-Committee of Technical worked on a redesign of the Federal Aid Criteria. WATS is asking that Technical Committee members review the form and return comments no later than September 16 to Mark Ferrall.

Mr. Deck suggested that WATS add a category analyzing cost/benefit based on the life of the project to the application. Mr. Townsend reminded the Committee that to reach a road's true lifespan, must use preventive maintenance treatments throughout the life of the pavement. He also stated that since WATS is looking for projects out 4 -5 years it is hard to know what roads would need preventive maintenance. Ms. Blackmore asked if there should be a PM set-aside so specific projects are selected closer to the construction year. Mr. Pirooz asked what is gained by adding more restrictions on the funds. Ms. Blackmore stated that much of the questions would likely be required with the next transportation authorization.

Mr. Pirooz asked that the Committee review the purpose of the application. He would argue it is not to be more restrictive. Mr. Bombery reminded the committee that this form is a starting point that will provide a ranked list. Mr. Bombery added that, following the initial ranking, the agencies could justify why lower projects are a higher priority. He stated that FHWA requires an application in order to select the best regional projects and is not supposed to be adding restrictions. Mr. Pirooz stated that what might not seem to be restrictions to WATS seem like restrictions to the City. Mr.

Dolen stated that the form might have the opposite effect as well by adding support to the higher ranked project, not just restrict. Mr. Montagno stated that WATS is trying to refine a decision making tool.

Mr. White reminded everyone that the funds are regional and projects should be ranked together as a region. Mr. Cooper stated he sees the form as important and asked the agencies to look at the form critically for fairness between improvement types. He also reminded the Committee that the projects would be evaluated by the entire form's criteria. Mr. Gronevelt stated that agencies are at the mercy of what FHWA requires and appreciates WATS is trying to stay ahead of the curve.

Mr. Carson asked if this new criteria would affect small agencies more compared to large ones. Mr. Dolen stated that the attributes are not based on community size. Mr. Pirooz stated he does not have a problem with the data being collected but does have a problem if it directly affects what projects are funded or not. Mr. Bombery stated that this form does not decide which project receives funding and which does not. The form starts the discussion of why local agencies lower ranked projects should be moved up and that rationale will be recorded. Mr. Cooper stated that the transparency of project selection is important for the public process.

Mr. Dolen recommended adding an impact statement where agencies could add why a lower ranked project is a high priority. Ms. Blackmore stated that this form is to fulfill the federal requirements without being overly burdensome, without writing a blank check.

Mr. Bombery asked the Committee to return comments on the form by September 16.

8. Agency Reports

A. Ann Arbor

Mr. Pirooz reported that Ann Arbor's annual street resurfacing program is wrapping up. City Council approved another \$500K for additional resurfacing work in the City. City Council also is considering adding a millage for sidewalk replacement to the renewal of the street millage. Bids for the Stadium Bridge replacements and improvements will open Friday. The bridge will be closed from November 2011 to April 2013, with intermittent closures of State Street as well.

Mr. Cooper reported that at 2:30 there would be a ribbon cutting for the Washtenaw Ave. non-motorized path. In addition, the police are enforcing the new pedestrian ordinance in the City.

B. AATA

Mr. White reported that financial experts are reviewing the AATA Master Plan funding report. The AATA Board should approve the fiscal year 2012 budget at the next board meeting.

C. Dexter Village

Mr. Gronevelt reported that work on the Hudson Mills bike path continues in Warrior Creek Park.

D. Dexter Township

Mr. Sloan had nothing to report.

E. EMU

Mr. Otto reported that the Washtenaw at Oakwood project is complete and traffic is moving much smoother without backups.

F. Pittsfield Township

Mr. Montagno reported that work on the Lohr-Textile Greenway continues. The sidewalk gap project on Washtenaw is nearing completion. A draft complete streets ordinance is before the Township Board and action should be taken soon.

G. MDOT Planning

Mr. Williams reported that they are working with SEMCOG to implement the MOVES air quality model.

H. MDOT Region

Mr. Dropiewski reported the westbound ramp at Ecorse and US-12 would be closed for 21 days as it is rebuilt. There will be periodic I-94 lane closures for ITS installation. The Traffic Summit date has not been set.

I. SEMCOG

Mr. Tumidanski reported that SEMCOG is still working on a date for the Utilities Summit.

