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WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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MINUTES OF MEETING

POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: March 21, 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
Northfield Township – Deb Mozurkewich
MDOT Statewide Planning – Pam Boyd
Ann Arbor Township – Mike Moran
City of Ann Arbor – Tony Derezinski
City of Saline – Linda Terhaar (for Gretchen Driskell)
Scio Township – Nancy Hedberg
City of Ann Arbor DDA – John Mouat
WCRC – Doug Fuller
Pittsfield Township – Mandy Grewal
University of Michigan - Hank Baier
City of Milan – Mike Armitage, Secretary-Treasurer
AATA –Dawn Gabay (for Jesse Bernstein)
City of Ypsilanti – Peter Murdock

Members Absent: City of Chelsea - Jason Lindauer
SWWCOG – Ron Mann
Dexter Township– Pat Kelly, Vice-Chair
EMU – Leigh Greden
Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo
Superior Township – Bill McFarlane

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, Nick Sapkiewicz, Ryan Buck, Eric Bombery, and Brian Rakovitis
WCRC – Roy Townsend
VPSI – Michelle Romano Rockwood
MDOT Region/TSC – Paul Lott
MDOT – Dal McBurrows
SEMCOG – Carmine Palombo

1. Call to Order

Chair Carson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. He asked those present to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Grewal made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Hedberg 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 February 15, 2012 Policy Committee Minutes

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the February 15, 2012 Policy Committee Minutes. Ms. Mozurkewich supported and the Committee approved the minutes.

5. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore informed the Committee that the Senate passed a two-year version of the transportation legislation and the House of Representatives had abandoned their 5-year bill and will not take up the Senate's version of the bill. The House instead plans to pass a short term continuing resolution.

Ms. Blackmore also informed the Committee that MDOT would host a free training on designing pedestrian facilities, on-road bike facilities, and community walkability audits on March 23, 2012. To date, only one person has requested an ADA training.

Ms. Blackmore stated that WATS had purchased the new phone system and had them installed. She noted that the purchase was less than the \$5,000 authorized.

Ms. Blackmore explained that WATS renewed the office and auto insurance and noted that WATS premiums would be less than the previous year. She also noted that WATS would receive a rebate in the coming year.

6. Approval of Bills over \$500

1. Brian Rakovitis - \$1,267.50 Toyota Intern
2. Kristopher Kleinsmith - \$515.00 Toyota Intern
3. University of Michigan - \$1,500 for crash data, two quarters
4. Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority - \$5,022 – Office and Auto Insurance
5. Terri Blackmore - \$726.91 for Travel, training, software and supplies

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

7. Old Business

A. Approval of the FY 2012-2013 Unified Planning Work Program (memo, additional task and updated Budget attached) - Action

Ms. Blackmore explained that one Unified Work Program AATA work task was inadvertently omitted. Ms. Blackmore stated that this same work task that the Committee amended into this year's Work Program for the Ann-Arbor Connector Study and it increases the budget to \$2,150,261, \$603,361 for WATS and the remaining \$1,546,900 for AATA. Ms. Blackmore added that the Committee would approve an administrative budget in June detailing administrative costs.

Ms. Boyd made a motion to approve the FY 2012-2013 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Mouat supported and the motion passed.

B. MPO Exploration Committee MPO Exploration Committee

Ms. Blackmore called attention to a recommended change to the SEMCOG model MOU and stated that SEMCOG changed how it would deliver the Socio-Economic data, from grid cell to parcel which conflicts with the WATS Travel Demand Models inputs. To prevent future conflicts, Ms. Blackmore suggested a change on page three of the Model MOU, paragraph two, that adds, "Any changes to the data format shall be provided to WATS as soon as decided by SEMCOG."

Mr. Rabhi explained that WATS and SEMCOG were comfortable with the changes to two of the four MOUs. However, there is still an issue with CMAQ estimate and 5303 transit funds as to whether or not WATS is receiving the proper level of funds. Ms. Grewal asked that WATS provide bullet points on MPO Exploration Committee recommendation so that the Committee can better understand the context. Chair Carson stated WATS is looking for a permanent solution to the planning issues between WATS and SEMCOG. Chair Carson then called for authorizing Ms. Blackmore to sign the two agreed upon MOUs.

