

Minutes of Meeting

POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: June 15, 2022

TIME: 9:30 pm

PLACE: Lower Level Conference Room 200 N. Main Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Members Present: City of Saline – Brian Marl, Chair
Eastern Michigan University - Leigh Greden, Vice Chair
Ann Arbor Township – Diane O'Connell
City of Ann Arbor – Erica Briggs
City of Chelsea – Charles Wiseley
City of Ypsilanti – Jennifer Symanns
City of Dexter – Justin Breyer (for Shawn Keough)
Superior Township – Ken Schwartz
MDOT Region - Kari Martin
Pittsfield Township – Mandy Grewal
TheRide – Matt Carpenter
University of Michigan – Henry Baier
Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo
Washtenaw County Road Commission – Doug Fuller

Members Absent: City of Ann Arbor DDA – Vacant
Dexter Township - Karen Sikkenga
City of Milan - Vacant
Northfield Township - Ken Dignan
Scio Township - Vacant
SWWCOG – Ron Miley
WCBOC – Jason Morgan, Treasurer

Others Present: WATS - Ryan Buck, Nick Sapkiewicz
MDOT - Peter Oyewale

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 •

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Marl called the meeting to order at 9:35am. Introductions were made.

2. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Grewal made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, Mr. Greden supported the motion, motion approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the March 16, 2022 minutes, supported by Mr. Carpenter, motion approved.

4. Public Participation

Chair Marl asked if anyone wished to address the Committee. No one wished to address the Committee and public participation time was closed.

5. Communications and Announcements

Mr. Buck provided the following updates:

- New staff members have begun work with WATS.
- MDOT has announced a Federal Aid buyout program (90% payout). TIP-approved projects should be submitted directly to MDOT as candidates for the buyout program, and WATS will track follow-through on the planned investments.
- WATS will be coordinating with SEMCOG to facilitate the IJJA Safe Streets for All funding opportunity for the region.

6. Bills over \$500

Mr. Buck reported that the previously authorized expenditure for new computers has gone through.

7. Old Business

There was no old business.

8. New Business

A. FY 2021 Financial Statements Audit - Action

Mr. Buck reported that in FY 2021 agency dues were reduced by 20% and that reserve funds were used to compensate. The audit findings show WATS financials to be in good shape.

Ms. Briggs made a motion to approve the FY 2021 Financial Statements Audit. Ms. O'Connell supported and the motion passed.

B. FY 2022 Second Quarter Financial Statements - Action

Action delayed.

C. FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program - Action

Mr. Buck explained that the Work Program includes TheRide and WATS upcoming planning activities. It shows how Planning Funds will be spent and maximizes the Planning funding available.

Ms. Symanns made a motion to approve the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program. Ms. Martin supported and the motion passed.

D. FY 2023 Administrative Budget - Action

Mr. Buck described the budget through the 2nd quarter noting that agency indirect costs are low and some flexibility remains in the budget. Mr. Buck added that it would be in order to convene a dues sub-committee after the final 2020 Census data is available.

Mr. Carpenter made a motion to approve the FY 2023 Administrative Budget. Mr. Fuller supported and the motion passed.

E. FY 2022 Third Call Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments - Action

Mr. Sapkiewicz reviewed the project updates presented for the Committee's approval in the third call amendment and noted the WATS Environmental Justice review and overall TIP investment analysis.

Ms. Grewal made a motion to approve the third call amendments. Mr. Wisely supported and the motion passed.

F. FY 2022 Third Call Administrative Modifications - Information

Mr. Sapkiewicz reviewed the project updates provided as administrative modifications and explained the informational nature of the list of modifications to TIP projects.

G. FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Action

Mr. Sapkiewicz introduced the 2023-2026 TIP and explained that the projects within which WATS prioritizes for federal funding have been reviewed both by the Technical and Policy Committees and by the public in the form of the Federal Aid Program and that those projects now join with MDOT projects and other competitive federal funding sources to comprise the TIP.

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the 2023-2026 TIP. Ms. Martin supported and the motion passed.

H. WATS Bylaws Amendment - Action

Mr. Buck reported that after conferring the WATS officers, two changes to the Agency's bylaws are recommended that help address quorum issues and define a quorum for the Agency's meetings. Mr. Buck went on to explain that voting is a core function of the Technical and Policy Committees. Mr. Graden added that safeguards are integrated into the

recommended changes to keep members voting and active.

Ms. Briggs cautioned that the Committee should keep an eye on the effectiveness/effects of the bylaws changes.

Ms. Symmans made a motion to accept the bylaws amendment. Ms. Martin supported and the motion passed.

I. Bylaws Update Ad-Hoc Committee - Information

Mr. Buck reminded the Committee that a more robust review of the WATS bylaws was due and asked for representatives to participate in the update.

J. WATS Director Review - Information

Mr. Greden explained that he will convene a panel to participate in Mr. Buck's review process. The Technical and Policy Committees and external sources will participate in the review and Mr. Greden will return to the Policy Committee with a performance evaluation and compensation recommendation.

I. Annual Meeting - Action

Mr. Buck introduced the opportunity for the Committee to set its meeting time and slate of officers.

Mr. Fuller made a motion to keep the current meeting place and time. Mr. Carpenter supported and the motion passed.

Mr. Fuller made a motion to nominate Brian Marl as Chair, Leigh Greden as Vice-Chair, and Matt Carpenter as Secretary-Treasurer. Ms. Symmans supported and the motion passed.

10. Adjournment

Chair Marl adjourned the meeting.