

Minutes of Meeting

POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: August 18, 2021

TIME: 9:30 pm

PLACE: ZOOM Virtual Meeting

* This meeting was held via ZOOM conference call in accordance with the Open Meetings Act due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Members Present: City of Saline – Brian Marl, Chair
Eastern Michigan University - Leigh Greden, Vice Chair
WCBOC – Jason Morgan, Treasurer
Ann Arbor Township – Diane O'Connell
City of Chelsea – Charles Wisely
City of Ypsilanti – Jennifer Symanns
Dexter Township - Karen Sikkenga
MDOT Region - Kari Martin
Scio Township - Jane Vogel
TheRide – Matt Carpenter
Washtenaw County Road Commission – Doug Fuller
Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo

Members Absent: City of Ann Arbor – Erica Briggs
City of Ann Arbor DDA – Vacant
City of Dexter – Shawn Keough
City of Milan - Dominic Hamden
Northfield Township - Ken Dignan
Pittsfield Township – Mandy Grewal
Superior Township – Ken Schwartz
SWWCOG – Ron Miley
University of Michigan – Henry Baier

Others Present: WATS - Ryan Buck, Nick Sapkiewicz, Suzann Flowers, Emily Lake
MDOT - Anita Boughner, Max Gierman

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

City of Ann Arbor • Ann Arbor DDA • Ann Arbor Township • City of Chelsea • City 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 • The Ride
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 •

SEMCOG - Tom Bruff
Stantec - Maranda Miller
TheRide - Caitlin Conway, Dina Reed

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Marl called the meeting to order at 9:33am. Introductions were made.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, Mr. Carpenter supported the motion, motion approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Symanns made a motion to approve the June 16, 2021 minutes, supported by Ms. Vogel, motion approved.

4. Public Participation

There were none.

5. Communications and Announcements

Mr. Mr. Buck provided the following updates:

- Passthrough funding for FY 2021 Asset Management that went to the WCRC was \$2,092.23
- Contact Mr. Buck if there is any planning related work the Committee members would like to see included in the FY 2023 work program.
- Statewide obligation authority has a couple million remaining. One project in the county is still remaining to be obligated.
- WATS staff will be preparing asset management summary sheets with historic data for the county as a whole as well as communities.
- Chelsea POP 2.0 is continuing in its development and Route Ypsilanti is nearing it's full implementation.
- WATS staff recently attended the 2021 Michigan Transportation Planning Association conference and received the statewide best practice award for tactical urbanism in the City of Chelsea.
- A presentation and update on the Huron/I-94 pathway initiative will be included as an agenda item this fall.

6. Bills over \$500

There were none.

7. Old Business

There were none.

8. New Business

A. Director Review - Information

Mr. Greden reported:

- The Director's performance evaluation is complete and will be included as an action

item at the next WATS Policy Committee meeting. Included will be a written summary from the Executive Committee of the feedback received.

- The Executive Committee also completed peer benchmarking on compensation and will be proposing changes to the Director's compensation.

B. Supplemental TIP Call - Action

Mr. Sapkiewicz provided a preliminary funding approach for the 2022-2023 TIP Supplemental Call for the programming of highway improvement program, rural, and covid relief funds. Projects were reviewed using the existing WATS TIP application and flagged based on whether they were in an opportunity area or whether they were using a special eligibility under the funding guidance. Applications were received from Ann Arbor, WCRC, and PEX. The preliminary funding approach includes all top priority projects from these eligible agencies and all candidate projects serve a low or very low opportunity area. The preliminary program was reviewed by the WATS Federal Aid Committees and the WATS Technical Committee. The Technical Committee recommends the Policy Committee approve the preliminary list of projects included in the Supplemental TIP Call.

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the projects included in the supplemental TIP call as presented, supported by Mr. Carpenter, motion approved.

C. 2023-2026 TIP Development (attached) - Information

Ms. Flowers provided the following information regarding the 2023-2026 TIP development:

- The development process will be marketed as *Shape the Future - for a safer, more inclusive, and more sustainable transportation system*.
- The following guidance documents have been provided to help guide local agency investments:
 - Urban and Rural program guidance - outlines the obligation process, pro-rata billing, tools to obligate funds, and existing policy for using local funds on trunkline roads.
 - Urban and Rural program eligibility - highlights what funds can be used for construction, PE, CE, and right of way acquisition.
 - Existing WATS scoring rubric
 - Fund Types - CMAQ, STP Urban and Rural, State D funds, and Small Urban area funds
- Next steps:
 - The call for projects will be issued in August, and applications will be due back in September.
 - Public engagement will take place in October.
 - FAC meetings will be held in November and December, before the preliminary program is brought to the WATS Technical and Policy Committees in early 2022.
 - The approved TIP must be submitted to MDOT By June 2022 and FHWA/FTA approval by July/August 2022.

10. Adjournment

Chair Marl adjourned the meeting at 9:52 am.