

## Meeting Minutes

WATS POLICY COMMITTEE

**DATE:** September 20th, 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*)  
AAATA – Matt Carpenter  
Ann Arbor Township – Diane O'Connell  
City of Ann Arbor - Erica Briggs  
City of Chelsea – Charles Wiseley  
MDOT University Region - Mike Davis  
Pittsfield Charter Township - Jessica West  
Scio Township - John Reiser  
WCBOC – Caroline Sanders  
Washtenaw County Road Commission – Barb Fuller

**Members Absent:** City of Dexter – Shawn Keough  
City of Milan - Jim Lancaster  
Dexter Township - Vacant  
Eastern Michigan University - Leigh Greden (*Vice Chair*)  
Northfield Township - Ken Dignan  
SWWCOG – Ron Miley  
Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo  
Superior Charter Township - Lisa Lewis  
University of Michigan - Steve Dolen

**Others Present:** Rosa-Maria Njuki (AAATA), 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 •

An Intermunicipality Committee organized under Act 200 of Public Acts of Michigan (1957)  
representing Washtenaw County

**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. O'Connell, to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was carried unanimously.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Ms. Fuller, supported by Ms. Briggs, to approve the June 21, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion was carried unanimously.

**4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No comments by the public were provided.

**5. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Buck provided the following updates:

- WATS hosted the 2023 Michigan Transportation Planning Association (MTPA) Annual Conference in Ann Arbor, July 26th - July 28th. Mr. Buck thanked Ms. Huntley for her efforts in planning the conference.
- WATS was able to utilize ~ \$500,000 of leftover funding for a project on N. Territorial Rd.
- WATS is working with local agencies and MDOT on updating the Adjusted Census Urban Boundary (ACUB). One result from the smoothing process is that the City of Dexter will be removed from the Ann Arbor Urban Boundary and will become its own Small Urban area and become part of the Small Urban program.
- York Township has expressed interest in becoming a member of WATS and the Ann Arbor DDA has decided to end its membership at WATS.

**6. CHECKS OVER \$500**

Mr. Buck stated there were no checks over \$500 and also stated checks for regularly-occurring payments, like rent, are not reviewed in this agenda item of Policy Committee meetings.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

## **A. Long Range Plan Performance Measure Targets**

Mr. Buck stated that the performance measure targets proposed have been developed by WATS staff, but informed by goals and objectives of the local agencies, such as the City of Ann Arbor's VMT and Carbon Reduction goals, Asset Management Plans, and the regional safety targets.

Ms. Briggs inquired about the frequency that targets would be monitored. Mr. Buck replied that it would occur for every update of the Long Range Transportation Plan (every four years), but added that equity data is revisited ~3x per year, as part of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment process. Ms. Briggs stated it may be challenging to make changes to projects during the amendment process as projects are already far along. Mr. Buck replied that although it can be more useful to have numerical targets, as opposed to "Continuously Monitor", every project within an Environmental Justice (EJ) Area that applied for funding in the FY 2023-2026 TIP, received funding. In addition, Mr. Buck suggested that if, in the future TIPs, WATS can't fund every project within an EJ Area that applies for funding, WATS staff will inform the committees and the Policy Committee can determine whether any changes should occur to the list of projects.

*A motion was made by Mr. Carpenter, supported by Ms. Briggs, to approve the performance measure targets for 2050 LRTP development. The motion was carried unanimously.*

## **B. Planning Project Proposal Form**

Mr. Buck stated that if local agencies are interested in having a particular transportation project funded using PL funds, the agency can submit the attached form to WATS staff. Based on what type of project it is, it would either be classified as an existing item within the WATS Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) or it would be added as a new item in the UPWP. Mr. Carpenter suggested that the phrase, "promotes equity", could be added to the form. Ms. Briggs and Ms. West requested to add an additional question that specified whether a project that satisfies the Federal Planning Factor, "Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users" benefits motorized users or non-motorized users.

## **C. 2050 LRP Update**

Mr. Sapkiewicz stated that the next set of 2050 LRTP public meetings will take place in October in the City of Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti Township, and virtually. Additionally, Mr. Sapkiewicz stated that a Call for Projects to local agencies will be sent out shortly. In November and December, another set of public meetings will be held in order to garner more information about transportation needs in the community. That information will be passed along to the local agencies. At the request of Programs to Educate All Cyclists (PEAC), WATS staff will be reviewing the 2045 LRTP to determine what improvements can be made as part of the 2050 LRTP in regards to being more cognitively-accessible. Ms. Fuller reminded WATS staff that many parts of Washtenaw County do not have internet access, posing a challenge in garnering public participation at public meetings. Mr. Sapkiewicz agreed that a

lack of internet access is indeed a challenge and replied that for that reason, WATS holds in-person public meetings in different locations throughout the county to help ensure as many residents as possible are provided the opportunity to participate.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Marl adjourned the meeting at 10:04 AM.