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MEETING MINUTES

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

DATE: December 1, 2021

TIME: 9:30 am

PLACE: This meeting was held virtually via Zoom in accordance with executive orders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members Present: Washtenaw County – Nathan Voght, Chair
City of Ypsilanti - Ronald Akers (for Bonnie Wessler, Vice-Chair)
City of Ann Arbor - Eli Cooper (for Raymond Hess)
City of Milan - Stanley Kirton, Second Vice-Chair
Disability Representative - John Waterman
Eastern Michigan University – Dieter Otto
MDOT University Region - Mike Davis
Non-motorized Representative - Sarah Walsh
City of Saline – Jeff Fordice, Tesha Humphriss
TheRide – Dina Reed
University of Michigan – Steve Dolen
Washtenaw County Road Commission - Matt MacDonell
Ypsilanti Township - Brenda Stumbo (for Jason Iacoangeli)

Members Absent: Ann Arbor DDA – Amber Miller
City of Chelsea - John Hanifan
City of Dexter – Dan Schlaff
Dexter Township - Vacant
Environmental Representative - Evan Pratt
Equity Representative - Weneshia Brand
Pittsfield Township - Vacant
Senior Representative - Ruth Ann Jamnick

Others Present: WATS – Ryan Buck, Nick Sapkiewicz, Suzann Flowers, Emily Lake
WCRC - Michele Ford, Brent Schlack
TheRide - Caitlin Conway

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 •

PEX - Doug Anderson, Matt Montalvo
MDOT - Max Gierman
Public - Jim Mogensen
OHM Advisors - Marcus McNamara

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Voght called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM and led the group in introductions.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Otto made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, Mr. Akers supported the motion, motion approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Stumbo made a motion to approve the November 3, 2021 meeting minutes, Ms. Walsh supported the motion, motion approved.

4. Public Participation

Mr. Mogensen noted that MDOT should evaluate projects on M-17 for long term bus rapid transit services as part of ongoing studies. CMAQ project prioritization can appear to be done behind the scenes.

5. Communications and Announcements

Mr. Sapkiewicz provided the following updates:

- The second call for TIP amendments will be forthcoming.
- The 2020 Annual Crash Report is available on the WATS website.
- Asset Management collection has been completed.
- WATS meetings will return to in-person beginning January 2022.
- WATS anticipates an update to funding targets in January based on the recently passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).
- WATS has an upcoming call for special interest seat representatives for the Technical Committee. An email regarding applications for those seats will be forthcoming.

6. Old Business

No old business.

7. New Business

A. Federal Aid Committee - Urban, 2024-2026 Program

Ms. Flowers reported:

- The Federal Aid Committee met on November 22, 2021 to review projects proposed for three urban funding sources: the Surface Transportation Program Block Grant (STBG-Urban), National Highway Performance Program (NHPP), and the South Lyon, Brighton, Howell Urban Area (STUL).
- WATS received 53 project applications totaling more than \$30 million in requests.
- The FAC Committee provided a program recommendation for 2023-2026 and recommended that several underfunded projects receive priority when new funding is available, as anticipated from the recently passed IIJA.

Ms. Stumbo noted that there are no projects included in Ypsilanti Township within the very low opportunity areas, according to the County's Opportunity Index.

Mr. MacDonell noted that project proposals are based on asset management principles across the network of roads and that several projects are included in Ypsilanti Township within the low opportunity areas.

Mr. Buck explained that the STUL funds are from a small portion of the urban area in Livingston County urban that crosses into Northfield Township and Ms. Flowers added that Washtenaw County also receives a small allocation from Detroit's urban area funds.

Mr. MacDonell made a motion to approve the 2023-2026 FAC Urban Program as presented, Mr. Cooper supported the motion, motion approved.

B. Federal Aid Committee - Rural, 2024-2026 Program

Ms. Flowers reported:

- The Federal Aid Committee met on November 22, 2021 to review projects proposed for two rural funding sources: the Surface Transportation Program Block Grant (STBG-Rural) and the Transportation Economic Development Category D Funds (State D).
- The FAC Committee provided a program recommendation for 2023-2026.

