

W
A
T
S



WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

705 NORTH ZEEB ROAD 2ND FLOOR
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48103-1560
PHONE: (734) 994-3127 FAX: (734) 994-3129
WEBSITE: WWW.MIWATS.ORG
E-MAIL: WATS@MIWATS.ORG

MINUTES OF MEETING

POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: January 18, 2012

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: WATS Meeting Space, 705 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Members Present: Village of Dexter – Jim Carson, Chair
Dexter Township– Pat Kelly, Vice-Chair
City of Milan – Mike Armitage, Secretary-Treasurer
AATA – Dawn Gabay (for Jesse Bernstein)
WCBOC – Yousef Rabhi
Northfield Township – Deb Mozurkewich
MDOT Statewide Planning – Kari Martin (for Pam Boyd)
Ann Arbor Township – Mike Moran
City of Ann Arbor – Tony Derezinski
EMU – Leigh Greden
City of Saline – Gretchen Driskell
Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo
Superior Township – Bill McFarlane
City of Ypsilanti – Peter Murdock
Scio Township – Nancy Hedberg

Members Absent: WCRC –Doug Fuller
University of Michigan - Hank Baier
Pittsfield Township – Mandy Grewal
City of Chelsea - Jason Lindauer
SWWCOG – Ron Mann
City of Ann Arbor DDA – John Mouat

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- CITY OF ANN ARBOR • ANN ARBOR DDA • ANN ARBOR TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY • ANN ARBOR TOWNSHIP •
• CITY OF CHELSEA • VILLAGE 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 • 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

Others Present: WATS – Terri Blackmore, Ryan Buck, Eric Bombery, Nick Sapkiewicz
SEMCOG – Carmine Palombo, Xuan Liu, Jeff Nutting
MDOT – Mark Sweeney
WCRC – Roy Townsend
University of Michigan – Steve Dolen
Washtenaw County – Dave Shirley
AnnArbor.com – Lisa Allmendinger
VPSI – Michelle Romano Rockwood

1. Call to Order

Chair Carson called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. He asked those present to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Stumbo made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Driskell supported and the Policy Committee approved the agenda.

3. Public Participation

Chair Carson asked if any members of the public wished to address the Policy Committee. No one wished to address the committee so Chair Carson closed the public participation period.

4. Approval of the December 21, 2011 Policy Committee Minutes

Ms. Mozurkewich made a motion to approve the December 21, 2011 Policy Committee Minutes. Mr. Rabhi supported and the Committee approved the minutes.

5. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore informed the Committee that there is no new State or Federal transportation legislation to report.

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS participated in SEMCOG's federal certification the previous week and added communities may provide comments until February 15.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the Census Bureau will release a new proposed Federal Urban Area Boundary in March.

Mr. Greden added new funding legislation would be introduced at the state level soon. Mr. Palombo added that in addition to the funding legislation, Regional Transit Authority legislation is anticipated.

6. Approval of Bills over \$500

1. Brian Rakovitis - \$817.50 Toyota Intern

Ms. Driskell made a motion to approve the bill over \$500. Mr. Greden supported and the motion passed.

7. Old Business

A. MPO Exploration Committee Update - Information

Mr. Rabhi provided the Committee an update on the MPO Committee's progress. Mr. Rabhi stated that the MPO Exploration Committee did not meet in December but will meet tomorrow. Ms. Blackmore reported that she was working to schedule a meeting with SEMCOG and MDOT to negotiate updated Memorandums of Understanding.

B. Public Act 152 – Action

Ms. Blackmore reported that the Committee needed to take action to satisfy the requirements of PA 152. Ms. Blackmore reported that at the December 21, 2011 Policy Committee meeting, the Committee members discussed the options available for addressing PA 152 of 2011. She reported that several members indicated they felt WATS should waive the requirement as the law provides this option and the penalties do not apply to WATS. However, there were not 75 percent of the voting members present to waive the requirement and so the Committee tabled the vote on the item.

Ms. Blackmore reported the Policy Committee has three options available to meet the requirements of PA 152. The Committee may require the employees to pay 1) twenty percent of the insurance costs; 2) any amount over the "hard cap calculation" of \$5,500 for singles, \$11,000 for doubles or \$15,000 for family coverage; or 3) WATS could waive the requirement for FY 2013 but would need to review it each year. This requirement takes effect with the start of a new insurance year, which coincides with the WATS Fiscal Year beginning July 1.

Mr. Armitage suggested the Committee table the motion indefinitely. Mr. Greden pointed out that the 80/20 option was not available to WATS because they are not technically a local unit of government. Ms. Stumbo inquired if WATS could join on the County's health plan. Ms. Blackmore answered that was not possible.

Mr. McFarlane suggested not taking action but asking the Executive Director to report to the Committee if the contributions began to exceed the hard cap. Mr. Moran made a motion to take no action but to inform the Policy Committee if the agency exceeds the hard cap. Mr. McFarlane supported and the motion passed.

8. New Business

A. Second Quarter Financial Statement - Action

Ms. Blackmore reported Second Quarter revenues totaled \$111,540 or 16 percent of budget and Second Quarter expenditures totaled 126,212 or 19 percent of budget. Ms. Blackmore reported that Dues revenues were at 100% of budget. She noted that at the fiscal year halfway, all of the expense categories are less than 50 percent of the budgeted amount.

Ms. Driskell made a motion to accept the Second Quarter Financial Statement. Ms. Kelly supported and the motion passed.

