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WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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MINUTES OF MEETING

POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: April 20, 2011

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
WCRC – Doug Fuller
Pittsfield Township – Mandy Grewal
EMU – Leigh Greden
WCBOC – Yousef Rabhi
Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo
City of Ypsilanti – Peter Murdock
SWWCOG – Ron Mann
City of Milan – Mike Armitage
University of Michigan – Hank Baier
Ann Arbor Township – Mike Moran
Northfield Township – Deb Mozurkewich
AATA – Anya Dale
City of Ann Arbor DDA – John Mouat
City of Chelsea – Jason Lindauer
City of Saline – Gretchen Driskell
Scio Township – Nancy Hedberg

Members Absent: City of Ann Arbor – Carsten Hohnke, Secretary-Treasurer
MDOT Statewide Planning – Pam Boyd
Superior Township – Bill McFarlane
FHWA – Andy Pickard

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, Nick Sapkiewicz, Mark Ferrall
MDOT – Mark Geib
VPSI – Michelle Romano-Rockwood
WCRC – Steve Puuri
SEMCOG – Carmine Palombo

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. Grewal made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Rabhi supported and the Committee approved the agenda.

3. Public Participation

Chair Carson asked if any members of the public wished to address the Committee. No one wished to address the Committee and Chair Carson closed public participation time.

4. Approval of the March 16, 2011 Policy Committee Minutes

Mr. Mann made a motion to approve March 16, 2011 Policy Committee Minutes. Ms. Hedberg supported and the Committee approved the minutes.

5. Communications and Director's Report

The Director's report was provided at each place.

Ann Arbor to Detroit Rapid Transit Service – No change to status reported on SEMCOG website.

North – South Rail Coalition – The station committee will begin meeting to initiate station design.

2010 Census – Staff met with SEMCOG on the changes to the traffic analysis zones for the census transportation-planning package with recommendations due by the end of April. The Census Transportation Planning Products are scheduled for fall of 2012.

Asset Management – The summary data and maps are on the Agency's website. The agencies will not collect data this year.

Traffic Counts –WATS provided the needed regular and bike traffic counts to the local agencies in last month.

Plan Reviews – WATS expects to receive the Pittsfield Township Master plan next month.

Project Assistance – WATS is assisting Northfield Township and City of Ypsilanti as they begin development of Non-motorized Plans.

Transportation Profile – WATS 2009 Transportation Profile distributed at meeting.

Federal Funding Program Management – WATS is working with County Parks, Washtenaw County Road Commission, and the Village of Dexter on the Border-to-Border and Village improvements using Federal funds and will sign an agreement guaranteeing the federal funds that have been allocated.

Complete Streets Plan – WATS staff presented draft maps of complete streets needs and draft complete streets policies at the April 13 steering committee meeting. The steering committee also approved the list of needs identification criteria. WATS will hold the first round of public involvement meetings in May. Two WATS staff members have completed the “train the trainer” session held for the first three of five modules. WATS staff will complete the last two training modules in June. If you are interested in having WATS provide Complete Streets training, please let us know.

Implement the Countywide plans –

Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti Cities and Pittsfield and Ypsilanti Townships held the necessary public hearings on the Washtenaw Avenue CIA. The group is working on changes to their Master Plans and zoning for the corridor and an enhancement grant for non-motorized crossings. The needed legislative changes are still under development.

WATS is providing support to AATA for the countywide governance effort for an expanded transit board. WATS is meeting with local government leaders on Act 7 interlocal agreements to select board representation for a 15-member board. WATS staff is assisting with the draft language and will help develop the board member criteria.

WATS is participating in an effort to make Ann Arbor – Ypsilanti Service improvements to improve the existing service provide economic benefit to both the City of Ann Arbor and the City of Ypsilanti. WATS will use the new zip+4 software for improved analysis on the work commuters traveling between the two cities and adjacent townships.

WATS provides educational support to Partners for Transit through development of the Partners newsletter. WATS is providing assistance on the AATA Transit Master Plan and the Blake Transit Center and the joint Connector Study. WATS provided assistance on the evaluation of County Transit Master Plan alternatives. WATS is also providing assistance on the new countywide transit authority governance.