J. UM

Mr. Dolan reported the university has adjusted the bus schedule slightly at the hospital, which seems to be working. The university is still discussing options for a bike rental and sharing program.

K. WCRC

Mr. Townsend reported that funds for Ford Boulevard are obligated. Golfside is held up for pedestrian signal requirements, but the signals are MDOT's. There will be three meetings on the State EA. He noted that a sidewalk and a bus stop have been added at Willow Run High School. The repairs to the Mast Road Bridge in Dexter are complete. The County overlay program is complete and ten miles of road received fog seal in addition to chip seal.

L. Ypsilanti Township

Mr. Lawson had nothing to report.

M. Non-motorized

Mr. Deck reported that seven of the WBWC priority projects identified two years ago are complete, in progress, or funded and scheduled, and he thanked the committee. The WBWC will update its list of priority projects.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Townsend made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Montagno supported the motion and the meeting adjourned at 11:32 A.M.



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**TECHNICAL ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

DATE: October 5, 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 – Christine Phillips (for Rhett Gronewelt)  
 MDOT University Region – Paul Lott (for Larry Dropiewski)  
 MDOT Planning – Ola Williams  
 University of Michigan – Steve Dolan  
 Non-Motorized Representative – Larry Deck  
 Dexter Township – Patrick Sloan  
 Ypsilanti Township – Joe Lawson

Members Absent: City of Chelsea - Christine Linfield, 2nd Vice-Chair  
 Ann Arbor DDA – Amber Miller  
 Freight Representative – Lance Hagler  
 Environment Representative – Timothy Fischer  
 Disabled Representative – Dave Reid  
 Washtenaw County Public Health – Lily Guzman  
 City of Milan –Robert Grostick  
 City of Saline – Gary Roubal  
 Senior Representative – Wes Armbruster  
 City of Ann Arbor Engineering – Homayoon Pirooz  
 City of Ypsilanti DPW – Stan Kirton

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Others Present: WATS – Terri Blackmore, Ryan Buck, Eric Bombery, Nick Sapkiewicz, Mark Ferrall  
WATS Policy Committee – Jim Carson  
FHWA – Andy Picard  
SEMCOG – Jeff Tumidanski  
MDOT – Kari Martin

1. Call to Order

Chair Cooper observed that a quorum of Technical Committee members was not present but that the meeting would proceed with no action taken without the minimum number of members present.

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

No motion was made to approve the minutes of the September Technical Committee meeting. Corrections were given directly to staff for approval at the November meeting.

4. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore reported on the members of the Deficit Reduction Super Committee. Ms. Blackmore noted that two members of the Committee were from Michigan. .

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS is soliciting nominees for Technical Committee Special Interest seats and that the positions would likely be held for two years going forward.

Handouts at place:

1. Upcoming meetings
2. 2010 Crash Report

5. Report on WATS Activities

Ms. Blackmore reported that SEMCOG continues to work on Ann Arbor to Detroit Rail and that the nine rail cars received are undergoing safety testing. Ms. Blackmore added that track improvements, layover facilities and ADA needs are being addressed.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the WATS model update was 80% complete

Ms. Blackmore noted the 2010 Crash Report is available on the WATS website.

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS is working with local agencies using pool traffic counters to take bicycle traffic counts.

6. Old Business

There was no old business.

7. New Business

Again observing that a quorum was not present, Chair Cooper explained that the meeting would continue presenting action items as information.

A. FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program FY 2012 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment

Mr. Bombery reported that WATS issued the first call for FY 2012 amendments to the FY 2011-2014 TIP on August 23, 2011 and that the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, City of Ypsilanti, Western-Washtenaw Area Value Express, and the Washtenaw County Road Commission submitted projects for amendment. Mr. Bombery added that of the fourteen project amendments, ten projects were additions, one was a deletion, and three were changes.

Mr. Bombery explained that the ten new projects cost \$5,038,000. Mr. Bombery noted that the new projects using rural surface transportation funding will remain fiscally constrained by spending unused funds and the remaining projects use federal transit funds and WATS does not fiscally constrain them.

The Technical Committee members present recommended the Policy Committee approve the amendments to the TIP pending positive outcome of the public comment period.

B. FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment

Ms. Blackmore reported WATS received a request from the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority to amend the FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program to add the Ann Arbor Connector Study Alternatives Analysis work task for \$393,400. Ms. Blackmore explained the funding sources for the project were FTA 5303, AATA, and University of Michigan and that the two-year work task will complete all of the data collection and analysis necessary to select a locally preferred alternative.

Ms. Blackmore further explained that the task will move forward once the FTA has awarded funds and MDOT, FHWA, and FTA approve the work program amendment.

The Technical Committee members present recommended Policy Committee approval of the amendment to the Unified Planning Work Program.

C. 2010 Crash Report

Mr. Bombery reported that at the September meeting, staff requested Technical Committee review the 2010 Traffic Crash Report and provided their comments. He noted that WATS received only one comment and staff addressed it. The final report is available on the WATS website.

The Technical Committee members present recommended the Policy Committee approve the 2010 Traffic Crash Report.

D. FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program FY 2012 1st Administrative Modifications

Mr. Bombery reported WATS completed five administrative modifications (minor changes staff makes on TIP projects without requiring Committee approval). A list of the changes was provided in the committee packet.

8. Agency Reports

A. Ann Arbor

Mr. Cooper reported that the City of Ann Arbor would close the Stadium Boulevard. for bridge replacement beginning in November. He also noted that City would close State periodically for the same project. Mr. Cooper explained that URS gave a presentation on the Ann Arbor Connector Feasibility Final Report to a working session of the Ann Arbor City Council. Mr. Cooper added that the City received public feedback on its stepped up enforcement of the new pedestrian crosswalk law.

B. AATA

Mr. White reported that the onboard rider survey was currently taking place and that a new countywide transit survey would include households with no home phone service. Mr. White added that a new round of public involvement meeting would begin soon to begin identifying countywide transit service priorities.

C. Dexter Village

Ms. Phillips reported that work continues on the Village's non-motorized path.

D. Dexter Township

Mr. Sloan had nothing to report.

E. EMU

Mr. Otto had nothing to report.

F. FHWA

Mr. Pickard reported that Congress extended the funding reauthorization through March. Mr. Pickard also reported that FHWA approved the most recent LRP amendment.

G. Pittsfield Township

Mr. Montagno reported that sidewalk gap filling along Washtenaw Ave. in Pittsfield Township was completed. Mr. Montagno added that Costco related construction would begin soon.

H. MDOT Planning

Mr. Williams reported that MDOT planning was reviewing LRP Amendments from SEMCOG.

I. MDOT Region

Mr. Lott reported that CMAQ pedestrian improvements at US-23 and Washtenaw Ave did not get obligated due to a real estate delay. Mr. Lott noted that Mark Sweeny is the new Brighton TSC manager replacing Mark Geib. Ms. Martin reported that most of the MDOT construction work was closing for the season, however ITS work would be continuing and MDOT is constructing crossovers for M-14 work next year.

J. SEMCOG

Mr. Tumidanski reported that SEMCOG would be hosting a utilities summit October 18 and an Asset Management webinar October 20.

K. UM

Mr. Dolan reported that UMTRI received a grant to develop crash avoidance technology that would involve test equipment in 3,000 vehicles and roadside infrastructure and that the data would be available after the research concludes.

L. WCRC

Mr. Townsend reported that WCRC reopened three previously closed bridges in Lima Township. Mr. Townsend also reported that sign upgrade would continue using new grant funding. Mr. Townsend explained that Pittsfield hosted the State St. environmental assessment public meeting last month and the alternatives analysis is underway. Mr. Townsend noted the WCRC received CMAQ funds for the intersection of State and Ellsworth and for right-of-way for the project and they hired DLZ to assist with design. Mr. Townsend added WCRC submitted a plan to raise transportation funds for improvements to the County Board.

M. Ypsilanti Township

Mr. Lawson reported that the Township Board renewed the Purchase of Service Agreement with AATA and that the Township is working with NS Rail on a transfer station related to the Aerotropolis project.

N. Non-motorized

Mr. Deck reported that WBWC observed higher compliance rates with the new crosswalk ordinance this fall than the spring. He also noted WBWC would work with Ann Arbor city engineers to define a standardized crosswalk for use throughout the city.

9. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 10:43 a.m.