



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: October 20, 2010

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 Ann Arbor – Carsten Hohnke, Secretary-Treasurer
WCRC – Doug Fuller
Pittsfield Township – Mandy Grewal
Superior Township – Bill McFarlane
City of Ann Arbor DDA – John Mouat
City of Saline – Gretchen Driskell
City of Chelsea – Jason Lindauer
MDOT Statewide Planning – Pam Boyd
Northfield Township – Deb Mozurkewich
University of Michigan – Hank Baier
SEMCOG – Carmine Palombo

Members Absent: Ann Arbor Township – Mike Moran
WCBC – Wes Prater
AATA – Anya Dale
FHWA – Chris Dingman
EMU – Leigh Greden
SWWCOG – Ron Mann
City of Ypsilanti – Bill Nickels
City of Milan – Mike Armitage
Scio Township – Nancy Hedberg
Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo

Others Present: WATS – Terri Blackmore, Ryan Buck, Eric Bombery, Mark Ferrall
MDOT – Kari Martin, Paul Lott, Larry Dropiewski
WCRC – Steve Puuri
Michivan – Michelle Romano Rockwood

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 •

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. Kelly made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Driskell 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.

4. Approval of the September 15, 2010 Policy Committee Minutes

Ms. Grewal made a motion to approve the September 15, 2010 Policy Committee Minutes. Ms. Driskell supported.

Mr. Baier previously provided a comment to change the word “grant” to “research” in his report. Mr. Puuri asked that his report be clarified to state that the retroreflective signs are beginning to be installed. Mr. Carson asked that his comment regarding MDOT “denying” funding to the WWAVE be changed to “delayed”

The Committee approved the minutes as amended.

5. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore indicated that communications and announcements were included in the Directors Report at each place.

Mr. Carson reported that WATS Officers had been meeting with Ms. Blackmore for many months to discuss needed changes to the personnel policies. He added that the proposed changes will include a discipline policy as well as a grievance policy. Mr. Carson also noted that the officers are determining a method to review the Executive Director. Mr. Carson cited that Ms. Blackmore has only had one review in her time at the agency. The officers will also recommend that the Executive Director determine staff contracts while the Policy Committee will continue to determine the annual budget and the Executive Director salary annually.

6. Approval of Bills over \$500

1. \$1,269.00 Mark Ferrall – WATS intern 9/13/10 – 10/15/2010
2. \$565.44 Terri Blackmore – Travel, email, supplies

Mr. Fuller asked if the payment to Mr. Ferrall was for time spent working as an intern or for another reason. Ms. Blackmore stated that it was for time as an intern paid by the hour.

Mr. Hohnke made a motion to approve the bills over \$500. Mr. Fuller supported and the motion passed.

7. Old Business

A. 2035 Transportation Plan for Washtenaw County - Information

Ms. Blackmore reported that the WATS Technical Committee met with Mr. Palombo and came to an agreement, which will include all WATS Long Range Plan projects in the SEMCOG Long Range Plan. Ms. Blackmore reported that any remaining money in a particular funding program not identified for a specific project will be included in a Washtenaw County General Program Account (GPA).

Ms. Driskell made a motion to remove the tabled motion calling for a vote on a resolution from the Technical Committee. Ms. Kelly supported and the Committee withdrew the motion from the table.

8. New Business

A. Transportation 4 America – CeCe Grant - Action

Ms. Blackmore informed the Committee that CeCe Grant from Transportation 4 America was unable to attend the meeting.

Ms. Driskell made a motion to postpone the agenda item until CeCe was able to attend. Ms. Kelly supported and the motion passed.

Mr. Baier asked that Ms. Grant bring information on who is managing and leading the effort. Ms. Grewal asked Ms. Grant bring information about how locals can become involved in the coalition.

B. FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Action

Mr. Bombery reported WATS received 21 TIP amendments during the first call of fiscal year 2011 including 19 additions, one deletion, and one change. Mr. Bombery reported that the new projects use grant funding and that the TIP remained financially constrained. He added that the new projects resulted in a positive impact on environmental justice areas.

Ms. Boyd made a motion to approve the FY 2011-2014 TIP amendments. Mr. Lindauer supported and the motion passed.

C. First Quarter FY 2011 Financial Report – Action

Ms. Blackmore reported that through the first quarter of the 2011 fiscal year, agency financials remain strong. She reported that two categories, training and audit expenses were over 50% of budget. She stated that both categories are expected to be within budget by year-end and reported that the biennial audit had already taken place and that staff was able to take advantage of several recent specialized trainings.

