



THE VEHICLE

Washtenaw Area Transportation Study

January 2002



The Changing Faces of UATS Welcome WATS

As you may have noticed in our title block, we have made a name change from the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Urban Area Transportation Study Committee (UATS) to the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS). When the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) was written in the early 1990's, our jurisdictional boundaries were increased to include all of Washtenaw County. With all the other changes in our organization, this presented an ideal time for a change of name that better reflects those we serve.

As we near the end of January, the new WATS offices are really starting to come together. By the end of February we expect to be fully operational with our new phone system, e-mail and web site. Although not operational at the time of this printing our new E-mail address is WATS@MIWATS.org; our phone and fax numbers have remained the same as follows: Phone (734) 994-3127 Fax (734) 994-3129. We will also be changing our web site to be WWW.MIWATS.org by the end of February, providing of course, everything stays on schedule.

We are happily adjusting to our new quarters on the second floor of the Western Washtenaw County Service Center. The new building is located at 705 N. Zeeb in Ann Arbor, situated between the County Road Commission Building and Scio Township. Also located in our building is the County Planning Commission, the Department of Environmental Infrastructure Services, the Drain Commission and Michigan State University Extension of-

Coordination Meetings With Amtrak

On January 17, 2002 the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) hosted a meeting between local agencies, MDOT and Amtrak representatives. The meeting was the first of many that will be held between the organizations to improve service to the area and to improve the communication between Amtrak and local communities. Amtrak is trying to form coalitions to focus on improving the use of existing services to improve their economic sustainability. Amtrak does not have plans to expand existing services at the present time.

Amtrak currently has coalitions in other states that include planners, chambers of commerce, transportation providers and others. MDOT and Amtrak are suggesting the formation of four local coalitions for Amtrak service in Michigan. One of the coalitions would be for the Pere Marquette service between Chicago and Grand Rapids; one for the service between Chicago and Battle Creek; the third would be for the portion of the International service between Battle Creek and Port Huron; and the fourth would be for the portion of the Chicago-Detroit-Pontiac service between Battle Creek and Pontiac. Each of the four local coalitions will meet quarterly and the International and the Chicago-Detroit-Pontiac will all meet together once per year. The Mayor of Dearborn has agreed to host the first large group meeting this spring. There are hopes that the coalitions will also include representatives from Norfolk Southern Railroad that controls the track for most of the service in Michigan. After the large group meeting is held this spring, regular meetings will be scheduled quarterly between Amtrak, MDOT and



WATS Hires New Staff

WATS welcomes its newest staff member, Genevieve Smith, to the position of Associate Transportation Planner.

As a recent graduate of Eastern Michigan University's Urban and Regional Planning, Ms. Smith has been active in a variety of planning organizations. These include the PLanning Awareness Club of Eastern (PLACE) where she served as Vice President; the Michigan Society of Planning (MSP) as a volunteer and student member; the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) as a member and Scholarship Committee volunteer; and the American Planning Association (APA).

While an undergraduate, Ms. Smith interned with the agency; the skills she learned and her hard work have made her a valuable addition to the WATS staff. As she begins her career Ms. Smith will continue her education, pursuing a Masters degree in the Urban and Regional Planning program at EMU.

Ms. Smith will be representing WATS on a variety of committees including the Transit Special Services Committee, the GIS Regional Committee and the Lansing to Detroit Passenger Rail Committees. Currently, Ms. Smith is developing traffic flow maps for the Washtenaw County region, processing HPMS data, and gathering data for the next Long Range Plan.

The New Year Brings New Interns

WATS is pleased to have two new interns from Eastern Michigan University working with us this winter. Chris Gruba and Jill Murray started in our new office this January. They have so far survived the unpacking, the weeks of cell-phones only and the myriad of other impediments accompanying the transition to the new location and new staff.

Chris recently began his Junior year in Eastern Michigan University's Urban and Regional Planning Program. As a student at the University of Michigan he became interested in the field of planning; his review of colleges offering planning classes led him to his decision to transfer to EMU. He is primarily interested in finding alternative uses for vacant buildings and planning in an environmentally sensitive manner.

As an intern, Chris has begun working on a series of informational brochures, our Community Profile report using our traffic count database and our crash analysis program.

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Meeting Updates

Northeast Area Transportation Plan in the City of Ann Arbor—Freeway Access Alternatives
Thursday February 7th 2002 from 7-9 PM at the Huron High School Cafeteria 2727 Fuller Road.
For information contact the City Planning Department at (734) 994-2800.

The American Planning Association's 2002 National Planning Conference is being held in Chicago this year between April 13-17th. The Transportation and Community Track sessions begin Sunday at 1 pm and conclude on Wednesday at 2:15 PM. They have a full schedule of seminars on rural and urban issues, creating partnerships, resolving conflicts and much more. For a detailed listing of sessions and accommodation information, log onto their website at www.planning.org.

The Michigan Society of Planning is hosting their annual Planning Michigan Conference on October 2-5, 2002. The conference will be at the Radisson Hotel in Kalamazoo. If you are interested in speaking, contact the Society at (248) 553-7526 or at info@planningmi.org.

