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NOTICE OF MEETING

POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: August 18, 2021

TIME: 9:30 AM

PLACE: [Virtual Meeting on Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 858 9104 8421 Passcode: 760166

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order/Introductions
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes – June 16, 2021 Policy Committee Meeting (attached) – Action
4. Public Participation
5. Communications and Announcements
6. Bills over \$500
7. Old Business
8. New Business
 - A. Director Review - Information
 - B. Supplemental TIP Call (attached) - Action
 - C. 2023-2026 TIP Development (attached) - Information
9. Adjournment

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 •
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An Intermunicipality Committee organized under Act 200 of Public Acts of Michigan (1957)
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Minutes of Meeting

POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: June 16, 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 Ann Arbor – Erica Briggs
Dexter Township - Karen Sikkenga
City of Ypsilanti – Jennifer Symanns
MDOT Region - Kari Martin
Scio Township - Jane Vogel
University of Michigan – Henry Baier
Washtenaw County Road Commission – Doug Fuller
Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo

Members Absent: City of Ann Arbor DDA – Vacant
City of Dexter – Shawn Keough
City of Chelsea – Charles Wisely
City of Milan - Dominic Hamden
Northfield Township - Ken Dignan
Pittsfield Township – Mandy Grewal
Superior Township – Ken Schwartz
SWWCOG – Ron Miley
TheRide – Matt Carpenter

Others Present: WATS - Ryan Buck, Nick Sapkiewicz, Suzann Flowers, Emily Lake
MDOT - Alayna Offredi, Dee Parker

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Public - Jim Mogensen
TheRide - Caitlin Conway
UMTRI - Debra Bezzina, Mary Lynn Buonarosa
WAVE - Julia Roberts

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Marl called the meeting to order at 9:41am. Introductions were made.

2. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Symanns made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, Ms. O'Connell supported the motion, motion approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the May 19, 2021 minutes as corrected, supported by Ms. Stumbo, motion approved.

4. Public Participation

Mr. Mogensen noted concern that equity subsidies with transit providers are starting to decrease, and with the compatibility of smart intersections and scooters.

5. Communications and Announcements

Mr. Mr. Buck provided the following updates:

- The supplemental call for 2022-2023 is out and applications are due June 25, 2021.
- Local obligation authority has nearly run out. There is one project in the county left to obligate. There may be another opportunity for funds with August redistribution.
- Expect communications regarding the 2023-2026 TIP development process in July. The call is scheduled to go out in August with applications due back in September.
- Asset management data collection for federal aid eligible roads will start next week with WATS and the WCRC.
- Our building at 200 N Main is still operating under appointment only status.
- The second iteration of the Chelsea POP tactical urbanism project and the Route Ypsilanti project are in the planning phases.

Mr. Greden proposed the Policy Committee launch a formal review process to evaluate Mr. Buck as Director, and to include a compensation analysis, as this has not been performed since 2017. The process will include soliciting feedback for Mr. Buck's performance from the Technical Committee, the Policy Committee, and a group of external stakeholders. The executive committee will review those materials and bring that to the Policy Committee with a recommendation for approval at the August meeting.

6. Bills over \$500

Mr. Buck presented the following bills and authorizations:

- \$37,938.15 to TheRide for passthrough of planning funds that was approved as part of the annual work plan and budget.
- \$1,500 to TransCad for modeling software
- \$1,500 to ESRI for GIS software license

- Authority to reimburse the Washtenaw County Road Commission for asset management activities, not to exceed the approved budget.

Ms. Stumbo made a motion to approve bills over \$500, supported by Ms. Symanns, motion approved.

7. Old Business

There were none.

8. New Business

A. 3rd Call FY 2021 TIP Amendments (attached) - Action

Ms. Flowers provided a list of 12 amendments to the 2020-2023 TIP, including the addition of an approximately \$10M FAST Act grant for connected vehicle intersections in Ann Arbor. Amendments include significant changes to cost, scope, project limits, new grant awards, etc.

Ms. Lake provided an overview of the Environmental Justice (EJ) and Opportunity Index review, using the updated 2020 index tool from Washtenaw County's Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED). Current investment in EJ areas is \$102M, or 17% of the total TIP value. Current investment in low and very low opportunity areas is \$50M, or 8% of the total TIP value.

Ms. Symanns made a motion to approve the 3rd call FY 2021 TIP amendments as presented, supported by Ms. Stumbo, motion approved.

B. 3rd Call FY 2021 TIP Modifications (attached) - Information

Ms. Flowers provided a list of eight minor modifications to the TIP for the FY 2021 3rd Call. Modifications include minor cost changes, changes to scope and limits of projects, etc.

C. Long Range Transportation Plan Amendments (attached) - Action

Ms. Flowers provided a list of two projects submitted from the City of Ann Arbor to be added to the Long Range Transportation Plan (RLP) for total project costs of \$12,700,000. These projects are not programmed in the TIP but are being added to the LRP for planning purposes.

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the Long Range Transportation Plan amendments as presented, supported by Ms. Martin, motion approved.

