

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

WATS POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: April 19th, 2023

TIME: 9:30 AM

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

Members Present: City of Saline – Brian Marl (*Chair*)
Eastern Michigan University - Leigh Greden (*Vice Chair*)
TheRide – Matt Carpenter (*Secretary-Treasurer*)
City of Ann Arbor – Erica Briggs
City of Ypsilanti – Jennifer Symanns
MDOT University Region - Mike Davis
Pittsfield Township – Mandy Grewal
Superior Charter Township - Lisa Lewis
Washtenaw County Road Commission – Barb Fuller
University of Michigan – Steve Dolen

Members Absent: Ann Arbor DDA – Vacant
Ann Arbor Township – Diane O'Connell
City of Chelsea – Charles Wiseley
City of Dexter – Shawn Keough
City of Milan - Vacant
Dexter Township - Vacant
Northfield Township - Ken Dignan
Scio Township - Vacant
SWWCOG – Ron Miley
WCBOC – Caroline Sanders
Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo

Others Present: Georgia Frost, Ken Anderson (TheRide), Ryan Buck (WATS), Nick Sapkiewicz (WATS), Maggie Huntley (WATS), Anton Schauerte (WATS)

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 9:32 AM. Introductions were made.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Ms. Fuller, supported by Ms. Briggs, to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Greden, supported by Mr. Carpenter, to approve the February 15, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion was carried unanimously.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no comments provided by members of the public.

5. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Buck provided the following updates:

- The 2022 Annual Report and List of Obligated Projects has been recently completed; the document lists major accomplishments WATS, as well as a list of projects that were obligated in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022.
- Development of the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) has recently begun and a preliminary Call for Projects (CFP), for projects that will need to be inputted into the Travel Demand Model, will be sent out soon. A second CFP will be sent out later in the year for all remaining projects.
- The WATS audit is being finalized. The formal report will be provided at the next Policy Committee meeting.
- WATS is hosting the 2023 Michigan Transportation Planning Association (MTPA) Annual Conference in Ann Arbor, July 26th - July 28th. Mr. Buck invited Committee members to attend the conference.

Chair Marl stated his appreciation for the auditing firm's thoroughness while conducting the audit thus far and looked forward to reviewing the document in full.

6. BILLS OVER \$500

Mr. Buck outlined there were two bills over \$500. The first bill is for the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority for WATS' annual Directors and Officers insurance in the amount of \$2,775. The second bill is for Eco-Counter to upgrade two permanent non-motorized counters in the City of Dexter in the amount of \$2,556.

A motion was made by Ms. Lewis, supported by Ms. Grewal, to approve the bills over \$500. The motion was carried unanimously.

7. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2nd Call FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

Mr. Sapkiewicz stated that WATS received amendments from MDOT, the WCRC, and the City of Ann Arbor, which primarily consist of cost changes to FY 2023 projects, and provided an overview of the project changes outlined in the packet. Mr. Sapkiewicz outlined the ongoing issues across the state with two tools WATS uses to perform the environmental justice and equity analyses. It was mentioned, however, that these concerns have been relayed to MDOT and that WATS staff has recreated the process and has conducted the analysis on its own. It was also noted that after being requested to do so by the Technical Committee, WATS staff calculated 19% of all federal-aid eligible roads to be located within environmental justice areas.

A motion was made by Ms. Grewal, supported by Mr. Carpenter, to approve the 2nd Call TIP Amendments, as presented. The motion was carried unanimously.

B. 2nd Call FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Modifications

Mr. Sapkiewicz indicated that not all projects that received additional FY23 money received enough to be classified as an amendment; the project changes outlined are instead classified as modifications. Mr. Sapkiewicz added that amendments are posted on the WATS website 30 days in advance for public review and are also posted on the first floor of the Washtenaw County building.

C. Pavement/Bridge Condition and System Performance/Freight/CMAQ Targets

Mr. Schauerte stated that the performance measures for safety were approved by the Committee at the February 2023 meeting and that performance measures for pavement condition, bridge condition, system reliability, freight reliability, and CMAQ will be discussed as part of this agenda item. Mr. Schauerte outlined the motion approved at the April 5, 2023 Technical Committee meeting and provided an overview of the methodology MDOT used to set 2-year and 4-year targets outlined in the packet.

There was a discussion regarding the details of the Technical Committee motion, the reasons why the annual hours of Peak Hour Excessive Delay (PHED) per capita targets and percent of non-single occupancy vehicle travel targets were becoming less stringent, if/how electric vehicle emissions factored into the targets, and local performance measures.

A motion was made by Ms. Symmans, supported by Mr. Carpenter, to acknowledge receipt of the pavement condition targets, as presented, but express concern to MDOT about the pavement condition targets conflicting with the local agencies' existing asset management

goals. The motion carried, with Mr. Davis opposed.

A motion was made by Ms. Grewal, supported by Ms. Fuller, to accept and support the targets for bridge condition, system performance, freight reliability, and CMAQ, as presented.

Mr. Buck suggested that, if desired, the Committee could modify the language of the motion to better highlight the concerns expressed during discussion of the agenda item.

A modified motion was made by Ms. Grewal, supported by Ms. Fuller, to accept and support the targets for bridge condition, system performance, and freight reliability, and accept receipt of the targets for CMAQ and request Mr. Buck write a letter to MDOT expressing concern regarding the targets for CMAQ. The motion carried, with Mr. Davis opposed.

D. FY 2023 First Quarter Financial Statements

Mr. Buck stated is requesting acceptance of the first quarter financial statements and welcomed any questions.

A motion was made by Ms. Lewis, supported by Mr. Greden, to accept the FY 2023 first quarter financial statements. The motion carried unanimously.

E. 2050 Long Range Plan Update

A memo providing an update was included in the meeting packet. No additional discussion took place.

F. TheRide Bus Stop Improvement Program

Mr. Anderson provided a presentation on TheRide's Bus Stop Improvement Program. Mr. Anderson requested that WATS and local agencies help TheRide by filling sidewalk gaps. It also mentioned that the goal is to use STBG funds to increase the bus stop accessibility rate to 100%.

Ms. Briggs stated that there was a shift in bus stop placement after the City of Ann Arbor passed its crosswalk ordinance and asked whether that change was system wide.

Mr. Anderson stated that as projects occur, those new standards are being applied to the placement of bus stops, but that there is currently not enough funding to retrofit all bus stops.

There was a discussion that followed regarding the accessibility of bus stops in winter and the timeline regarding the Superstop that was outlined during the presentation.

G. WATS 2022 Annual Report

Mr. Schauerte stated his appreciation to Matt Carpenter, as well as Michele Fedorowicz from SEMCOG for writing letters for the annual report.

Chair Marl asked whether there will be a meeting in May.

Mr. Buck stated that it was too early to tell, but that the Committee is certain to meet in June.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Marl adjourned the meeting at 10:35 AM.