6. Approval of Bills over \$500

1. \$1,901.24 – Mark Ferrall intern for 3-14 to 4-15
2. \$2,615.00 – Purchase Zip+4 software

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

7. Old Business

A. Legislative Day - Information

Ms. Blackmore reported that the WATS Legislative Day has been postponed because only three people planned to attend.

Mr. Greden suggested that the event be scheduled on a Monday or a Friday. Ms. Kelly also recommended a Friday.

8. New Business

A. 3rd Quarter Financial Statement - Action

Ms. Blackmore reported that the agency was slightly over in the administrative category but that the cost would fall in line by the end of the fiscal year. Ms. Blackmore apologized for the lateness of the statement caused by the late tax deadline.

Ms. Kelly made a motion to accept the 3rd Quarter Financial Statement. Mr. Fuller supported and the Committee accepted the financial statement.

B. FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment – Action

Ms. Blackmore reported that Toyota approached WATS to ask for assistance in providing data to support their crash response systems analysis. Ms. Blackmore pointed out that WATS successfully worked with Toyota on a crash data project in 2009.

She reported that the project will collect video and physical condition data of crash sites for rear-end, lane departure and pedestrian crashes. Ms. Blackmore reported that this would require WATS to hire an additional staff person as well as purchase video equipment and a vehicle. She added that Toyota would cover the costs of the program Toyota for this two-year project.

Mr. Carson thanked Ms. Blackmore for the work she had done with Toyota to get this project ready. He stated that an added benefit was the equipment purchased for the project, including a car, would remain property of WATS.

Mr. Armitage asked how the vehicle would be purchased. Ms. Blackmore stated it would initially come from cash reserves because Toyota will be paying quarterly.

Ms. Grewal stated that if this project was in line with the responsibilities of this agency it was a good opportunity.

Mr. Fuller asked that the Committee carefully consider the type of vehicle purchased.

Ms. Blackmore stated she needed direction from the Committee on the vehicle make and model.

Mr. Moran stated that he will check with his Toyota contacts to see if we can get a better deal.

Mr. Armitage recommended the vehicle be bid out to local auto dealers.

Ms. Grewal asked who the data would be available to and for what time period.

Ms. Kelly asked if the data would be subject to FOIA.

Mr. Pickard stated it was important to show that the outcomes benefit the planning process.

Ms. Blackmore stated that the summary data will be available and useful to the public and local communities.

Mr. Mouat stated that the Committee should explore the potential liabilities of the project.

Mr. Puuri stated that it was important that the data not be misconstrued as a safety issue if that is not the case so that local agencies are not liable.

Mr. Palombo stated that this is an exciting opportunity and showcases Southeast Michigan as a leader in safety research technology.

Ms. Grewal pointed out that a vote today only amends the Unified Work Program and that other details can be worked out before a contract is signed.

Mr. Carson stated that all options are still on the table for this project.

Mr. Moran made a motion to approve the FY 2012 UWP amendment. Mr. Lindauer supported and the motion passed.

9. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Derezhinski reported that the City would be considering a medical marijuana ordinance. In addition, the City will be looking at its agreement with the DDA as well as focusing on regional planning.

B. City of Ann Arbor DDA

Mr. Mouat reported that the DDA transportation committee met last week to discuss safety issues surrounding crosswalks.

C. AATA

Ms. Dale reported that AATA would release a 3 part plan to the public soon. She added that governance meetings would continue and a new political advisory committee will be formed.

D. Ann Arbor Township

Mr. Moran reported that the Township has approved an extension to the 216 unit senior living center plan at Huron River Drive and Dixboro.

E. City of Chelsea

Mr. Lindauer had nothing to report.

F. Dexter Village

Mr. Carson reported that the Village was very successful in leveraging a number of different funding sources for the non-motorized path project in the Dexter Village area, including funding through WATS.

G. Dexter Township

Ms. Kelly reported that the CAPT/DART group met to discuss countywide transit governance.

H. Eastern Michigan University

Mr. Greden had nothing to report.

I. FHWA

Mr. Pickard reported that TIGER II earmarks were not affected by the recent rescission of funds.

J. City of Milan

Mr. Armitage reported that the City of Milan would bid the upcoming local street project soon.

