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MINUTES OF MEETING

POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: December 21, 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
City of Milan – Mike Armitage, Secretary-Treasurer
AATA – Dawn Gabay (for Jesse Bernstein)
WCBOC – Yousef Rabhi
Northfield Township – Deb Mozurkewich
City of Chelsea - Jason Lindauer
City of Saline – Gretchen Driskell
University of Michigan – Hank Baier
City of Ann Arbor DDA – John Mouat
Pittsfield Township – Mandy Grewal
Superior Township – Bill McFarlane
City of Ypsilanti – Peter Murdock
Scio Township – Nancy Hedberg

Members Absent: WCRC – Doug Fuller
City of Ann Arbor – Tony Derezinski
EMU – Leigh Greden
MDOT Statewide Planning – Pam Boyd
Ann Arbor Township – Mike Moran
SWWCOG – Ron Mann
Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo

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 •

Others Present: WATS – Terri Blackmore, Ryan Buck, Eric Bombery, Nick Sapkiewicz
MDOT University Region – Paul Lott
WCRC – Steve Puuri
SEMCOG – Carmine Palombo, Xuan Liu, Jeff Nutting
AnnArbor.com – Lisa Allmendinger
Public – Larry Krieg
FHWA – Andy Pickard

1. Call to Order

Chair Carson called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. He asked those present to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Rabhi 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.

Larry Krieg of Wakeup Washtenaw stated that in reviewing the meeting materials regarding WATS' relationship with SEMCOG that Washtenaw County is in favor of controlled development rather than sprawl. Mr. Krieg thanked the Committee for taking that position.

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

Mr. Mouat made a motion to approve the November 16, 2011 Policy Committee Minutes. Mr. Rabhi supported and the Committee approved the minutes.

5. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore informed the Committee that the WATS office would be closed from December 23 to January 3.

6. Approval of Bills over \$500

1. Brian Rakovitis - \$1,067.00 Toyota Intern
2. Kris Kleinsmith - \$750.00 Toyota Intern

Mr. Rabhi made a motion to approve the bills over \$500. Ms. Driskell 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 Federal Certification Process is a good time to address issues and that WATS will send a letter requesting several changes to Memorandums of Understanding. Mr. Rabhi reported that the MPO committee would meet again in January.

1. Minutes of October 20, 2011 MPO Exploration Committee – Information

Mr. Rabhi stated that the minutes from a previous (October) MPO Committee meeting were provided to all members of the Policy Committee.

2. Letter to SEMCOG on MOU/Pass-Through Agreements - Action

Mr. Rabhi stated that the recommendations for changes to MOU's are included in the letter provided.

Ms. Blackmore thanked Mr. Derezinski for his work reviewing and commenting on the letter and agreements.

Ms. Driskell made a motion to approve and forward the letter to SEMCOG on the Memorandums of Understanding and Pass-Through Agreements. Ms. Kelly supported and the motion passed.

8. New Business

A. 2040 Regional Development Forecast - Presentation

Mr. Liu from SEMCOG gave a presentation outlining the 2040 Regional Development Forecast of Population and Jobs. Mr. Liu explained the process of establishing the forecast numbers and outlined considerations that affect them such as births, deaths, migration, and the economy. Mr. Liu compared the anticipated relative growth of Washtenaw County compared to the region as a whole and indicated that Washtenaw was showing the most growth.

Mr. Liu reported that SEMCOG has identified other alternative scenarios, which reflect both stronger and weaker economies than the base projection.

Mr. Liu stated that SEMCOG will accept comments on the forecast numbers until January 30, 2012.

B. Special Interest Technical Committee Membership Selection - Action

Ms. Blackmore reported that, in November, WATS sent local stakeholders invitations to apply for consideration for one of the five interest seats and requested the public submit applications.

Ms. Blackmore reported WATS received 11 applications. She added that despite efforts to recruit a representative of freight interests, WATS received no applications.

Ms. Blackmore stated that staff feels WATS should extend the positions to a two-year term to allow time for representatives to familiarize themselves with the WATS process. She also noted that WATS would continue its efforts to fill the Freight seat.