D. FY 2022 Administrative Budget (attached) - Action

Mr. Buck presented the FY 2022 administrative budget with a recommendation to reduce local member dues by 20 percent. The budget as presented would allow WATS to complete the United Work Program that was approved in February and includes additional passthrough funding provided to TheRide for planning purposes.

Mr. Morgan made a motion to approve the FY 2022 administrative budget as presented, supported by Mr. Fuller, motion approved.

E. U of M Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment - Presentation

Ms. Buonarosa of UMTRI provided a presentation on the deployment of a network of 21 “smart intersections” around the City of Ann Arbor, which will pave the way for connected and automated vehicles (CAVs).

F. Annual Meeting

Mr. Buck recommended the Policy Committee maintain the current meeting time for the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 9:30 am and continue to use the conference room available at 200 N Main St. when the building becomes available to the public and the Policy Committee decides to return to in-person meetings.

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the current meeting time and location, supported by Ms. Vogel, motion approved.

10. Adjournment

Chair Marl adjourned the meeting at 10:31 am.



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MEMORANDUM

To: Policy Committee
From: Nick Sapkiewicz
Date: August 4, 2021
Re: 2022-2023 TIP Supplemental Call

Background

WATS initiated the FY 2022, 2023 supplemental TIP call for Highway Improvement Program (HIP), Rural and COVID relief funds on June 4th. Per guidance from the Policy Committee, projects were reviewed using WATS' TIP application and candidates were flagged based on whether they were in an Opportunity Area and if the work types were a special eligibility under the funding guidance. The available funding includes:

Rural \$308,033 (81.85% federal)
COVID Relief \$60,660 South Lyon (100% federal)
COVID Relief \$1,983,113 Ann Arbor Area (100% federal)
FY 2021 HIP \$8,486 South Lyon (81.85% federal)
FY 2021 HIPU \$290,008 Ann Arbor Area (81.85% federal)

WATS received applications from Ann Arbor, People's Express, and WCRC. All agencies received their top priority project and all of the urban-area candidate projects serve low or very low opportunity areas.

WATS staff reviewed supplemental call applications and drafted a preliminary funding approach. The Federal Aid Committees reviewed the candidate projects to establish an implementable program for review. The draft program considers the Policy Committee's commitment toward equity goals in Washtenaw County.

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The draft program includes the following projects:

Ann Arbor

- Hill (from Fifth to Forest) \$720,000 COVID

Peoples Express

- (two buses) \$145,000 HIP

WCRC

- North Territorial (@ Pontiac) \$308,033
- Grove (from Harris to Bridge) \$195,000 COVID
- Michigan Ave. (from I-94 WB off ramp to Hewitt) \$1,028,113 COVID + \$145,008 HIP
- Barker (end of pavement to US-23) \$60,660 COVID, South Lyon + \$8,486 HIP, South Lyon

Recommended Action

The Technical Committee recommend the Policy Committee approve the projects in the supplemental 2022-2023 TIP call as presented.

MEMORANDUM

To: Policy Committee
From: Suzann Flowers
Date: August 4, 2021
Re: FY 2023-2026 TIP Call - Information

Background

WATS staff are excited about the upcoming FY 2023-2026 TIP development and branding the process *Shape the Future - for a safer, more inclusive, and more sustainable transportation system*. The process builds upon the existing WATS brand with a logo, and new page on the WATS website: miwats.org/shapethefuture.

The webpage will be a hub for the entire process including information on public engagement efforts and all the information for the call for projects. WATS will continue to use social media to promote the process and WATS as an agency.

Existing Guidance Documents

The following guidance documents have been used to help guide local agency Surface Transportation Program Block Grants (STPBG) investment:

1. **WATS Federal Urban and Rural Program Guidance** - This document outlines the obligation process and outlines the pro-rata billing for federal funds the SEMCOG region employs. It also outlines tools for local agencies to obligate their funds. The use of local STPBG funds on trunkline is also in this document. [View here.](#)
2. **WATS Federal Urban and Rural Program Eligibility** - This document highlights what STPBG urban and rural funds may be used. [View here.](#)

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Scoring Rubric

The existing TIP scoring rubric has successfully been used in development of the FY 2017-2020, FY 2020-2023, and recent TIP supplemental call for COVID-19 Relief and FY 2021 HIPU funds. One recommendation from the Policy Committee during the supplemental TIP call was for projects to be flagged in low and very low opportunity areas. WATS staff plan to do this again with this new TIP call. The TIP scoring rubric can be viewed [here](#).

Fund Types in TIP Call for Projects

The WATS TIP call will be issued for: Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Surface Transportation Block Grant Urban and Rural (STPBG-U and STPBG-L), Transportation Economic Development Funds Category D (State D), and the MDOT Small Urban areas which include Chelsea and Milan.

Next Steps

August - WATS staff issues call for projects

September 24 - TIP projects due back to WATS staff

October - Public engagement meetings

November/December - FAC urban and rural meetings

January - Technical and Policy Committee meetings

June - TIP submitted to MDOT for approval

July/August - TIP submitted to FHWA/FTA for approval

Action Requested

Please review the attached TIP call files and provide any questions to Suzann at flowerss@miwats.org.