

## Minutes of Meeting

POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: March 16, 2021

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  
WCBOC – Jason Morgan, Treasurer  
Ann Arbor Township – Diane O'Connell  
City of Ann Arbor – Erica Briggs  
City of Chelsea – Charles Wisely  
City of Ypsilanti – Jennifer Symanns  
Dexter Township - Karen Sikkenga  
MDOT Region - Kari Martin  
Pittsfield Township – Mandy Grewal  
TheRide – Matt Carpenter  
University of Michigan – Lisa Solomon (for Henry Baier)  
Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo  
Washtenaw County Road Commission – Doug Fuller

**Members Absent:** City of Ann Arbor DDA – Vacant  
City of Dexter – Shawn Keough  
City of Milan - Vacant  
Northfield Township - Ken Dignan  
Scio Township - Vacant  
Superior Township – Ken Schwartz  
SWWCOG – Ron Miley

**Others Present:** WATS - Ryan Buck, Nick Sapkiewicz  
MDOT - Max Gierman, 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 •

SEMCOG - Chris Williams  
Public - Jim Mogensen

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 October 20, 2021 minutes, supported by Ms. Symanns, 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:

- Staffing changes are underway, Suzann Flowers has accepted a position with the City of Ann Arbor, and Emily Lake will not be returning to WATS after her parental leave. Two new staff members have been hired and will begin work in April and in May.
- WATS' annual audit is concluding and once the auditor has completed the materials are anticipated to be presented in April.

Mr. Carpenter reported:

- TheRide has been engaging in a Long Range Planning process about the future of transit and will provide a presentation and full briefing of hypothetical scenarios at the next Committee meeting.

6. Bills over \$500

Mr. Buck reported that there was one bill over \$500. \$5,800 for the FY 2021 financial statements audit to Steforria and Petik. Ms. Stumbo made a motion to approve the bills over \$500, supported by Mr. Fuller, motion approved.

Mr. Buck also reported that with new staff coming on there would be several computer purchases and additional software licenses purchased.

7. Old Business

There was no old business.

8. New Business

**A. 2nd Call FY 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments for 2020-2023**

**TIP - Action**

Mr. Sapkiewicz reported on proposed changes to the FY 2020-2023 TIP. Mr. Sapkiewicz mentioned that both the environmental justice analysis and the equity analysis was included as part of the packet.

**Ms. Martin made a motion to approve the 2nd call TIP amendments. Jennifer Symanns supported and the motion passed.**

**B. 2nd Call FY 2022 TIP Modifications for 2020-2023 TIP - Information**

Mr. Sapkiewicz reported that TIP modifications are minor changes made to projects to ensure the smooth delivery of the federal aid program and that the changes are provided as information to the Committee.

**C. Federal Aid Committee - Urban, 2024-2026 Program - Action**

Mr. Sapkiewicz reported on the development of a new Urban Program which will be part of the new FY 2023-2026 TIP. FY 2023 was already complete, fiscal years 24-26 were developed with local agencies based on new federal aid targets. WATS completed a larger than normal public outreach process regarding the urban and rural programs. Mr. Sapkiewicz reported that the Technical Committee's recommendation includes "backfilling" several projects as new funding becomes available

**Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the Urban Federal Aid Program and to backfill projects with new funding when available. Ms. Briggs supported and the motion passed.**

**D. Federal Aid Committee - Rural, 2024-2026 Program - Action**

Mr. Sapkiewicz reported that a new rural federal aid program has been developed for fiscal years 24-26.

**Mr. Greden made a motion to approve the rural federal aid program as presented. Mr. Carpenter supported and the motion passed.**

**E. 2023-2026 Federal Funds Target Increase Strategy - Action**

Mr. Sapkiewicz reported that new funds are anticipated for years FY 2024-2026 as a result of minor target adjustments and larger infusions resulting from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Changes to targets have been frequent and fluid and the final targets are still not known. Because WATS just finished a call for projects process and prioritization the recommendation is to provide the additional funds in a proportional manner based on the FY 24-26 Urban Program - Surface Transportation Program Block Grant - Urban (STPBG - U) funding

**Mr. Fuller made a motion to provide additional funding proportionate to the existing STPBG-U program for FY 2024-2026. Mr. Morgan supported and the motion passed.**

**F. CMAQ Prioritization - Action**

Mr. Buck reported that staff met with the agencies applying for CMAQ funds for transit and non-transit to establish a priority list for consideration by SEMCOG. Mr. Buck explained that the unique nature of WATS allows the Policy Committee to submit its top priority projects for consideration to SEMCOG.

**Ms. Sikkenga made a motion to approve the CMAQ prioritization for transit and non-transit projects. Mr. Fuller supported and the motion passed.**

G. 2022 MDOT Safety Targets Performance Measure - Action

Mr. Buck reported that as in years past, MPO's need to provide support for the state of Michigan's performance targets, or create local targets. For the last 3 years WATS has sent a letter reluctantly supporting the state's safety targets and requesting the targets better match our communities priority of safety and encouraging some policy changes to that end. This year the WATS Technical Committee recommended WATS not support the targets, in part due to the agencies unique circumstance as a Transportation Management Area but not a designated Metropolitan Planning Organization. This ensures that the policy statement not supporting the state targets does not have a direct negative impact on the state's ability to continue implementing transportation programs.

**Ms. O'Connell made a motion to send the draft letter approved in the packet. Ms. Briggs supported and the motion passed. Ms. Martin abstained.**

H. All-Season Road Network Reaffirmation

Mr. Sapkiewicz reported that as a condition of funding for State Transportation Economic Development - Category D funding a road must be on the All-Season Road Network. While The Washtenaw County Road Commission's All-Season Network was approved several years ago the map and MDOT did not reflect all of the official changes that were made. To assist in the process of updating the state's map of all-season roads, WATS is requesting the full list, previously approved by the Washtenaw County Road Commission be reaffirmed.

**Ms. Symmans made a motion to reaffirm the all-season road network. Mr. Fuller supported and the motion passed.**

10. Adjournment

Chair Marl adjourned the meeting at 10:19 am