On average there is a Car-Deer crash in the State of Michigan every eight minutes

CMAQ Awards Amended into FY2002-2004 TIP

Safety Projects

On December 7, 2001 the Executive Committee for SEMCOG approved a group of projects for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Included in the amendments were the Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program (CMAQ).

The following projects were submitted in response to MDOT's call for projects for FY 2003 Enhancement funding.

Washtenaw County CMAQ Awards for 2003

Agency	Project Description	CMAQ Award
City of Ann Arbor	Traffic Signal Interconnection on Maple/ Stadium from Miller to Washtenaw	\$842,000
City of Ypsilanti	Traffic Signal Interconnection on Congress at Summit	\$18,758
City of Ypsilanti	Traffic Signal Interconnection on N/ Prospect at Holmes	\$17,736
AATA	Downtown Ann Arbor Trip Reduction Program	\$70,000
AATA	Subscription Bus Service	\$335,000
AATA	Increase transit service to meet demand from unlimited access	\$772,000

The Washtenaw County Road Commission submitted two applications. The larger being a Non-motorized trail in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, bounded by Huron River Drive, Dixboro Road and Hewitt Road. The total estimated cost for this project is \$1,100,000 with a Federal/Local split of \$366,300 and \$733,700 respectively. The second project is Phase I of the Pittsfield Charter Township Greenway, with project limits of Platt Road to Bemis Road. Estimated total cost for this project is \$350,000 with a 50% split between Federal and Local funds.

Washtenaw County CMAQ Awards for 2004

Agency	Project Description	CMAQ Award
City of Ann Arbor	Traffic Signal Interconnection on Packard Rd. from Stadium to Eisenhower	\$223,000
AATA	Subscription Bus Service	\$160,000
AATA	Increase transit service to meet demand from unlimited access	\$796,000

Two applications were submitted for projects on Washtenaw Avenue. The City of Ann Arbor submitted an application for a Non-motorized pathway between Glenwood Street and Tuomy Street, for a total estimated cost of \$550,000 with the Federal/Local split at \$440,000 and \$110,000 respectively. MDOT submitted the other application for a pedestrian bridge at Zina Pitcher Place; the total estimated cost is \$2,000,000 with a 50% split between Federal and Local funding, local being provided by the University of Michigan.

New Interns - Continued from page

Jill Murray also comes to us from Eastern Michigan University where she will be graduating this April with a Bachelor of Science from the Urban Regional Planning Program with a minor in Geography.

In addition to her internship and schoolwork, Jill is the current President of the PLanning Awareness Club at Eastern (PLACE) and has been an active member since 2000, she is also an active member of the Golden Key National Honors Society, the American Planning Association (APA), and the Michigan Society of Planning (MSP). She hopes to secure a job in the Chicago Area upon completion of her degree.

Jill has been working on our Communities Profile Report and traffic count program and is beginning her work in the development of Socioeconomic data for the modeling with Transcad.

Surface Transportation Program Funding for the Urban Region (STPU)

The current Transportation legislation (TEA21) expires in 2003, the remaining years are assuming this funding category will continue.

FY 2002	Federal Cost
Dixboro & Huron River Dr. (WCC west access to Geddes Rd) - WC	1,740,000
Maple Rd. Improvements (Maple/Clark, Maple/Bemis/US-12, Maple) - SC	400,000
Packard (State to Stadium) - AA	516,588
Summit (Cross to Michigan) - YC	200,000
Total (Available Funds \$2,856,588)	\$2,856,588
FY 2003	Federal Cost
Dixboro & Huron River Dr. (WCC west access to Geddes Rd) - WC	2,300,000
Packard (State to Stadium) - AA	363,636
Grove (Emerick to Michigan) - YC	250,083
Total (Available Funds \$2,913,719)	\$2,913,719

FY 2004	Federal Cost
Grove (Emerick to Michigan) - YC	69,917
Stadium (Pauline to 110 m north of Liberty)-AA	1,326,000
Washtenaw (Hamilton to Huron) - YC	80,000
Stadium (110 m north of Liberty to Abbott) -AA	1,326,000
Packard (Carpenter to Golfside) - WC	170,077
Total (Available Funds \$2,856,588)	\$2,971,994
FY 2005	Federal Cost
Packard (Carpenter to Golfside) - WC	79,923
Willis (Ann Arbor Street to Woodhill) - SC	250,000
Grove (Ypsi City to Harris) - WC	250,000
Fifth (Beakes to Huron) - AA	250,000
Maple (Miller to M-14) - AA	500,000
First (Michigan to Harriet) - YC	160,000
Carpenter (Michigan to I-94) - WCC	1,212,071
Total (Available Funds \$2,971,994)	\$2,971,994

Agency Key: AA - City of Ann Arbor SC - City of Saline YC - City of Ypsilanti WC - Washtenaw County Road Commission

**Washtenaw Area
Transportation Study (WATS)
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