



200 N. Main  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
phone: 734.994.3127  
website: miwats.org  
email: wats@miwats.org

## MEETING MINUTES

### TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

DATE: March 2, 2022

TIME: 9:30 am

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

Members Present: Washtenaw County – Nathan Voght, Chair  
City of Ypsilanti - Bonnie Wessler  
City of Ann Arbor - Raymond Hess  
Disability Representative - John Waterman  
Pittsfield Township - Matt Best  
Eastern Michigan University – Dieter Otto  
MDOT University Region - Mike Davis  
Environmental Representative - Evan Pratt  
City of Saline – Jeff Fordice, Tesha Humphriss  
TheRide – Caitlin Conway  
University of Michigan – Lisa Solomon (for Steve Dolen)  
Washtenaw County Road Commission - Matt MacDonell  
Ypsilanti Township - Brenda Stumbo (for Jason Iacoangeli)  
City of Chelsea - Julia Upfal

Members Absent: Ann Arbor DDA – Amber Miller  
  
City of Dexter – Dan Schlaff  
Dexter Township - Vacant  
Equity Representative - Weneshia Brand  
Non-motorized Representative - Sarah Walsh  
Pittsfield Township - Vacant  
Senior Representative - Vacant  
City of Milan - Vacant

Others Present: WATS – Ryan Buck, Nick Sapkiewicz  
WCRC - Brent Schlack

---

#### 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 •

City of Ypsilanti - Ron Akers  
MDOT - Max Gierman  
Public - Jim Mogensen

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Voght called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM and led the group in introductions.

2. Approval of the Agenda

**Ms. Stumbo made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, Ms. Wessler supported the motion, motion approved.**

3. Approval of Minutes

**Ms. Stumbo made a motion to approve the December 1, 2021 meeting minutes, Ms. Walsh supported the motion, motion approved.**

4. Public Participation

Nobody from the public wished to address the Committee.

5. Communications and Announcements

Mr. Buck provided the following updates:

- WATS is undergoing staffing changes, Ms. Flowers and Ms. Lake are leaving WATS
- 2023-2026 TIP federal funding targets have been in flux and continue to change

6. Old Business

No old business.

7. New Business

**A. 2nd Call TIP Amendments, 2020-2023 TIP**

Mr. Sapkiewicz explained that the 2nd call for TIP amendments included project changes for Ann Arbor, People's Express, TheRide, WCRC and MDOT. New investment in the TIP totaled \$2,813,982 and updated environmental justice and equity investment tables were included in the amendment memo.

**Mr. Pratt made a motion to approve the 2020-2023 TIP amendments, Mr. MacDonnell supported the motion, motion approved.**

**B. 2nd Call TIP Modifications - 2020-2023 TIP**

Mr. Sapkiewicz explained that modifications to the TIP are small changes handled administratively and are provided for the Committee's information.

**C. FY 2023-2026 Federal Aid Program - Urban**

Mr. Sapkiewicz reported that the 2023-2026 Federal Aid Program - Urban was presented to the Technical Committee at their December 2021 meeting and was subsequently available for public review. The Program includes the funding sources Surface Transportation Program Block Grant - Urban and National Highway Performance Program. Mr. Sapkiewicz noted the

investment in equity, transit, and non-motorized investments and that the following projects were underfunded within the program:

Jackson from Parker to Dino  
Plymouth from Dixboro to M-153  
Ann Arbor sidewalk gap fill  
Harriet from First to Hawkins

**Ms. Wessler made a motion to recommend Policy Committee approve the 2023-2026 FAC Urban Program and that if additional funds become available the underfunded projects be prioritized for funding, Mr. Waterman supported the motion, motion approved.**

**D. FY 2023-2026 Federal Aid Program - Rural**

Mr. Sapkiewicz reported that the 2023-2026 Federal Aid Program - Rural was presented to the Technical Committee at their December 2021 meeting and was subsequently available for public review. The Program includes the funding sources Surface Transportation Program Block Grant - Rural and Transportation Economic Development Fund - D. The 2023-2026 Rural Program focuses on WCRC, while People's Express receives funding in 2024, and Manchester begins an Advance Construct project in 2026, receiving federal funds conversion in 2027 (outside program scope).

**Mr. MacDonnell made a motion to approve the 2023-3026 FAC Rural Program, Ms. Humphriss supported the motion, motion approved.**

**E. 2023-2026 Urban Federal Aid - New Targets**

Mr. Sapkiewicz explained that the 2023-2026 Program recommendation included a recommendation to fully program underfunded projects if new funding becomes available. Since that time the 2023-2026 funding targets changed several times and were still in flux. Mr. Sapkiewicz went on to say that with the additional funding to be programmed, a recommendation from the Committee on how to allocate the funds was needed.

Mr. MacDonnell noted the value of a focused approach to funding that allows flexibility in delivering the Program.

**Ms. Wessler made a motion to backfill funding for the underfunded projects in the program and to distribute the remaining balance to the projects in the Urban Program proportionally within each year of the program, Mr. MacDonnell supported the motion and the motion passed.**

**F. 2022 Performance Measures Target: Safety**

Mr. Buck explained that the federal performance measures are set by the state and to date, WATS has been in support of the measures, though engaging the WATS Director to pen a letter on behalf of WATS to the MDOT Director encouraging more ambitious safety targets. Mr. Buck added that 2016-2020 safety data was included for the county as well as an updated letter to MDOT for the Committee to review.

Mr. Hess stated that safety is a crisis and more to address it should be done and done so equitably.

**Mr. Hess made a motion to update the letter to MDOT with stronger language encouraging and emphasis on safety and the notion that WATS is not in agreement with the state's targets, Ms. Wessler supported the motion and the motion passed.**

**G. All-Season Road Network Reaffirmation.**

Mr. Sapkiewicz explained that for Rural roads to be eligible to use TEDF-D funds they must be on the County's all-season road network and that MDOT requires formal committee action to affirm the list of all-season roads. Mr. Sapkiewicz added that the list of roads has not changed, but action on the list was necessary.

**Ms. Wessler made a motion to recommend the Policy Committee reaffirm the Washtenaw's all-season road network, Mr. MadDonnell supported the motion and the motion passed.**

8. Adjournment

Chair Voght adjourned the meeting at 10:46 AM.