



## Minutes of Meeting

POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: October 19, 2022

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  
TheRide – Matt Carpenter, Secretary-Treasurer  
Ann Arbor Township – Diane O'Connell  
City of Ann Arbor – Erica Briggs  
City of Ypsilanti – Jennifer Symanns  
City of Dexter – Justin Breyer (for Shawn Keough)  
MDOT Region - Mike Davis  
Pittsfield Township – Mandy Grewal  
University of Michigan – Henry Baier  
Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo  
Washtenaw County Road Commission – Doug Fuller

**Members Absent:** City of Ann Arbor DDA – Vacant  
Dexter Township - Karen Sikkenga  
City of Milan - Vacant  
Northfield Township - Ken Dignan  
Scio Township - Vacant  
SWWCOG – Ron Miley  
WCBOC – Jason Morgan  
City of Chelsea – Charles Wiseley  
Superior Township – Ken Schwartz

**Others Present:** WATS - Ryan Buck, Nick Sapkiewicz, Maggie Huntley

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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 •

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Marl called the meeting to order at 9:36am. Introductions were made.

2. Approval of Agenda

**Mr. Greden made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, Ms. Stumbo supported the motion, motion approved.**

3. Approval of Minutes

**Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the June 15, 2022 minutes, supported by Ms. O'Connell, 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:

- New staff member Mr. Anton Schauerte has begun work with WATS.
- Additional obligation authority in 2023 - not all local agencies spent money so state spent money and is now repaying to local agencies
- WATS Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for FY 2024 is being drafted and includes an update to the transportation model. The UPWP will remain flexible as in previous years.
- Assent Management PASER data collection will begin in the City of Ypsilanti in November.
- Work is concluding on the 2021 crash report for the county.
- An update to the agency bylaws is being discussed by the officers
- The 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan is slated to be reaffirmed in late 2022/early 2023 and will be aligned with SEMCOG's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) reaffirmation.

Ms. Stumbo and Ms. O'Connell asked how their Townships may participate in PASER data collection. Mr. Buck explained that beyond federal aid network collection, he would be happy to meet and discuss local network collection.

6. Bills over \$500

There were no bills over \$500 requiring approval.

7. Old Business

There was no old business.

**A. FY 2022 Second Quarter Financials**

Mr. Buck explained that the FY 2022 second quarter financials as previously represented were incomplete. The document has since been updated and provided for the Committee's acceptance. The FY 2022 budget was approved by the Policy Committee, as well as a 20%

dues reduction for FY 2022 as a response to the pandemic.

**Ms. Stumbo made a motion to accept the FY 2022 second quarter financial. Mr. Fuller supported and the motion passed.**

## 8. New Business

### **A. FY 2022 Year End Financial Statements (Unaudited)**

Mr. Buck reported that some of the balance sheet percentages appear to be attributed to the incorrect budget items, but overall WATS is within budget at year-end (sub-totals off/final total correct). Mr. Buck added that he is working with WATS' bookkeeper to validate the financial statements and will be posting an RFP for audit soon.

Mr. Greden noted Mr. Buck's transparency in delivering agency financial information. Ms. Stumbo asked to clarify that while the sub-totals are off the final total is correct, and Mr. Buck confirmed that is the case. Mr. Baier asked what action the Committee should take. Mr. Buck indicated that if the Committee would prefer to take action on the audited financial statements, no action was necessary.

**No action was taken.**

### **B. Director Review**

Mr. Greden reminded the Committee that during Mr. Buck's review process, the feedback received was 100% positive and that there was a significant interval where Mr. Buck's performance and compensation were not evaluated. Mr. Greden went on to explain that the WATS Director position requires technical background, that it is a competitive market for CEO-level professionals, and that Mr. Buck has provided a positive and steady performance.

Mr. Marl thanked Mr. Greden for his assistance in leading Mr. Buck's review. Ms. Grewal noted Mr. Buck's excellent performance. Ms. Stumbo noted Mr. Buck's responsiveness to the Policy Committee.

**Mr. Greden made a motion to increase Mr. Buck's salary and provide a bonus as recommended in the meeting packet. Ms. Grewal supported and the motion passed.**

### **C. Federal Aid Buyout Program**

Mr. Sapkiewicz reported that a new law allows local agencies to submit the federal aid portion of TIP approved projects for state funds at a rate of 90%. Projects are then able to be locally bid (no MDOT LAP obligation) and able to use local design guidelines. This program was well received in its first year and funding for the program will be increased in 2024. To keep buyout projects visible to the public, and their data available to WATS, each buyout project will be marked as Regionally Significant and remain in the WATS TIP for analysis.

### **D. MDOT Five Year Plan Update**

Mr. Davis provided a detailed update on upcoming MDOT projects, including: US23 and US-12 reconstruction, and M-14 and M-17 environmental studies. Mr. Davis also spoke about the continuation of the US-23 flex-lane into Livingston County, possible AV testing lane on I-94, and MDOT staffing changes.

#### 9. Adjournment

Chair Marl adjourned the meeting.