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## MEETING MINUTES

### TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

DATE: November 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, Chair  
City of Ypsilanti - Bonnie Wessler, Vice-Chair  
City of Ann Arbor - Raymond Hess  
City of Chelsea - John Hanifan  
Disability Representative - John Waterman  
Environmental Representative - Evan Pratt  
Eastern Michigan University – Dieter Otto  
MDOT University Region - Mike Davis  
Non-motorized Representative - Sarah Walsh  
City of Saline – Jeff Fordice, Tesha Humphriss  
TheRide – Caitlin Conway (for LaTasha Thompson)  
Washtenaw County Road Commission - Matt MacDonell  
Ypsilanti Township - Brenda Stmbo (for Jason Iacoangeli)

Members Absent: Ann Arbor DDA – Amber Miller  
Dexter Township - Vacant  
City of Dexter – Dan Schlaff  
Equity Representative - Weneshia Brand  
City of Milan - Stanley Kirton, Second Vice-Chair  
Pittsfield Township - Vacant  
Senior Representative - Ruth Ann Jamnick  
University of Michigan – Steve Dolen

Others Present: WATS – Ryan Buck, Nick Sapkiewicz, Suzann Flowers, Emily Lake  
WCRC - Michele Ford, Brent Schlack  
TheRide - Forest Yang

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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 •

MDOT - Richard Bayus, Max Gierman  
Public - Jim Mogensen  
Left Turn Right Turn (LTRT) - Yuval Grinspun, Christina Sugiura, Ben Goodge  
UM-GEO - Bethany Beekly  
Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice (ICPJ) - Desirae Simmons  
OHM Advisors - Marcus McNamara

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Voght called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM and led the group in introductions.

2. Approval of the Agenda

**Ms. Walsh made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, Ms. Conway supported the motion, motion approved.**

3. Approval of Minutes

**Ms. Wessler made a motion to approve the October 6, 2021 meeting minutes as corrected, to reflect Mr. Pratt supported the motion to approve the August 4, 2021 minutes. Mr. Pratt supported the motion, motion approved.**

4. Public Participation

Mr. Mogensen noted that an equity analysis should be completed at the beginning of the Long Range Plan process for TheRide and that MDOT should evaluate projects on M-17 for long term bus rapid transit services.

Ms. Simmons noted that equity and public participation should be an important component of TheRide's Long Range Plan and added that TheRide should center in on communities in Ypsilanti, as it is difficult to get to around by bus.

Ms. Beekly noted that she would like to see an assessment on racial and economic justice for TheRide's Long Range Plan and added that this is a good opportunity for TheRide to partner with UM's in the development of plans.

5. Communications and Announcements

Mr. Sapkiewicz provided the following updates:

- The Public Participation Plan has undergone minor revisions and is currently under a 45-day public comment period.
- The 2020 Annual Report and Obligated Projects Listings is now available on the WATS website
- The Route Ypsilanti project has been completed, with 119 final project surveys collected.
- The 2023-2026 TIP development is underway. A Federal-Aid Committee meeting will be held virtually on November 22. WATS staff have been collecting public comments on the projects being considered in several ways: posters in libraries across the county, flyers on buses, pop-up meetings at farmers markets, a virtual meeting, and emails to the consultation list.
- The FAST Act has been extended until December 31, 2021.

- Asset management is ongoing and data collection should be completed by the end of the month.

6. Old Business  
No old business.

7. New Business

**A. TheRide Long Range Plan Presentation**

Mr. Grinspun presented on four scenarios for transit expansion in the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti areas varying in cost, including minor adjustments, new express service, high frequency service, and transformational changes. The scenarios are used to spur discussion on what future transit could look like by 2045. More details about the project, public meetings, and online surveys are available on the project website at [www.theride.org](http://www.theride.org).

Mr. Waterman noted that it is important to consider walking and biking when addressing transit needs and added that ADA enhancements often do the minimum for people with disabilities.

Discussion included the cost of the transformational change scenario. High level planning of capital and operating costs would be addressed in the final phase of the LRP with the financial plan and funding options. If the RTA receives funding, they may include BRT services which would soften the millage costs of the various scenarios. The millage costs presented include the three participating communities: City of Ann Arbor, City of Ypsilanti, and Ypsilanti Township. Regional connections could be funded through an annual “purchase for service agreement”.

Mr. Voght noted that he would like to see more focus on what TheRide can do for communities to increase dense transit oriented development and less emphasis on park and rides.

8. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Hess reported:

- The City is moving forward with it’s transportation plan implementation strategy for the Vision Zero plan.

B. City of Saline

Mr. Fordice reported:

- The City of Saline has wrapped up their streets and utilities projects.
- Constructing a connecting sidewalk project from Huntington Wood subdivision to Monroe St bridge.
- A new City Engineer, Tesha Humphriss, will be representing the City of Saline on WATS Committees.

C. TheRide

Ms. Conway reported:

- A recent cyber attack has caused all systems to go offline including rider tools, and real time information. TheRide's IT department is working to fix the problem and plans to have all tools back online soon.
- TheRide is undergoing a study to look at different lower emission technologies and options for buses, to be completed by the Spring.

D. People with Disabilities Representative

Mr. Waterman reported:

- As it gets darker sooner, watch out for individuals who are traveling with mobility devices and crossing streets.

E. City of Chelsea

Mr. Hanifan reported:

- Chelsea POP 2.0 has kicked off with some delays due to supply chain issues.
- The City has wrapped up their local road projects for the year.
- Construction to begin on a new in-town segment of the Border-to-border trail.

F. Washtenaw County

Mr. Voght reported:

- ReImagine Washtenaw is beginning work on the design phase of sidewalk infill along Washtenaw Avenue. Topology and base maps have been completed with OHM Advisors. There will be a presentation to the Ypsilanti Township Board of Trustees on November 16.
- The Ypsilanti Township Board of Trustees has approved bidding for Phase one of a Huron St. non-motorized path in 2022.

9. Adjournment

Chair Voght adjourned the meeting at 10:55 AM.