The proposed special interest representatives and their alternates are listed below:

Non-motorized: Norm Cox, Karl Racenis
Senior: Wes Armbruster, Ruth Ann Jamnick
Disabled: David Klenk, John Waterman
Environmental: Scott Miller, James Ridgeway
Freight: none to date

Ms. Driskell made a motion to appoint the recommended representatives and their alternates and to grant the Executive Director authority to appoint a representative to the freight special interest seat if a viable candidate applies and to amend the WATS Bylaws to change the term to two years and indicate that the seats will rotate when possible. Ms. Kelly supported and the motion passed.

C. PA 152 Insurance Requirements - Action

Ms. Blackmore stated that the agency needed to take an official position on a new State law that limits what public employers can contribute to employee health insurance.

Ms. Blackmore stated the Policy Committee has three options available to them for meeting 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 and act to waive 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 asked if the Committee would need to take action each year if Committee waived the requirement. Ms. Blackmore answered yes.

Ms. Blackmore mentioned that the current rate the agency pays is lower than the hard cap.

Ms. Kelly indicated she was inclined to waive the requirement.

Ms. Driskell said she concurred with Ms. Kelly, but felt it was important to delay a vote until more members of the Policy Committee were present. Mr. Armitage informed the committee that waiving the requirement required an affirmative vote of 75 percent of the members.

Ms. Driskell made a motion to table the discussion. Mr. Mouat supported and staff will place the agenda item on the January 2012 agenda.

D. Approval of Policy Committee Chair's support letters for non-motorized facilities - Action

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS received requests from the City of Milan and Scio Township letters of support for non-motorized projects. Both communities plan to apply for Connecting Communities funding.

Chair Carson asked Mr. Armitage and Ms. Hedberg to describe their proposed projects. Mr. Armitage also asked if the letter for the Milan project could be generic enough to allow them to apply to multiple funding sources.

Ms. Driskell made a motion to approve the two support letters in a format such that both can apply for multiple funding sources. Mr. Rabhi supported and the motion passed.

9. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

A representative was not present.

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 is working with the unincorporated Act 196 board. She added that AATA is working on

improvements at the Blake transit center as well as new airport service. Ms. Gabay stated that increased service on Washtenaw Avenue would commence in January.

D. Ann Arbor Township

A representative was not present.

E. City of Chelsea

Mr. Lindauer had nothing to report.

F. Dexter Village

Mr. Carson had nothing to report.

G. Dexter Township

Ms. Kelly reported the township had 24 new housing starts in 2011.

H. Eastern Michigan University

A representative was not present.

I. FHWA

Mr. Pickard stated that along with representatives from the Federal Transit Administration, the Federal Highway Administration would be meeting on SEMCOG certification in January.

J. City of Milan

Mr. Armitage had nothing to report.

K. Northfield Township

Ms. Mozurkewich reported that the Township would be approving a new Master Plan soon.

L. Pittsfield Township

Ms. Grewal had nothing to report.

M. MDOT Planning

A representative was not present.

N. MDOT Region/TSC

Mr. Lott reported that MDOT would transfer transportation planning for rural areas to the Regions. Mr. Lott reported that the draft 5-year plan is available and comments are due December 29.

O. City of Saline

Ms. Driskell had nothing to report.

P. SWWCOG

A representative was not present.

Q. SEMCOG

Mr. Palombo reported that SEMCOG certification would take place January 11-13. He reported that the City of Troy voted down funding for a transit station.

Mr. Palombo stated that while a federal government representative made an announcement eliminating light rail on Woodward in favor of other alternatives, he felt the decision might not be final.

R. Scio Township

Ms. Hedberg had nothing to report.

S. Superior Township

Mr. McFarlane had nothing to report.

T. University of Michigan

Mr. Baier had nothing to report.

U. County Board of Commissioners

Mr. Rabhi reported the County was anticipating approximately 100 retirements due to Public Act 152. Mr. Rabhi clarified that Washtenaw County will remain a member of SEMCOG.

V. WCRC

Mr. Puuri reported that the road commission has 12 federal aid projects scheduled for next year. He reported that the 2012 budget was approximately 30 million dollars. He stated that the board approved the Capital Improvement Program. He also noted that he was retiring and he enjoyed working with WATS and its member communities.

W. Ypsilanti Township

A representative was not present.

X. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Murdock reported that the City has hired John Hansen as Interim City Manager.

10. Adjournment

Chair Carson adjourned the meeting at 11:35 A.M.