Mr. Moran made a motion to approve the MOU's between MDOT and all SE Michigan agencies. Mr. Mouat supported and the motion passed.

Mr. Armitage made a motion to approve the WATS Model MOU with SEMCOG with the recommended change. Mr. Murdock supported and the motion passed.

C. WATS Space Update – Information

Ms. Blackmore informed the Committee that WATS was interested in the third floor of the Annex building with a 15-year lease. Ms. Blackmore added that WATS is seeking a minimum of two protected parking spaces provided by the County though ideally four spaces for staff parking would be provided as well. Ms. Blackmore noted the “six month notification of termination,” in the lease contract. Several Committee members suggested adding a minimum term to the lease.

The Committee talked at length about employee parking arrangements if the County does not provide additional spaces within the lease. Ms. Blackmore explained that County employees contribute a portion of parking permit costs and provision of alternatives such as go!Passes to encourage employees' public transit use could be an option. Mr. Baier suggested WATS develop a policy to facilitate alternate commute options and noted that UM is in the process of adding significant parking for employees. Mr. Fuller requested that Ms. Blackmore return with a parking policy proposal.

8. New Business

A. STP Urban Program Amendments (attached) – Action

Ms. Blackmore reported to the Committee that WATS had added new items to WATS Federal criteria in response to upcoming federal requirements. Ms. Blackmore explained that the Federal Aid Committee expressed reservations about using the new criteria; due to the difficulty in scoring resurfacing projects that are not attached to single locations. Finally, Ms. Blackmore stated WATS would use the new criteria when WATS extends the TIP to 2017.

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve STP Urban Program Amendments. Mr. Derezinski supported the motion and the STP Urban amendments passed.

B. STP Rural Program Amendments (attached) – Action

Ms. Blackmore stated that the same review process was used for STP Rural and the Road Commission submitted only two projects. Other small transit agencies, the Village of Manchester and Chelsea had the option to submit, but did not.

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve STP Rural Program Amendments. Mr. Mouat supported the motion and the STP Rural amendments passed.

C. FY 2012 Second FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Amendments (attached) – Action

Mr. Bombery explained that the second call for projects for FY 2012 TIP included 24 total projects, 14 additions, five deletions, and five changes. The projects added total \$19.7 million and all project-funding sources were fiscally constrained. Mr. Bombery added that new projects for repairing existing facilities or adding new non-motorized facilities would have a positive impact on the Environmental Justice area. Mr. Bombery also reported that transit agencies must follow their approved Title VI policy when receiving and rotating new buses into service, insuring EJ areas receive equitable use of new buses.

Ms. Boyd made a motioned to approve FY 2012 Second FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program amendments. Supported by Mr. Moran and the motion passed.

D. FY 2012 Second FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Administrative Modifications (attached) – Information

Mr. Bombery explained WATS completes administrative modifications, such as cost or limits updates as needed and provided to the Committee as information along with full amendments. Mr. Bombery provided the Committee with a list of the most recent administrative modifications.

9. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Derezhinski reported that Ann Arbor accepted the Four Party Transit Agreement. Mr. Derezhinski also reported that Ann Arbor is focusing on transportation corridors, starting with State Street. Mr. Derezhinski added that Ann Arbor is going forward with the Fuller Road Rail Station project to keep the project from turning back federal funds.

B. City of Ann Arbor DDA

Mr. Mouat had nothing to report.

C. AATA

Ms. Gabay reported that Ypsilanti is considering the Four Party Transit Agreement and that the Funding Task Force (FTF) reduced the initial TMP deficit from \$60 million to \$32 million through a combination of fare increases and funding equal to a half mill. Ms. Gabay added that the FTF recommended that regional projects not receive new local funds within the first five years of the TMP implementation without federal and funding from outside the county. The FTF work is on hold pending action on the RTA legislation. Ms. Gabay also reported that AirRide transit service from Ann Arbor to Metro Airport would begin in April.

