

# THE VEHICLE

## Washtenaw Area Transportation Study



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### TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA

WATS provides continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning to guide the use of state and federal transportation funds in Washtenaw County

#### WATS Meetings

- Technical Committee  
1st Wednesday 9:30 am
- Policy Committee  
3rd Wednesday 9:30 am

#### WATS Products

- Long Range Transportation Plan
- Transportation Improvement Plan

## Complete Streets

Governor Granholm signed Michigan Complete Streets legislation into law on August 1. The new legislation advances cooperation and coordination among transportation and local governmental agencies. Under this legislation, the Michigan Department of Transportation will be required to consider all users during all phases of road project planning, developing and constructing. New Requirements in the law include the following changes to Michigan's Act 51 Transportation guidance.

- Requires the State Transportation Commission, to adopt a Complete Streets (CS) policy for MDOT and to develop model Complete Streets policies for use by others within two years .



Depot Town, Ypsilanti

*Continued on page 4*

## HAWK Signals

The Michigan Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the city of Ann Arbor and the Ann Arbor DDA, will soon install a new High-intensity Activated crossWalk (HAWK) signal at the corner of Huron (I-94 BL) and Third/Chapin in downtown Ann Arbor.



The intersection was selected in 2008 through a collaborative effort by the Washtenaw County Access Management Plan Steering Committee. Following completion of the plan, and after continued

*Continued on page 2*

## Upcoming Meetings

- **November 10 - Asset Management training**  
1:30-4:30 705 N. Zeeb Rd, 2nd Flr, Scio Twp
- **December 9 - Michigan by Rail**  
WCC, Morris Lawrence Building - 6-8PM  
4800 E. Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor

## New on MIWATS.org

- **Resolution to support maximum use of Federal transportation funds**
- **FY 2011 1st call 2011-2014 TIP Amendments now available for comment**



Washtenaw County  
Parks & Recreation  
Commission

*Connecting  
Communities  
works with the  
Border to Border  
trails  
Promoting Non-  
Motorized Trail  
Development in  
Washtenaw  
County*

## WC Parks Connecting Communities

The Washtenaw County Parks Commission began its Connecting Communities program to facilitate the funding of local projects that further the Parks Commission vision of a **county wide non-motorized trail system**. This program pledged to make \$3 million available from 2010 - 2014 (or \$600,000 each year) toward the cost of construction for eligible projects.

WC Parks awarded the first round of funding through this exciting new program! At the March 9, 2010 WCPARC meeting, the commission approved the following four projects:

**Pittsfield Township** – \$300,000 for construction of a 2.38 mile trail along Lohr and Textile Roads linking Ann Arbor to Saline.

**Northfield Township** – \$120,000 for construction of the first phase of a three phase project that will connect Whitmore Lake Elementary School to surrounding residential neighborhoods along Barker Rd.

**Ypsilanti Township** – \$100,000 for construction of the first phase of a ½-mile trail along Textile Rd that will connect to the Border-to-Border trail (future segment) at Bridge Rd and extend west to Lakeside Park

**Chelsea** – \$80,000 for construction of a 950-foot trail segment along Old US-12 that will connect the trail/boardwalk system at Pierce Lake Golf Course with adjacent residential neighborhoods, schools, and a commercial district.

## HAWK Signals - *continued*

discussions with WATS, the City of Ann Arbor, the Ann Arbor DDA and UM, MDOT submitted a request to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for approval of the pilot HAWK signal. The plan was approved, and analysis of the intersection is complete. **Installation is set for October 2010.** Visit [http://michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-9621\\_11008-240763--,00.html](http://michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-9621_11008-240763--,00.html) for additional information and use instructions.

This will be the first HAWK signal installation on a state trunkline. Several HAWK signals are in place throughout the state on local streets, including Detroit and Oakland County.

Look for HAWK signal updates at [www.miwats.org](http://www.miwats.org)

HAWK  
pedestrian  
signal user  
instructions



# Michigan - State Rail Plan

Where is rail transportation headed in Michigan? What role does rail freight play in our state's economy? When and how will commuter and high speed rail become a viable option for passenger travel in our Great Lakes State?

These and other questions will be addressed in the Michigan State Rail Plan. MDOT is developing the comprehensive plan to set forth state policy involving freight and passenger rail transportation, including commuter rail operations. It will present priorities and strategies to enhance and preserve rail service that benefits the public, and will serve as the basis for future federal and state rail investments in Michigan.



## The plan's goals are to:

- Promote the efficient movement of passengers
- Promote the efficient movement of freight
- Encourage intermodal connectivity
- Enhance state and local economic development
- Promote environmental sustainability
- Promote safe and secure railroad operations



*The Michigan State Rail Plan will build upon many of the past projects and plans that have been developed in Michigan.*

Work on the State Rail Plan began in May 2010 and will be completed in June 2011. Visit [www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-11056-242455--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-11056-242455--,00.html) for more info or to provide comments.

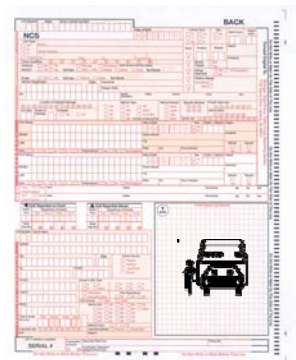
## WATS 2009 Traffic Crash Report

The WATS 2009 Traffic Crash Report was completed and approved in September 2010. The report includes data on:

- Crash locations throughout the county (by community)
- Types of crashes (single vehicle, angle, rear end, head on)
- Crash involvement (bike, truck, deer, etc.)
- Severity of crashes (property damage, injury, fatal injury)



Washtenaw County experienced a traffic crash decrease of 5.5% from 2008 to 2009. All but three agencies in the County experienced a decrease in the number of reported crashes. There were a total of 9,755 crashes in Washtenaw County in 2009. Alcohol related crashes account for 3.3% of total crashes and fatal injury crashes account for 0.3% of total injury crashes. 12% of reported crashes involve deer.



