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MEETING MINUTES

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

DATE: March 3, 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: Washtenaw County – Nathan Voght, Vice-Chair
City of Ypsilanti - Bonnie Wessler, Second Vice-Chair
MDOT Statewide Planning - Max Gierman
City of Chelsea - John Hanifan
Disability Representative - John Waterman
Environmental Representative - Evan Pratt
Washtenaw County Road Commission - Matt MacDonell
City of Saline – Jeff Fordice
City of Ann Arbor - Eli Cooper (for Raymond Hess)
MDOT University Region - Mike Davis
City of Milan - Stanley Kirton
TheRide – Caitlin Conway
Non-motorized Representative - Sarah Walsh
Northfield Township - Ken Dignan
University of Michigan – Steve Dolen

Members Absent: Eastern Michigan University – Dieter Otto, Chair
Ann Arbor DDA – Amber Miller
Dexter Township - Vacant
City of Dexter – Dan Schlaff
Equity Representative - Weneschia Brand
Pittsfield Township - Craig Lyon
Senior Representative - Ruth Ann Jamnick
Ypsilanti Township - Jason Iacoangeli

Others Present: WATS – 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, Kent Early
SEMCOG - Tom Bruff
Stantec - Cassandra Winner
WAVE - Julia Roberts, Darlene Downerd
Washtenaw County Road Commission - Michele Ford, Brent Schlack

1. Call to Order/Introductions

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

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Dignan made a motion to approve the January 6, 2021 minutes, Mr. Pratt supported the motion, motion approved.

4. Public Participation

Ms. Roberts, Director of the WAVE, announced that the WAVE will be purchasing their first electric vehicle in FY 2022. That purchase has been approved by MDOT to add to the 3rd Call for TIP amendments.

5. Communications and Announcements

Mr. Sapkiewicz provided the following updates:

- Reminder to obligate projects quickly. The obligation authority for the rural program is at 55% obligated and the non-rural program is at 70% obligated.
- Another round of HIP funding and additional Covid-Relief funds, totaling approximately \$2.5 M, will be coming to Washtenaw County. WATS will be seeking guidance from the Technical and Policy Committees on these funds. More information will be forthcoming.
- The 2023-2026 TIP development is kicking off. WATS staff are currently working to develop a schedule.
- WATS has been participating and providing feedback during the development of the County's new Opportunity Index. More information will be forthcoming.
- WATS continues to provide support for tactical urbanism projects. The City of Ypsilanti will launch a project this summer and the City of Chelsea will launch another round of their project in the Fall.

6. Old Business

No old business.

7. New Business

A. 2nd Call FY 2021 TIP Amendments - Action

Ms. Flowers provided a list of 10 amendments to the 2020-2023 TIP. These significant changes

include significant cost changes, changes to scope and limits of projects, new grant awards, etc.

Ms. Lake provided an overview of the Environmental Justice and Opportunity Index review. Investment in these areas has increased significantly since the 1st TIP call in FY 2020.

Mr. Pratt made a motion to approve the 2nd call FY 2021 TIP amendments as presented, supported by Mr. MacDonell, motion approved.

B. 2nd Call FY 2021 TIP Modifications - Information

Ms. Flowers provided a list of 12 minor modifications to the TIP for the FY 2021 2nd Call, including minor cost changes, changes to scope and limits of projects, etc.

C. 2019 Traffic Crash Report - Information

Ms. Lake provided an overview of the annual report, which includes information on traffic crashes, fatalities and serious injuries in Washtenaw County. The 2019 report has been modified to include:

- 5-Year crash trends for fatal and serious injury crashes
- New crash factors: lane departures, intersections, speeding, and crashes with young and older drivers

8. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Cooper reported:

- The City's Vision Zero transportation plan update is out for City and stakeholder review
- The Healthy Streets program has been approved for 2021. An online nomination tool for streets to include will be available soon.

B. City of Saline

Mr. Fordice reported:

- Anticipate issuing \$7-8M bond for sanitary sewers, watermain work, etc.

C. Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC)

Mr. MacDonell reported:

- The WCRC is working to obligate projects for FY 2021.
- Working on TAP funded initiatives in Dexter, Pittsfield Twp, and Superior Twp.
- Improvements to M17 and US12 will go out for bid soon.

D. Non-Motorized Representative

Ms. Walsh reported:

- Reminder to keep pathways clear of residual snow and ice for non-motorized users.

E. TheRide

Ms. Conway reported:

- TheRide is planning to return to normal service levels by August 2021.
- Accepting feedback on service levels through April 2.
- Michigan Flyer is tentatively planning to resume the airport shuttle service by the end of April.

F. MDOT University Region

Mr. Davis reported:

- Working on a flex route extension project in Livingston County, and increasing engagement between WATS and Livingston County on non-motorized projects.
- Continuing to work on the non-motorized pathway and road diet projects with the City of Ypsilanti. Currently undergoing a feasibility of enhancements to the project.

G. University of Michigan

Mr. Dolen reported:

- The UM President's Commission on Carbon Neutrality has published their report with recommendations, including a piece on commuting and electric vehicles that could significantly change the parking system.
- RFP was recently finished to start transitioning the bus fleet to electric.
- Starting to break ground on the new maintenance facility for buses, which will feature electric charging stations.

H. People with Disabilities Representative

Mr. Waterman reported:

- Thanked local agencies for their clearing and winter maintenance efforts.
- Working with SEMCOG on a grant for planning to share stories of individuals with impairments and how they navigate our communities.

I. City of Milan

Mr. Kirton reported:

- The City of Milan was awarded \$248K of TEDF funding for E Main, from US-23 to the railroad.

J. Washtenaw County

Mr. Voght reported:

- A final draft of the uniform midblock crossing guidance is out for comment.
- Working with Ypsilanti Twp to use CDBG funds to continue sidewalk infill on Washtenaw Avenue, east of Golfside Rd.

K. City of Chelsea

Mr. Hanifan reported:

- Working with WATS on Chelsea POP 2.0 tactical urbanism project.

- Working with County Parks on a connector from the Werkner Rd roundabout to Sibley Rd.
- The City has a project on Sibley with small urban funds that will kick off this summer.

L. SEMCOG

Mr. Bruff reported:

- SEMCOG's website features several new maps and webinars, including one on electric charging stations.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Voght adjourned the meeting at 10:30am.