Ms. Blackmore reported WATS added two new members, the City of Milan and Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority, increasing the dues revenues to \$94,500, offsetting some of the needed transfer from reserves.

Ms. Kelly made a motion to accept the first quarter financial statement, Mr. Lindauer supported, and the motion passed.

9. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Hohnke reported that the City would receive 13.9 million dollars from the TIGER II grant program for reconstruction of the Stadium Bridges. He added that a HAWK signal would soon be installed on Huron at Chapin and Third and added the City has a number of strategies it will employ to help the public adjust to the new traffic control device. Mr. Hohnke added that MDOT would be adding a fence on the north side of Newport road over M-14.

B. AATA

A representative was not present.

C. Ann Arbor Township

A representative was not present.

D. City of Chelsea

Mr. Lindauer reported that the City approved sidewalk improvements on the south side of Old US-12 and crack seal on Old US-12 for next year.

E. Dexter Village

Mr. Carson reported that the Village is working to develop a Complete Streets ordinance.

F. Dexter Township

Ms. Kelly reported that the Chelsea Area Planning Team/Dexter Area Regional Team Access Plan is moving forward and thanked WATS for assistance in the plan development process.

G. Eastern Michigan University

A representative was not present.

H. FHWA

A representative was not present.

I. City of Milan

A representative was not present.

J. Northfield Township

Ms. Mozurkewich reported the new Township Master Plan is approximately 1/3 complete. She added that a new battery company was coming to Northfield Township. Ms. Mozurkewich thanked the Road Commission for their work on the Six Mile project.

K. Pittsfield Township

Ms. Grewal reported that the Township is working on the Lohr greenway. She added that public engagement on the Master Plan concluded. Ms. Grewal also reported that the Township's bond rating was raised to AA status.

L. MDOT Planning

Ms. Boyd reported that the FY 2011-2014 TIP is under review by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. She added that the FHWA granted the state an extension of the FY 2008-2011 TIP to allow FY 2011 projects to move forward. Ms. Boyd reported that she expects approval of the FY 2011-2014 TIP in November.

Ms. Boyd reported that 48% of state employees were eligible for retirement packages this year which will likely result in many changes to MDOT staff.

Ms. Boyd reported that the state has filled the transportation shortfall for 2011, which would have resulted in turning away hundreds of millions of federal dollars but she noted that full local match funding is not available for future years.

Ms. Boyd reported that MDOT is working on implementing a statewide Complete Streets policy but that it could take two years to complete.

M. MDOT Region/TSC

Mr. Dropiewski had nothing to report.

N. City of Saline

Ms. Driskell reported the City of Saline would be adopting a Complete Streets ordinance September 24. Ms. Driskell also reported the Willis Road improvement, including new non-motorized amenities was complete.

O. SWWCOG

A representative was not present.

P. SEMCOG

Mr. Palombo reported that the contract with AMTRAK for Ann Arbor-Detroit Rail service is nearly complete. SEMCOG is working to schedule special event trains on the Ann Arbor – Detroit rail line for next year. Mr. Palombo stated that the rehabilitation of the train cars continue but that FRA has raised concerns that will require additional testing.

Q. Scio Township

A representative was not present.

R. Superior Township

Mr. McFarlane reported that the non-motorized trail installation in Superior was going well. He added that the Township's bond rating was raised to AA from AA-, which will result in about \$700,000 of savings.

S. University of Michigan

Mr. Baier had nothing to report.

T. County Board of Commissioners

A representative was not present.

U. WCRC

Mr. Fuller reported that he attended a statewide meeting of road commissioners and discussed the complete streets legislation. Mr. Fuller indicated that many road commissioners are concerned about how the legislation could affect them. He added that the ribbon cutting had occurred for the stretch of Huron River Drive paid for in part by donations from local bicyclists.

Mr. Puuri reported that the Road Commission was taking public comments on the Capital Improvement Program and indicated the Board would take action in November. Mr. Puuri reported the vehicle fleet was switching over to winter maintenance. He added that the road commission was able to acquire salt on time and at a lower price than last year. Mr. Puuri reported that the resurfacing of Huron River Drive from Wagner to Zeeb will be completed later this year.

V. Ypsilanti Township

A representative was not present.

W. City of Ypsilanti

A representative was not present.

10. Adjournment

Chair Carson adjourned the meeting at 11:20am.