

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: May 16, 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
WCBOC – Yousef Rabhi
Ann Arbor Township – Mike Moran
City of Ann Arbor – Tony Derezinski
Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo
Superior Township – Bill McFarlane
SWWCOG – Ron Mann
MDOT Planning – Pam Boyd
Scio Township – Nancy Hedberg
City of Ann Arbor DDA – John Mouat
City of Saline – Gretchen Driskell
WCRC – Doug Fuller
Pittsfield Township – Mandy Grewal
City of Chelsea - Jason Lindauer
City of Ypsilanti – Peter Murdock
EMU – Leigh Greden

Members Absent: City of Milan – Mike Armitage, Secretary-Treasurer
Dexter Township– Pat Kelly, Vice-Chair
Northfield Township – Deb Mozurkewich
AATA – Jesse Bernstein
University of Michigan - Hank Baier

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

Policy Minutes

May 16, 2012

Page 2 of 8

Others Present: WATS – Terri Blackmore, Nick Sapkiewicz, Ryan Buck, Eric Bombery, Mark Ferrall
 WCRC – Roy Townsend
 MDOT Region/TSC –Mark Sweeney, Paul Lott, Kari Martin
 SEMCOG – Carmine Palombo
 VPSI – Karen Morisette

1. Call to Order

Chair Carson called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. He asked those present to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Mann made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Lindauer 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 member of the public wished to address the Committee.

4. Approval of the April 18, 2012 Policy Committee Minutes

Ms. Stumbo made a motion to approve the April 18, 2012 Policy Committee Minutes. Mr. Mouat supported and the Committee approved the minutes.

5. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore reported the US Senate passed a two-year version of the Transportation legislation for the remainder of this year and next year. The US House of Representatives have abandoned their multi-year bill. The President signed a continuing resolution last Friday that continues Transportation Funding through June 30.

Ms. Blackmore reported SEMCOG is currently seeking public comment on amendments to the Direction 2035 Long Range Plan through June 28 when the SEMCOG General Assembly will take action. This amendment includes Packard Road four to three lane reconstruction between Anderson and Eisenhower.

6. Approval of Bills over \$500

Mr. Carson reported that there was one bill over \$500.

1. Brian Rakovitis - \$1,197.50 Toyota Intern

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

7. Old Business

A. MPO Exploration Committee

1. March 21, 2012 Meeting Minutes – Information

Ms. Blackmore reported the meeting minutes were included in the Policy meeting packet as an information item.

2. MPO Issues

a. Pass Through Agreement between SEMCOG and WATS

Mr. Rabhi reported that the MPO Exploration Committee devoted a lot of time towards rectifying issues in the multiple MOU's between WATS and SEMCOG. Mr. Rabhi reported that the Committee made progress but substantive issues remain. Mr. Rabhi reported that the MPO Exploration Committee plans to present the Policy Committee a version of the Pass Through Agreement to approve and direct further negotiations take place on the Planning Responsibilities MOU. Mr. Rabhi stated that discussion during the previous meeting centered on the question of separation.

Mr. Greden asked if the pass-through agreement would remain in effect through a potential separation. Ms. Blackmore responded that agreements would remain in place until a possible separation. Mr. Palombo stated that most of the issues that remain in the pass-through agreement should not be an issue but stated SEMCOG has a signed agreement with MDOT that dictates a 30-day termination notice.

Mr. Mouat recommended adding language that made the agreement consistent with any current state agreements and that SEMCOG will provide unofficial notice of agency termination as soon as possible.

Ms. Boyd stated that the State Attorney General has mandated the 30-day language for all master agreements.

Mr. Fuller made a motion the Policy Committee approve the Pass Through Agreement contingent on reconciling/accepting items 27 and 28. Mr. Greden supported and the motion passed.

b. MOU for Planning Responsibilities between AATA, WATS and SEMCOG

Ms. Blackmore stated that intent of the memo outlining issues in the Planning Responsibilities MOU is to add clarity to the issues that remain. Ms. Blackmore

stated that while the language has been the same for many years, SEMCOG is now interpreting it differently.

Mr. Rabhi stated that the MPO Exploration Committee met the previous week to discuss the possible recommendation for separation.

Mr. McFarlane asked how the vote went. Mr. Rabhi stated that all voted in favor of the recommendation with two abstentions.

Mr. Fuller made a motion for the Policy Committee to agree with the identified issues and defer approval of the MOU for Planning Responsibilities until the issues identified are reconciled. The Policy Committee authorized the WATS Executive Director, Ms. Boyd and Ms. Grewal and an AATA representative to continue negotiations. Ms. Hedberg supported the motion and the motion passed with Mr. Murdock voting no.

Mr. Palombo stated that he would provide a written response to the issues. Mr. Palombo stated SEMCOG is supportive of getting things worked out. Mr. Palombo stated that some of the memo is opinion written as fact. Mr. Palombo stated that discussion of GPA's says there will be little public involvement. Mr. Palombo stated that does not have to be the case. Mr. Palombo stated SEMCOG is not attempting to usurp authority or interpreting things differently and added that everyone is working to find a solution.

Ms. Blackmore stated that the text of the memo reflects discussion of the MPO committee. Ms. Boyd stated the state wants to promote collaboration. Mr. Greden asked what will happen if negotiations do not yield a solution. Mr. Carson stated that everything would come back to the Policy Committee for review and action.

Ms. Stumbo stated that Ypsilanti Township would continue to be a SEMCOG member but that this issue is about eliminating a duplicative process.