**Crash details are reported and submitted to the Michigan State Police for analysis**



American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA)

7,194 ARRA awards have been approved in Michigan totaling \$7.7 B in funding.

Bicycle facilities encourage the use of alternative forms of transportation



## Completed ARRA/Stimulus Projects

WATS and local transportation agencies have been working to implement projects using funds from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA). To date nearly 30 projects have been completed in Washtenaw County with many additional projects near completion or in the first phase of implementation.

The majority of projects involve resurfacing, crack sealing and other preventive maintenance projects which preserve the service life of roadways, which limited funding does not provide. Other projects include transit improvements including new buses and transit facilities, non-motorized facilities, and Ypsilanti's freight house restoration.

For a list of ARRA transportation projects in Washtenaw County, with project descriptions and anticipated completion dates, visit [www.miwats.org](http://www.miwats.org).



Photo: Tom Perkins, AnnArbor.com - Depot Town, Ypsilanti

## Complete Streets - *continued*

- Requires state and local agencies to consult and agree on how to address CS before submitting the Five-Year Program to the State Transportation Commission (STC) exempts projects in the approved multi-year capital plan approved by July 1.
- Allows MDOT to provide technical assistance and coordination to local agencies in the development and implementation of their policies.
- Requires MDOT to share expertise in non-motorized and multi-modal planning in the development of projects within cities or villages boundaries townships and counties.
- Allows agencies to enter agreements with one another to provide maintenance for projects constructed to implement a CS policy.
- Creates a CS Advisory Council within MDOT, appointed by the governor, to advise the STC and local agencies in the implementation of CS.

Stay tuned for WATS updates on the Complete Streets Plan for Washtenaw County!

# TheRide Transit Master Plan Public

The Transit Master Plan process will determine how Washtenaw County develops transit service over the next 30 years. TheRide seeks the collective knowledge of the entire County and its residents, visitors and businesses to develop the Transit Master Plan. If you can not find a meeting that meets your schedule, comments can be submitted through the master plan website [www.movingyouforward.org](http://www.movingyouforward.org).



Photo: Ryan Stanton, AnnAr-

Public Meetings:

- October 5** – Chelsea Library at 221 S Main Street, Chelsea 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
- October 6** – Ypsilanti Township Community Center, 2025 Clark Rd 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- October 6** – Ann Arbor District Library at 343 S. Fifth Ave 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
- October 7** – Dominoes Farms at 24 Frank Lloyd Wright, EBA Café Board Room, Lobby H, Level one 5:00 to 7:00 pm.
- October 11** – Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E Huron River Dr 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- October 11** – SPARK Central offices at 330 East Liberty Street 3:00 to 5:00 pm.
- October 13** – Ypsilanti District Library at 5577 Whittaker Road 6:00 to 8:00 pm.
- October 14** – Washington Street Education Center at 512 E Washington Street, Chelsea 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- October 14** – Pittsfield Township Hall at 6201 Michigan Avenue 6:00 to 8:00 pm.
- October 18** – SPARK East at 215 W Michigan 3:00 to 5:00 pm.
- October 19** – Milan Senior Center at 45 Neckel CT, Milan 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- October 20** - Creekside Intermediate School Cafeteria, 2615 Baker Road, Dexter 6:30 to 8:30 pm.
- October 25** – Saline City Hall at 100 N Harris Street, Saline for 6:00 to 8:00 pm
- October 26** - Ann Arbor District Library Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley, Drive, Pittsfield Township from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- October 26** - Ann Arbor District Library Mallets Creek Branch, 3090 E Eisenhower, Ann Arbor 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
- October 27** - Dexter Township Hall at 6880 Dexter-Pinckney, Dexter Twp 6:00 to 8:00 pm
- October 28** – the Manchester Village Offices at 912 City Road, Manchester 6:00 to 8:00 pm
- November 3** - Milan Senior Center, 45 Neckel Ct, Milan 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

TheRide CEO Michael Ford is meeting with local elected officials to help develop a Countywide Transit Master Plan



*Attend an upcoming public meeting, where you can speak with a representative of TheRide’s Master Plan team to provide your vision.*



Visit [www.movingyouforward.org](http://www.movingyouforward.org) for more information



Michigan by Rail is hosting a series of 16 forums across the state to jump-start discussion among the public and between the public and government officials on the future of rail service in MI.

For a full list and map of meetings visit:  
[www.mibyrail.wordpress.com](http://www.mibyrail.wordpress.com)

## WATS Hosts Asset Management Training

Learn how Road condition surveys, taken annually and used locally identify treatment effectiveness to prioritize projects and align activities and resources to reach agency goals. Join WATS **November 10, 1:30-4:30** for an asset management training for elected officials & staff.

## Keep-Ypsi-Rollin

Ypsilanti Transit Vote November 2, 2010



Ypsilanti values public transit as important to both the City and the region. When given the chance to vote on stabilizing transit funding for the City in August, residents overwhelmingly supported the notion.

However, the transit question made it on to the August ballot through an error.

Ypsilanti's official vote on transit funding will be on the **November 2 ballot**.



W. Cross Ave, Ypsilanti

WATS IS COMMITTED TO AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE OFFICE.

EMAIL [WATS@MIWATS.ORG](mailto:WATS@MIWATS.ORG) TO RECEIVE AN ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER.

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