K. Northfield Township

Ms. Mozurkewich reported that Northfield Township would meet with the Road Commission next week to discuss road improvement projects in the Township. Northfield Township officials also met with AATA on countywide governance.

L. Pittsfield Township

Ms. Grewal reported that the Township has released its 2010 Master Plan for public review.

M. MDOT Planning

A representative was not present.

N. MDOT Region/TSC

Mr. Geib reported that the M-17/Cross Street streetscape project has started. He added that the two year ITS project in the county is underway.

O. City of Saline

Ms. Driskell had nothing to report.

P. SWWCOG

Mr. Mann reported that Bridgewater Township has decided to pull out of the Joint Planning Commission. Mr. Mann added that SWWCOG met with AATA to discuss governance. Mr. Mann concluded by saying he hopes the M-52 project will occur this year.

Q. SEMCOG

Mr. Palombo reported that the SEMCOG Executive Committee would meet next Friday. Mr. Palombo added he would be presenting annual asset management information to the State Transportation Commission. Mr. Palombo stated that for the 7th year in a row the condition of the roads has declined in Michigan.

Ms. Stumbo asked if the Road Commission would be able to move forward with a 4-3 conversion project in Ypsilanti Township this year. Mr. Palombo stated that SEMCOG was moving the project forward as fast as possible. Mr. Puuri commented that the project would likely be moved to 2012 due to obligation limitations.

R. Scio Township

Ms. Hedberg reported that the Township met with AATA to discuss governance. She added that the annual Jackson Road Cruise is scheduled for May 21st.

S. Superior Township

A representative was not present.

T. University of Michigan

Mr. Baier had nothing to report.

U. County Board of Commissioners

Mr. Rabhi reported that two Commissioners expressed concern over a possible countywide transit authority governance structure at a recent working session. He added that meetings will continue with commissioners on the issue and asked local officials to discuss the issue with their commissioners.

V. WCRC

Mr. Fuller provided the following printed statement and distributed it to the Committee.

1. 2/3 of the way through our annual township meetings. The various townships continue to be supportive of improving the roadways in their jurisdictions and demonstrate the support with their own dollars, sometimes through special mileages, sometimes through sad's, sometimes through general funds.

2. 27 April is the bid opening for the r/r of three local road bridges:
Waldo rd in Sharon Township
Dancer rd in Lima Township
Lima center rd in Lima Township

In each of these cases, the respective township boards have executed cost sharing agreements with wcrc, our board has approved two of them, and is expected to approve the third at our next board meeting.

3. Mast road bridge over the Huron river (in Dexter,) repair should begin
On schedule in June. Two way traffic will be maintained with the aid of
Temporary, portable signals. Expected to complete by labor day

4. Holmes rd phase iii is underway, we are exploring the possibility of
Adding – at spencer lane – a bit of sidewalk to improve access to the
AATA bus stop.

5. Tuesday 26 April is the bid opening for the repaving of James L Hart and
Parts of textile roads in Ypsilanti Township.

6. The projects for Golfside Rd and Ford Blvd have been chosen by the EPA for review. Should they meet the requirements selected by the EPA, it is possible they might move through the process in time to be bid this year. Construction, in this case would likely move to 2012.

The board did decide last meeting to place Austin Rd over Saline River, Austin Rd over Bauer Drain, Feldkamp Rd over Saline River, McGregor Road over Portage Lake outlet, Liberty Road over Mill Creek bridges on this years' funding applications list. Two of these are local roads which require local units to participate in; and the two townships in question have obligated their share.

Mr. Fuller also thanked AATA for including an opt out clause for the countywide transit governance structure.

Mr. Puuri reported that the Road Commission is applying for Category F funding for the Ann Arbor Saline Road bridge approaches.

W. Ypsilanti Township

Ms. Stumbo reported that the Township signed a road agreement with the Road Commission and will use \$200k in CBDG money. She added that a new company may be coming to the old GM plant and the company so far has not asked for any tax abatements.

X. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Murdock reported that construction has started on Cross Street streetscape project and that City Council approved the contract for the intersection improvements at Washtenaw and Oakwood.

6. Adjournment

Chair Carson adjourned the meeting at 11:03 A.M.