Mr. Fuller made a motion the Policy Committee consider moving forward with establishing WATS as an MPO and set aside the August meeting for a presentation and discussion with information provided in July to allow Committee review. Ms. Stumbo supported the motion. Mr. McFarlane stated he was looking forward to more information and discussion. Ms. Driskell asked for an updated position from FHWA. Mr. Murdock stated he was concerned that the motion was a de facto move for separation. Ms. Driskell stated that there is a lot of information to process but that in the end the goal is to serve county residents as best as possible. The motion passed with Ms. Driskell abstaining; Ms. Boyd, and Mr. Murdock voting no.

3. WATS Space Update

Ms. Blackmore reported that the move might happen in late spring or early summer and that parking issues appear to be resolved with no need for additional WATS money. Mr.

McFarlane asked if the parking includes Policy Committee members at Policy Committee meetings. Ms. Blackmore responded that Policy Committee parking is included.

8. New Business

A. Nomination Committee – Jim Carson

Mr. Carson stated the election of WATS Policy Committee Officers would occur at the June meeting. Mr. Carson asked volunteers to serve on the nominations committee. Mr. Lindauer and Mr. Fuller volunteered. Mr. Lindauer will serve as chair of the committee. Mr. Rabhi made a motion for Mr. Lindauer and Mr. Fuller to serve as the Nomination Committee. Ms. Grewal supported and the motion passed.

B. Toyota Project Update – Presentation by Mark Ferrall

Mr. Ferrall presented information on the Toyota crash data collection. Mr. Ferrall reviewed the information collected at each site and showed example videos, images and diagrams.

9. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Derezinski reported the City has an important budget meeting soon. Mr. Derezinski said he met with a DDA partnership committee this morning to discuss the development of a parcel on Main St. He stated the group is looking to get a state brownfield grant. Mr. Derezinski added that the Senate would like vote on the Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) legislation, which will benefit Reimagine Washtenaw soon.

B. City of Ann Arbor DDA

Mr. Mouat reported that the DDA continues work on a project called “Connecting William Street” which focuses on five parcels. He added that the DDA hired a land use economist who will present to the DDA and public tomorrow. Mr. Mouat reported that construction at Liberty and Fifth would conclude in a couple weeks.

C. AATA

A representative was not present.

D. Ann Arbor Township

Mr. Moran reported that the proposed senior living facility on Dixboro and Geddes could not acquire financing. He stated that the office development on Earhart Rd. and on Pontiac Trail might still occur.

E. City of Chelsea

Mr. Lindauer had nothing to report.

F. Dexter Village

Mr. Carson reported that Main St. in Dexter would open Friday. Mr. Carson added that the Mill Creek Park project is nearly complete. Mr. Carson reported that the Village received a favorable response from the state boundary commission and added that the cityhood process continues to move forward.

G. Dexter Township

A representative was not present.

H. Eastern Michigan University

Mr. Greden had nothing to report.

I. FHWA

A representative was not present.

J. City of Milan

A representative was not present.

K. Northfield Township

A representative was not present.

L. Pittsfield Township

Ms. Grewal had nothing to report.

M. MDOT Planning

Ms. Boyd reported that the Region is now in attainment for ozone. Ms. Boyd reported that MDOT hired a new planner who will assist Ms. Boyd with SEMCOG and the new Midland MPO. Ms. Boyd reported that MDOT would send the WATS work program to FHWA for approval soon.

N. MDOT Region/TSC

Mr. Sweeney reported MDOT expects to complete the M-52 project in Manchester next week and the M-52 project in Chelsea is moving forward. He noted that work on M-14 involving a split/merge would continue into the fall. The I-94 cable barrier project would be finished this summer and the Washtenaw improvements would be rebid. He also reported that the microsurface project on US-23 from Carpenter to Bemis would begin soon. Mr. Sweeney reported that MDOT still plans to convert a section of Jackson Road between 200 feet east of

Maple to Dexter/Huron from four to three lanes but that the project will be delayed until 2014 because of construction on Miller in 2013.

O. City of Saline

Ms. Driskell had nothing to report.

P. SWWCOG

Mr. Mann reported that new streetlights have been installed in Manchester and that business is slowly returning.

Q. SEMCOG

Mr. Palombo reported that the SEMCOG Executive Committee would meet at the airport in Oakland County. He added that work continues on the Ann Arbor-Detroit Commuter Rail service.

R. Scio Township

Ms. Hedberg reported that Menards has applied to Scio Township. She added that a new car wash is under construction and that a new Culver's restaurant would open soon. Ms. Hedberg reminded the Committee that the annual Jackson Road Cruise would occur in July.

S. Superior Township

Mr. McFarlane reported that a developer would construct 31 new homes housing in Superior Township. He added that Hyundai continues to expand and add jobs.

T. University of Michigan

A representative was not present.

U. County Board of Commissioners

Mr. Rabhi reported that the Board is waiting for the City of Ypsilanti to take action on the four-party agreement before moving forward. Mr. Rabhi reported the board would receive a presentation on fracking. Mr. Rabhi reported that the Board would receive the 2012 equalization report at their next meeting.

V. WCRC

Mr. Fuller provided a written report to the Committee.

W. Ypsilanti Township

Policy Minutes

May 16, 2012

Page 8 of 8

Ms. Stumbo reported Ypsilanti Township approved a \$6 million bond sale that the Road Commission would use to fix roads in the township. Ms. Stumbo added that the township is working with MDOT to add lighting to the Huron Park and Ride lot.

X. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Murdock reported the City of Ypsilanti approved the four party transit agreement and articles of incorporation.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Rahbi made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Hedberg supported the motion and the meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.