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MEETING MINUTES

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

DATE: October 6, 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 - Eli Cooper (for Raymond Hess)
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
TheRide – Caitlin Conway (for LaTasha Thompson)
Washtenaw County Road Commission - Matt MacDonell

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

Others Present: WATS – Ryan Buck, Nick Sapkiewicz, Suzann Flowers, Emily Lake
WCRC - Michele Ford, Brent Schlack
TheRide - Scott Robinson, Bryan Smith

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 •

Stantec - Cassandra Winner
MDOT - Richard Bayus, Kari Martin
Public - Jim Mogensen

1. Call to Order/Introductions

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. Otto supported the motion, motion approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Wessler made a motion to approve the August 4, 2021 meeting minutes, Ms. Wessler supported the motion, motion approved.

4. Public Participation

Mr. Mogensen noted that the Equity analysis groups transit as a whole, and this may make it difficult to prioritize investments such as the Ypsilanti transit center. TheRide has restored service levels but is still missing routes on the east side of Ypsilanti and the Gold Ride reduced fare structures require proof of low-income through a non-profit which may be difficult. AARP offers alternative options for residents over the age of 50.

5. Communications and Announcements

Mr. Sapkiewicz provided the following updates:

- The 2020 Annual Report and Obligated Projects Listings is now available on the WATS website
- Final surveys for Route Ypsilanti will be going out this week.
- Chelsea POP treatments are being installed.
- Applications for the 2023-2026 TIP have been submitted and are being reviewed by staff. Flyers will be going up in buses and libraries around the County to solicit public feedback. There will also be some in person opportunities to comment.
- Asset management work is wrapping up.
- MDOT has submitted sample sections for 2021 HPMS data collection.
- The FAST Act was recently extended until October 31st.
- Congratulations to Superior Township for receiving a \$35,000 grant from SEMCOG's Equity and Sustainability program to be focused on non-motorized connections for low-income housing.

6. Old Business

No old business.

7. New Business

A. First Call FY-2022 LRP Amendments - Action

Ms. Flowers informed the Committee that People's Express (PEX) has submitted a project to be added to the Long Range Transportation Plan (RLP). The LRP amendment would be locally funded in the amount of \$3 million to add a parking facility for electric vehicles.

Mr. Pratt made a motion to approve the Long Range Transportation Plan amendments, supported by Mr. Otto, motion approved.

B. First Call FY 2022 TIP Amendments - Action

Ms. Flowers provided a list of 10 amendments to the 2020-2023 TIP. Amendments include significant changes to cost, scope, project limits, new grant awards, etc. New investments in the 2020-2023 TIP total \$24,767,181.

Ms. Lake provided an overview of the Environmental Justice (EJ) and Opportunity Index review. Current investment in EJ areas is \$104M, or 17% of the total TIP value. Current investment in low and very low opportunity areas is \$52M, or 8% of the total TIP value.

Mr. Cooper made a motion to approve the first call FY 2022 TIP amendments as presented, supported by Mr. MacDonell, motion approved.

Mr. Voght noted that it would be helpful for WATS staff to include the percent of land area covered by communities of concern in the next analysis.

C. First Call FY 2022 TIP Modifications - Information

Ms. Flowers provided a list of 13 minor modifications to the TIP for the FY 2022 first call. Modifications include minor cost changes, changes to scope and limits of projects, etc.

D. Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) - Action

Mr. Sapkiewicz provided information regarding TheRide's Public Transit Agency Safety Plan. The plan describes TheRide's safety policies, risk management, safety assurances, and safety promotion. Developed using FTA safety guidance, the plan identifies obtainable targets for fatalities and injuries.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Robinson noted that the plan follows guidelines from FTA on obtainable targets but that TheRide will continue to work to improve safety and aim for zero fatalities and injuries.

Discussion ensued regarding whether WATS should reflect the regional safety transit plan, in which SEMCOG accepted plans presented with a goal of reducing regional transit targets for fatalities and injuries by ten percent.

Mr. Pratt made a motion to receive, accept, and adopt TheRide's Transit Safety Plan as part of the 2045 Long Range Plan, with an aspiration to reduce the regional transit targets for fatalities and injuries by ten percent as adopted by SEMCOG, supported by Ms. Wessler, motion approved.

E. PEAC Students - Presentation

Mr. John Waterman and students of Programs to Educate All Cyclists (PEAC) provided a presentation on the Nothing About Us Without Us program funded through SEMCOG as a planning project to make sure the voices of individuals with cognitive impairments are heard.

Students presented on the importance of winter maintenance on sidewalks, lighting, designated paths for bicycles, detour routes for pedestrians during construction, safe signalized crossings at intersections, and making the planning process more accessible for people with different intellectual needs.

8. Agency Reports

A. City of Ypsilanti

Ms. Wessler reported:

- The City has received great feedback for Route Ypsilanti and looks forward to implementing more low-cost tactical urbanism interventions over the next few years.
- Construction projects in Oakwood and W Cross St are wrapping up.

B. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Cooper reported:

- The City has released an RFP for an implementation plan of the Vision Zero transportation plan update that was adopted over the summer.
- The Healthy Streets 2021 program will stay in place until the snow falls. More quick builds will be deployed in Spring 2022.

C. City of Saline

Mr. Fordice reported:

- The City of Saline is wrapping up their streets and utilities projects, with plans to continue work on gas mains in the future.
- Beginning a sidewalk connector project on Macon Rd. in the near future.

D. Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC)

Mr. Schlack reported:

- The WCRC is wrapping up 2021 construction projects and planning for designs of 2022 projects.
- The WCRC website includes up to date project status updates.

E. TheRide

Ms. Conway reported:

- TheRide is back to full service
- The Gold Ride fare structure has changed to \$20 or \$5 for riders that qualify as low-income.
- Additional fare changes will be coming in January to reduce prices of passes and encourage more ridership.

F. MDOT University Region

Mr. Davis reported:

- A plan review is scheduled for the City of Ypsilanti road diet and I-94 pathway projects, to include a bridge preventive maintenance project, and railing at the

Grove Rd over I-94 bridge. Public meetings for the project were a success with over 30 people in attendance. MDOT continues to investigate where to include bollards and better bicycle facilities heading north towards the City.

- The sidewalk infill project on M-17 adjacent to Dom's is on the Spring let list for CON in 2022.

Ms. Martin reported:

- MDOT is working to hire a consultant for the M-14/Barton interchange and has an upcoming planning and environmental linkages study.
- In Spring 2022 MDOT will begin the design phase for improvements on US-23 between I-94 and M-14, to possibly include auxiliary lanes between interchanges and reconstruction of the US-23/M-17 interchange.
- The flex route extension from M36 to I-96 is in the design phase, with 2022 letting and 2023 reconstruction. The project includes non-motorized improvements and a connection to the Lakelands Trail.

G. People with Disabilities Representative

Mr. Waterman reported:

- Please maintain pathways for individuals with disabilities as leaves can make paths slippery in the fall months.

H. Environmental Representative

Mr. Pratt reported:

- The recent opening of a B2B trailhead near N Territorial and M-52 included a new parking lot on DNR property that was named after former WATS Director Robert Tetens.

I. 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 in November to discuss the design phase and budget concerns.

9. Adjournment

Chair Voght adjourned the meeting at 11:12 AM.