Mr. Buck provided a map that delineates the urban and rural areas in Washtenaw County.

Mr. MacDonell made a motion to approve the 2023-2026 FAC Urban Program as presented, Mr. Kirton supported the motion, motion approved.

C. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality, 2024-2026 Prioritization

Ms. Flowers noted that the SEMCOG region is expected to receive \$24.9 million per year in CMAQ funds to be divided evenly between road and transit projects. SEMCOG requests that every County in the region and the City of Detroit select their top CMAQ priority project for each year. Additional projects may be awarded based on cost-benefit ratio points received. Ms. Flowers provided a list of proposed priority CMAQ projects for Washtenaw County for each year based on their cost-benefit ratio and coordinated discussions with the applying agencies.

Discussion ensued regarding how the scoring criteria for CMAQ priority projects is calculated. Mr. Dolen noted that estimated scores should be provided for all proposed CMAQ projects before going before the Policy Committee for approval.

Mr. MacDonell made a motion to approve the 2023-2026 FAC Urban Program as presented, Mr. Akers supported the motion, motion approved.

8. Agency Reports

A. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Akers reported:

- The Oakwood St. project and sidewalk replacement projects are wrapping up for the year.
- Continuing work with MDOT on the pedestrian crossing over I-94/Huron road diet work.
- Currently working on the annual Capital Improvement Plan process.
- Continuing design on the Forest Ave bridge.
- The City had two projects selected for the MDOT bridge program for 2024: Forest Ave bridge and Factory St. bridge.

B. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Cooper reported:

- The Vision Zero Transportation Plan implementation project is now underway.
- The City will be looking for new members for a Vision Zero implementation Committee in 2022.

C. City of Saline

Ms. Humphriss reported:

- The City is working on getting local projects bid for January.
- The sidewalk project from Huntington Wood subdivision to Monroe St is now complete..
- Just awarded funds for an upcoming project on Clark St.

D. WCRC

Mr. MacDonell reported:

- Working to obligate the 2022 program of projects.
- The WCRC was selected for a bridge project: Stony Creek Rd over Paint Creek in Ypsilanti Township replacement in 2024 for \$1.2 million.

E. Non-Motorized Representative

Ms. Walsh reported:

- Reminder to keep pathways clear of snow this time of year.

F. TheRide

Ms. Reed reported:

- Thanked for support of projects and long range plan

G. MDOT Region

Mr. Davis reported:

- MDOT recently released the I-94 operations study. Some of the recommendations in that study have been awarded funding, including I-94 WB to NB US-23 improvements in FY 2026-2027 and some auxiliary flex lanes in FY 2028 between State St. and US-23 along I-94 (merge-weave lane with restricted hours). Funds were also requested for the I-94 and State St. interchange in FY 2028.

- Barton Rd PEL study - A kick off meeting to select a consultant will be forthcoming in January 2022.
- In anticipation of potential infrastructure funding, MDOT met with local stakeholders regarding ReImagine Washtenaw and is currently awaiting internal approval for an M-17 PEL study.

H. University of Michigan

Mr. Dolen reported:

- Fully electric buses have been ordered and will be delivered Fall 2022.
- Working on electric vehicle charging stations for fleet and faculty/staff over the next few years.
- The City is working on widening the bridge at the entrance to the Hospital along Fuller Rd. The University will fund the expansion of that bridge and include infrastructure for pedestrians and bicycles. That project will go before the Transportation Commission in December and then to City Council for a vote soon after that.

I. People with Disabilities Representative

Mr. Waterman reported:

- Stressed the importance of winter maintenance as it is a major barrier for people with disabilities.

J. City of Milan

Mr. Kirton reported:

- The City is finalizing the design for TEDF E. Main project for next year.

K. Washtenaw County

Mr. Voght reported:

- Phase two of sidewalk infill for Ypsilanti Township on Washtenaw Ave. has been put on hold until the MDOT PEL study can be completed.

9. Adjournment

Chair Voght adjourned the meeting at 10:52 AM.