D. Ann Arbor Township

Mr. Moran reported that the two new office building, one for 42,000 sq feet and the other for 80,000 sq feet at Earhart and Whitehall were moving forward and are expected to be constructed this year or early next year.

E. City of Chelsea

A representative was not present.

F. Dexter Village

Mr. Carson brought attention to WAVE, noting the transit provider's significant increase in ridership of 35% in the past five months. Mr. Carson reported that Dexter completed its portion of the Border-to-Border Trail and will be hosting a wellness walk March 24. Mr. Carson also thanked the County, cities and townships that sent aid and volunteers to help with tornado relief.

G. Dexter Township

A representative was not present.

H. Eastern Michigan University

A representative was not present.

I. FHWA

Mr. Picard reported Tiger IV applications were due March 19.

J. City of Milan

Mr. Armitage had nothing to report.

K. Northfield Township

Ms. Mozurkewich stated that Northfield Township released their Master plan for public review and comment.

L. Pittsfield Township

Ms. Grewal had nothing to report.

M. MDOT Planning

Ms. Boyd notified the Committee of the March 30 deadline to submit CMAQ projects. Ms. Boyd added that a new staff person will be in charge of census information and will be working with MPOs on urban area boundaries and census data. Finally, there are new limits to projects constructed by road agencies using force accounts and some force account projects have moved forward.

N. MDOT Region/TSC

Mr. Lott reported that MDOT is anticipating an April letting for the non-motorized project at Washtenaw and US-23.

O. City of Saline

Ms. Terharr had nothing to report.

P. SWWCOG

A representative was not present.

Q. SEMCOG

Mr. Palombo reported that the Senate approved a bill, which means less money for transportation. Furthermore, it consolidates programs, combining CMAQ, Enhancements and Safe Routes to School and funding them at about 70% of what each program would have provided if separate. The House has decided not to pursue another bill, but instead is looking to a short-term extension of 30 days. After that, it will work on either the Senate bill or a 5-year bill. The Regional Transit Authority (RTA) legislation is in trouble, three pieces of legislation need to pass the Senate sub-committee approval. Thus far, only one has and the issue stems from Detroit pushing for greater representation.

R. Scio Township

Ms. Hedberg reported that the property at Zeeb and I-94 interchange has been sold to MAV group and will be converted into offices. Ms. Hedberg also reported that Menards is looking to locate a store on Jackson. Ms. Hedberg thanked everyone for their support as Scio Township received a \$250,000 grant from Washtenaw Parks and Recreation for the Zeeb Road path.

S. Superior Township

A representative was not present.

T. University of Michigan

Mr. Baier reported that the Fuller Road Transit Station project could not be completed under the terms of the memorandum of understanding and that UM must move forward with alternate parking plans but still supports that City moving forward with the train station.

U. County Board of Commissioners

Mr. Rabhi reported that the Board had its space plan presentation and the focus was to move everyone out of the Key Bank building by July. Mr. Rabhi added that AATA will present at the County working session on the AATA Transit Master Plan. He noted that the County Board is waiting for the City of Ypsilanti to approve the Four Party Transit Agreement .

V. WCRC

Mr. Townsend reported on County wide resurfacing taking place in May and June. Mr. Townsend also reported that WCRC had a public meeting for Ellsworth and State Street roundabout, with half of the 150 people supporting and the other half against the project. Mr. Townsend explained that the Plymouth resurfacing project is delayed by fiscal constraints from short-term continuing resolutions in place of long-term legislation. Mr. Townsend added that WCRC is working closely with Ypsilanti Township to get a \$6 million bond for local and primary roads improvements, with a target of 90% of the Township roads in good condition. Mr. Townsend added that WCRC has crews and heavy equipment out cutting trees on Dexter-Pinckney and plan to reopen the road soon.

W. Ypsilanti Township

A representative was not present.

X. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Murdock reported the City of Ypsilanti was applying for a natural resource grant and working with County Parks on the Border-to-Border trail. Mr. Murdock noted that Ypsilanti would consider the Four Party Transit Agreement on May 15th after their election.

10. Adjournment

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