

NOTICE OF MEETING

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

DATE: September 7, 2022

TIME: 9:30 am

PLACE: 200 N. Main, Ann Arbor - Lower Level Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order/Introductions
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes – March 2, 2022, Meeting Minutes (attached) – Action
4. Public Participation
5. Communications and Announcements
6. Old Business
7. New Business
 - A. MDOT Five Year Plan - Information
 - B. Federal Aid Buyout Program - Information
 - C. Technical Committee Annual Meeting
 - a. Officers
 - b. Meeting
 - i. Time
 - ii. Location

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

8. Agency Reports

Ann Arbor DDA
City of Ypsilanti
Ypsilanti Township
City of Ann Arbor
City of Saline
Dexter Township
WCRC
Non-motorized

Pittsfield Township
The Ride
MDOT Planning
MDOT Region/TSC
City of Dexter
U of M
Environmental
People with Disabilities

City of Milan
Washtenaw County
City of Chelsea
SEMCOG
EMU
FHWA
Equity
Senior

9. Adjournment

The Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) financed the preparation of this document through grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Transportation and contributions from local government, public transit, and educational unit members of the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study. The views and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the U. S. Department of Transportation.



WASHTENAW
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STUDY

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MEETING MINUTES

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

DATE: March 2, 2022

TIME: 9:30 am

PLACE: 200 N. Main, Ann Arbor - Lower Level Conference Room

Members Present: Washtenaw County – Nathan Voght, Chair
City of Ypsilanti - Bonnie Wessler
City of Ann Arbor - Raymond Hess
Disability Representative - John Waterman
Pittsfield Township - Matt Best
Eastern Michigan University – Dieter Otto
MDOT University Region - Mike Davis
Environmental Representative - Evan Pratt
City of Saline – Jeff Fordice, Tesha Humphriss
TheRide – Caitlin Conway
University of Michigan – Lisa Solomon (for Steve Dolen)
Washtenaw County Road Commission - Matt MacDonell
Ypsilanti Township - Brenda Stumbo (for Jason Iacoangeli)
City of Chelsea - Julia Upfal

Members Absent: Ann Arbor DDA – Amber Miller

City of Dexter – Dan Schlaff
Dexter Township - Vacant
Equity Representative - Weneshia Brand
Non-motorized Representative - Sarah Walsh
Pittsfield Township - Vacant
Senior Representative - Vacant
City of Milan - Vacant

Others Present: WATS – Ryan Buck, Nick Sapkiewicz
WCRC - Brent Schlack

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City of Ypsilanti - Ron Akers
MDOT - Max Gierman
Public - Jim Mogensen

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Voght called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM and led the group in introductions.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Stumbo made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, Ms. Wessler supported the motion, motion approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Stumbo made a motion to approve the November 3, 2021 meeting minutes, Ms. Walsh supported the motion, motion approved.

4. Public Participation

Nobody from the public wished to address the Committee.

5. Communications and Announcements

Mr. Buck provided the following updates:

- WATS is undergoing staffing changes, Ms. Flowers and Ms. Lake are leaving WATS
- 2023-2026 TIP federal funding targets have been in flux and continue to change

6. Old Business

No old business.

7. New Business

A. 2nd Call TIP Amendments, 2020-2023 TIP

Mr. Sapkiewicz explained that the 2nd call for TIP amendments included project changes for Ann Arbor, People's Express, TheRide, WCRC and MDOT. New investment in the TIP totaled \$2,813,982 and updated environmental justice and equity investment tables were included in the amendment memo.

Mr. Pratt made a motion to approve the 2020-2023 TIP amendments, Mr. MacDonnell supported the motion, motion approved.

B. 2nd Call TIP Modifications - 2020-2023 TIP

Mr. Sapkiewicz explained that modifications to the TIP are small changes handled administratively and are provided for the Committee's information.

C. FY 2023-2026 Federal Aid Program - Urban

Mr. Sapkiewicz reported that the 2023-2026 Federal Aid Program - Urban was presented to the Technical Committee at their December 2021 meeting and was subsequently available for public review. The Program includes the funding sources Surface Transportation Program Block Grant - Urban and National Highway Performance Program. Mr. Sapkiewicz noted the

investment in equity, transit, and non-motorized investments and that the following projects were underfunded within the program:

Jackson from Parker to Dino
Plymouth from Dixboro to M-153
Ann Arbor sidewalk gap fill
Harriet from First to Hawkins

Ms. Wessler made a motion to recommend Policy Committee approve the 2023-2026 FAC Urban Program and that if additional funds become available the underfunded projects be prioritized for funding, Mr. Waterman supported the motion, motion approved.

