

MEETING MINUTES

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

DATE: June 2, 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: Eastern Michigan University – Dieter Otto, Chair
Washtenaw County – Nathan Voght, Vice-Chair
City of Ypsilanti - Bonnie Wessler, Second Vice-Chair
City of Ann Arbor - Eli Cooper (for Raymond Hess)
Disability Representative - John Waterman
Environmental Representative - Evan Pratt
Equity Representative - Weneshia Brand
City of Milan - Stanley Kirton
MDOT Statewide Planning - Max Gierman
MDOT University Region - Mike Davis
Non-motorized Representative - Sarah Walsh
TheRide – LaTasha Thompson
City of Saline – Jeff Fordice
Washtenaw County Road Commission - Matt MacDonell

Members Absent: Ann Arbor DDA – Amber Miller
City of Chelsea - John Hanifan
Dexter Township - Vacant
City of Dexter – Dan Schlaff
Northfield Township - Ken Dignan
Pittsfield Township - Craig Lyon
Senior Representative - Ruth Ann Jamnick
University of Michigan – Steve Dolen
Ypsilanti Township - Jason Iacoangeli

Others Present: WATS – Ryan Buck, Nick Sapkiewicz, Suzann Flowers, Emily Lake

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 •

OHM Advisors - Marcus McNamara
PEX - Doug Anderson
Public - Jim Mogensen
UMTRI - Debra Bezzina, Mary Lynn Buonarosa
WCRC - Brent Schlack

1. Call to Order/Introductions

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

2. Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Kirton made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, Mr. Pratt supported the motion, motion approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Wessler made a motion to approve the May 5, 2021 meeting minutes, Mr. MacDonell supported the motion, motion approved with abstention from Mr. Cooper.

4. Public Participation

Mr. Mogensen cautioned about sidewalks that do not have snow removal in the winter, forcing people with disabilities to enter a street or roundabout.

5. Communications and Announcements

Mr. Sapkiewicz provided the following updates:

- A schedule for the development of the 2023-2026 TIP will be available at the next meeting.
- There is one project left to obligate for 2021. The state is currently at approximately 95% urban obligation authority left and 78% rural obligation authority left.
- At the May meeting, the WATS Policy committee approved the Technical Committee's recommendation to have a supplemental call for additional HIP and HIP-Covid funding.
- Proposed treatments for the Route Ypsilanti tactical urbanism project with the City of Ypsilanti are planned to deploy in June. WATS received over 140 survey responses during public participation.
- The RTA 5310 call for project applications have been received and scored, and award notices will be going out soon.

6. Old Business

No old business.

7. New Business

A. 3rd Call FY 2021 TIP Amendments - 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.

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

B. 3rd Call FY 2021 TIP Modifications - 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 - 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).

Mr. Buck noted that because these additional projects are not being programmed in the TIP but are being added to the LRP for planning purposes, the funding source should be listed as local funds.

Ms. Wessler made a motion to approve the Long Range Transportation Plan amendments with the funding source listed as local funds instead of STP/CMAQ funds, supported by Mr. Cooper, motion approved.

D. 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).

E. Annual Meeting

The Technical Committee Officers nominated to serve a one year term for the 2022 fiscal year are as follows:

- Nathan Voght, Chair
- Bonnie Wessler, Vice-Chair
- Stanley Kirton, Second Vice-Chair

Mr. Davis made a motion to approve the 2022 FY Technical Committee Officers as presented, supported by Mr. Cooper, motion approved.

The Committee discussed maintaining the current meeting time for the 1st Wednesday of the

month at 9:30 am and to continue using the meeting room available at 200 N Main St., with an option for virtual meetings if state and local provisions allow.

Mr. Waterman made a motion to approve the current Technical Committee meeting time and location, and to include a virtual meeting option if state and local provisions allow, supported by Mr. Kirton, motion approved.

8. Agency Reports

A. City of Ypsilanti

Ms. Wessler reported:

- A bid contract was accepted for Oakwood repavement project.
- YCUA has begun work on W Cross, from Huron to Summit, to be followed by a mill and overlay project from MDOT.
- The City's non-motorized transportation plan draft has been released for public comment and is available on the City's website.
- Route Ypsilanti improvements are scheduled to be installed late June.

B. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Cooper reported:

- The City's Vision Zero transportation plan update will go to city council for approval in June.

C. City of Saline

Mr. Fordice reported:

- Construction on the local street program has begun, including water main and storm sewer upgrades. A significant sidewalk project will be up for approval at the next city council meeting.

D. Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC)

Mr. MacDonell reported:

- Most projects have been obligated and bid contracts have been awarded.
- This is a busy construction year, feel free to reach out with questions or refer to the WCRC website for project updates.

E. Non-Motorized Representative

Ms. Walsh reported:

- Excited to see sidewalks and other bike and pedestrian improvements included in summer construction projects.

F. TheRide

Ms. Thompson reported:

- Full service restoration is scheduled for August. Public review period to begin this week for service and fare changes.
- TheRide's grant coordinator has completed paperwork to flex funding from FHWA to FTA for the Reimagine Washtenaw project.

- New CFO started this week.

G. MDOT Statewide Planning

Mr. Gierman reported:

- MDOT return to in-person work date is July 12, 2021.

H. MDOT University Region

Mr. Davis reported:

- FY21 Cross St mill and resurfacing project is set for Fall construction.
- Designs for the Huron St. pathway over I-94 project should be completed this summer. A plan review meeting will take place in June/July followed by a public meeting that will also include the Huron/Hamilton road diet project.
- M-14/Barton planning study underway.

I. Environmental Representative

Mr. Pratt reported:

- The Harris Rd rain gardens project in partnership with the WCRC look great.

J. People with Disabilities Representative

Mr. Waterman reported:

- PEAC presented at the MassDOT Conference for Mobility to share stories on how to make transportation systems more accessible for people with cognitive disabilities, including detours for sidewalks. Also presented to the Maryland Department of Education on transitioning individuals into the community and the importance of accessible transportation.
- A recent Safe Routes to School project with the Ypsilanti Middle School special education classes included rebuilding bikes to be able to ride them in their community.

K. City of Milan

Mr. Kirton reported:

- Pre-CON with MDOT project scheduled to start in July.
- Pavement maintenance program and crack sealing is underway.

L. Washtenaw County

Mr. Voght reported:

- Recently held a kickoff meeting with OHM and Ypsilanti Twp to do topography work for the Reimagine Washtenaw Phase II sidewalk infill. The next step will be to acquire easements, and construction is likely to begin in late 2022. TheRide is committed to helping this project to make bus stops more accessible.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Otto adjourned the meeting at 10:45am.