

## 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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### 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 •

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.