B. 2035 Transportation Plan for Washtenaw County amendments - Action

Mr. Bombery reported that this was the second call for amendments to the Long Range Plan. Mr. Bombery reported WATS received six amendments from three agencies, the City of Ann Arbor, People's Express (PEX), and the Washtenaw County Road Commission. Mr. Bombery reported WATS performed an Environmental Justice and Environmental impact analysis and that the LRP remains fiscally constrained.

Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the 2035 Long Range Plan amendments. Ms. Driskell supported and the motion passed.

C. Complete Streets Plan for Washtenaw County – Action

Mr. Buck reported that the text of the Complete Streets Plan is complete and the WATS Technical Committee recommends the Policy Committee approve the Complete Streets Plan, toolkit, and checklist. Mr. Buck stated that WATS will produce a graphically enhanced document and an online version of the plan after the Committee approves the Plan.

Ms. Hedberg made a motion to approve the Complete Streets Plan, the toolkit and checklist. Mr. Murdock supported and the motion passed.

D. WATS Phone Equipment and Space Discussion

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS staff received three proposals for a new phone system and the lowest and the only local proposal that meets the agency's needs is less than \$5,000. Ms. Blackmore stated staff requests Policy Committee approval to purchase a new phone system that provides additional voicemail message boxes and outreach efforts, 10 phones (same as now), one new conference phone and digital equipment. This new phone system will work with the existing service provider so no increases in monthly expenses. WATS would like to purchase this system as soon as possible to provide a voicemail box for the staff managing the Toyota project as well as dedicated voicemail boxes for public comment for planning efforts.

Mr. Rabhi made a motion to approve the purchase of a new phone system at a cost not to exceed \$5,000. Ms. Mozurkewich supported and the motion passed.

Ms. Blackmore informed the Committee that the County is proposing taking back the WATS meeting space and moving the WATS offices within the Zeeb Road location or to a downtown location. If WATS moves to a downtown location, WATS would hold the Technical and Policy Committee meetings at the County LLRC building at Hogback and Washtenaw or at a place to be determined. The County would like to accomplish this move in the next three months and no later than six months.

Ms. Blackmore reported WATS is currently in year 11 of a 15-year lease with a 5-year option with renegotiation of the terms. The lease provides the County with the ability to break the WATS lease with a one-year notice in writing. Ms. Blackmore gave a presentation outlining the three County-owned office space scenarios, including proposed prices.

Mr. Dave Shirley from Washtenaw County stated that the County would like to know which new office space WATS preferred by the February Policy Committee meeting. Mr. McFarlane suggested looking at comparable commercial properties.

Mr. Carson appointed a committee of Ms. Driskell and Ms. Kelly to examine privately owned office space in addition to the County space and to report the findings at the February meeting.

E. 2035 Transportation Plan for Washtenaw County Administrative Modifications – Information

Mr. Bombery informed the Committee that administrative modifications allow small changes such as project year or minor increase or decrease in funds. He noted that a list and map of administrative modifications was included in the meeting packet.

9. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Derezhinski reported that the City of Ann Arbor delayed their vote on the four-party agreement for countywide transit. Mr. Derezhinski also reported the Stadium Bridges project is underway.

B. City of Ann Arbor DDA

Mr. Mouat had nothing to report.

C. AATA

Ms. Gabay reported that AATA continues work on the Transit Master Plan and staff is supporting the Unincorporated Act 196 board. Ms. Gabay stated that the AATA has increased service on Washtenaw Avenue.

D. Ann Arbor Township

Mr. Moran had nothing to report.

E. City of Chelsea

Mr. Lindauer was not present.

F. Dexter Village

Mr. Carson reported that the Boundary Commission met the previous day to discuss the proposed city boundaries. Mr. Carson stated that there were no objections.

G. Dexter Township

Ms. Kelly had nothing to report.

H. Eastern Michigan University

Mr. Greden had nothing to report.

I. FHWA

A representative was not present.

J. City of Milan

Mr. Armitage had nothing to report.

K. Northfield Township

Ms. Mozurkewich had nothing to report.

L. Pittsfield Township

A representative was not present.

M. MDOT Planning

Ms. Martin reported that the University Region will be working with SEMCOG, WATS, and Metro Region to merge the numerous non-motorized plan into a common document.

N. MDOT Region/TSC

Mr. Sweeney reported that the contractor would finish the M-52 project in the spring. He reported that work on M-14 would resume in the spring and installation of the ITS system continues throughout the county.

O. City of Saline

Ms. Driskell had nothing to report.

P. SWWCOG

A representative was not present.

Q. SEMCOG

Mr. Palombo reported the SEMCOG Executive Committee would meet Friday. He added SEMCOG is working on the proposed Regional Transit Authority legislation.

R. Scio Township

Ms. Hedberg had nothing to report.

S. Superior Township

Mr. McFarlane reported that Hyundai is expanding in the Township. He also reported that a Charter School would open near the intersection of Geddes and Ridge.

T. University of Michigan

Mr. Dolen had nothing to report.

U. County Board of Commissioners

Mr. Rabhi had nothing to report.

V. WCRC

Mr. Townsend reported that upcoming projects include; resurfacing Plymouth from Dixboro to Ford, a 4-3 lane conversion for Ford Blvd. from Michigan Ave. to Ecorse, a 4-3 lane conversion for Golfside Rd., and a replacement of the Willis Road Bridge.

W. Ypsilanti Township

Ms. Stumbo had nothing to report.

X. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Murdock had nothing to report.

10. Adjournment

Chair Carson adjourned the meeting at 11:05 A.M.