D. FY 2023-2026 Federal Aid Program - Rural

Mr. Sapkiewicz reported that the 2023-2026 Federal Aid Program - Rural was presented to the Technical Committee at their December 2021 meeting and was subsequently available for public review. The Program includes the funding sources Surface Transportation Program Block Grant - Rural and Transportation Economic Development Fund - D. The 2023-2026 Rural Program focuses on WCRC, while People's Express receives funding in 2024, and Manchester begins an Advance Construct project in 2026, receiving federal funds conversion in 2027 (outside program scope).

Mr. MacDonnell made a motion to approve the 2023-3026 FAC Rural Program, Ms. Humphriss supported the motion, motion approved.

E. 2023-2026 Urban Federal Aid - New Targets

Mr. Sapkiewicz explained that the 2023-2026 Program recommendation included a recommendation to fully program underfunded projects if new funding becomes available. Since that time the 2023-2026 funding targets changed several times and were still in flux. Mr. Sapkiewicz went on to say that with the additional funding to be programmed, a recommendation from the Committee on how to allocate the funds was needed.

Mr. MacDonnell noted the value of a focused approach to funding that allows flexibility in delivering the Program.

Ms. Wessler made a motion to backfill funding for the underfunded projects in the program and to distribute the remaining balance to the projects in the Urban Program proportionally within each year of the program, Mr. MacDonnell supported the motion and the motion passed.

F. 2022 Performance Measures Target: Safety

Mr. Buck explained that the federal performance measures are set by the state and to date, WATS has been in support of the measures, though engaging the WATS Director to pen a letter on behalf of WATS to the MDOT Director encouraging more ambitious safety targets. Mr. Buck added that 2016-2020 safety data was included for the county as well as an updated letter to MDOT for the Committee to review.

Mr. Hess stated that safety is a crisis and more to address it should be done and done so equitably.

Mr. Hess made a motion to update the letter to MDOT with stronger language encouraging and emphasis on safety and the notion that WATS is not in agreement with the state's targets, Ms. Wessler supported the motion and the motion passed.

G. All-Season Road Network Reaffirmation.

Mr. Sapkiewicz explained that for Rural roads to be eligible to use TEDF-D funds they must be on the County's all-season road network and that MDOT requires formal committee action to affirm the list of all-season roads. Mr. Sapkiewicz added that the list of roads has not changed, but action on the list was necessary.

Ms. Wessler made a motion to recommend the Policy Committee reaffirm the Washtenaw's all-season road network, Mr. MadDonnell supported the motion and the motion passed.

8. Adjournment

Chair Voght adjourned the meeting at 10:46 AM.

MEMORANDUM

To: Technical Committee
From: Nick Sapkiewicz
Date: August 29, 2022
Re: Federal Aid Buyout Program

Background

In June MDOT announced a new program to exchange federal transportation funds for state funding. Projects approved in the TIP, using Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) or Surface Transportation Block Grant flex funds, can apply to exchange their portion of federal funds for state funding at a 90% buyout rate and are no longer required to go through MDOT's Local Agency Program (LAP) process. This allows local agencies to use their own design guidelines and standards and eliminates a long review process (projects locally let).

Scope of federal aid buyout program:
FY 2023 \$25 million (\$20,554,778 applied for)
FY 2024 \$35 million
FY 2025 \$45 million

In this first year of the federal aid buyout program, 50% of WATS urban federal aid program exchange requests (100% of Washtenaw applications) were approved, highlighting the usefulness of the program. (\$1,439,105 applied for - \$1,295,194 exchanged)

WATS staff believe the buyout program to be an effective tool to utilize as agencies move forward with federal aid projects. With the increased flexibility for projects using the buyout program a level of project tracking and analysis to measure impacts and deliverables is still necessary. To ensure transparency and provide for an accurate analysis, WATS will consider federal aid buyout projects regionally significant. This will ensure projects proposed and prioritized for federal funding are reviewed and analyzed as part of the suite of projects that move forward each year. Including federal aid buyout program projects in the TIP provides visibility of the projects to the public, WATS

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staff, and other local agencies.

WATS staff encourages all agencies to consider utilizing the federal aid buyout program. If you have any questions about the program please contact me (sapkiewicz@miwats.org).

Action

Be Prepare to discuss any benefits or concerns you may have with the federal aid buyout program.