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WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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MINUTES OF MEETING

POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: April 18, 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
City of Milan – Mike Armitage, Secretary-Treasurer
WCBOC – Yousef Rabhi
Northfield Township – Deb Mozurkewich
Ann Arbor Township – Mike Moran
City of Ann Arbor – Tony Derezinski
Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo
Superior Township – Bill McFarlane
SWWCOG – Ron Mann
MDOT Planning – Kari Martin (for Pam Boyd)
Dexter Township – Pat Kelly, Vice-Chair
City of Saline – Linda Terhaar (for Gretchen Driskell)
WCRC – Doug Fuller
Pittsfield Township – Mandy Grewal
AATA – Dawn Gabay (for Jesse Bernstein)
City of Ypsilanti – Peter Murdock

Members Absent: City of Chelsea - Jason Lindauer
University of Michigan - Hank Baier
Scio Township – Nancy Hedberg
City of Ann Arbor DDA – John Mouat
EMU – Leigh Greden

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

April 18, 2012

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Others Present: WATS – Terri Blackmore, Nick Sapkiewicz, Ryan Buck, Eric Bombery
WCRC – Roy Townsend
University of Michigan – Steve Dolen
MDOT Region/TSC –Mark Sweeney, Paul Lott
SEMCOG – Carmine Palombo
Wake Up Washtenaw – Larry Krieg

1. Call to Order

Chair Carson called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. He asked those present to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Derezynski made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Grewal 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 March 22, 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 reported the US Senate passed a two-year version of the transportation legislation for the remainder of this year and next year. She added the US House of Representatives have abandoned their multi-year bill. Ms. Blackmore reported the President signed a continuing resolution last Friday that continues Transportation Funding through June 30.

Ms. Blackmore reported SEMCOG is 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 were three bills over \$500.

1. Brian Rakovitis - \$1,005.00 Toyota Intern
2. Kristopher Kleinsmith - \$525.00 Toyota Intern
3. University of Michigan - \$750.00 for crash data, one quarter

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

7. Old Business

A. MPO Exploration Committee

Mr. Rabhi stated that the March meeting of the MPO Exploration Committee was a productive one. He stated that the meeting functioned much like a working session. He explained that the Committee met with Mr. Palombo to review SEMCOG's responses to the concerns WATS raised in reviewing the various memorandums of understanding.

Ms. Blackmore reported that representatives from MDOT and FHWA attended the meeting.

Ms. Grewal asked Mr. Palombo to report his thoughts on the meeting and to outline the main sticking point. Mr. Palombo stated he feels progress is being made and reported that two of the four MOUs have been signed. Mr. Palombo stated that he feels the format of the TIP remain the biggest sticking point.

Ms. Blackmore explained that the February 15, 2012 MPO Exploration Committee meeting minutes were attached to the Policy Packet.

Ms. Grewal asked what the next steps are in the process. Ms. Blackmore stated issues with the TIP format need to be addressed.

Mr. Fuller asked that the Policy Committee receive enough notice of the MPO Exploration Committee recommendation to discuss it with the Road Commissioners.

B. WATS Space Update

Ms. Blackmore reported that she and Mr. Moran met with Greg Dill to discuss proposed changes to the new lease. Ms. Blackmore reported that the County has agreed to;

- A minimum lease period of 15 or 20 years with a five year option
- County cannot terminate the lease for the sole purpose of raising the rent
- If County terminates the lease prior to the full length of the term, they agree to pay WATS moving expenses

Ms. Blackmore stated that there is still not a firm timeline for the WATS move.

8. New Business

A. Extra 2012 Obligation Authority – Action

Mr. Bombery reported that MDOT informed WATS March 8 of additional obligation authority available to WATS. WATS met at SEMCOG with the Regional Planning Partners Group to

determine the best way to distribute funding. The group decided to split the funding between the various federal aid committees. That decision meant Washtenaw County has another \$454,218 to distribute in FY 2012.

Mr. Bombery noted that the Technical Committee recommended the Policy Committee approve the following allocation.

- Add \$30,000 to the WCRC rural project North Territorial at Whitmore Lake for a new total of \$300,000.
- Add \$324,218 to the WCRC urban project Plymouth from Dixboro to M-153 and reducing the local portion at the same total project cost of \$1,375,000.
- Add \$100,000 to the Ypsilanti Cross Street from Wallace to Washtenaw of federal funds while reducing the local portion at the same total project cost of \$650,000.

Ms. Stumbo made a motion to approve the additional obligation as recommended by the Technical Committee. Ms. Grewal supported and the motion passed.

B. Third Quarter Financial Statement – Action

Ms. Blackmore reported that the agency is in good financial shape. She reported third quarter revenues are at 56% of budget because revenue from Toyota is one quarter behind.

Ms. Blackmore reported that all of the expense categories are under 75% of budget, Administrative Staff category excepted, which stands at 96%. Ms. Blackmore reported due to the unanticipated MPO administrative work and WATS office space negotiations an amendment was necessary to remain within budget. Ms. Blackmore recommends a transfer of \$15,000 from Plan Monitoring, \$5,000 from Plan Development and \$5,000 from Plan Implementation to Administrative Staff expense.

Mr. Fuller made a motion to accept the Third Quarter Financial Statement and approve the proposed administrative budget transfers. Mr. Mann supported and the motion passed.

C. WATS Parking Policy – Action

Ms. Blackmore reported that she put together a parking policy at the request of the Policy Committee. Ms. Blackmore outlined several options and provided a recommendation that the employees contribute 50% of the parking costs. Ms. Blackmore reported downtown county employees pay \$20 per month while a 50% cost share would cost WATS employees \$63 per month.

Ms. Grewal commented that the proposal seemed punitive to employees. Ms. Kelly agreed and added that there have been discussions about more creative financing options for parking including the fact that because parking is an eligible expense, WATS could leverage at an 80/20 ratio any additional money put forth by the county. Ms. Kelly stated there were also some options she had discussed previously as part of the WATS Space Committee and that if nothing else she would support a 20% cost share.

Ms. Kelly made a motion to table the motion. Ms. Grewal supported and the Committee tabled the motion.

D. 2010 Census Urban Boundary - Information

Ms. Blackmore reported that the Census has released its 2010 Urban Boundary. Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS would work to smooth the Census boundaries and create an Adjusted Census Urban Boundary, which WATS will use to determine whether an area is urban or rural. Ms. Blackmore stated a map of the existing adjusted 2000 census boundary and the new 2010 Census boundary was available at the side of the room.

9. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Derezsinski reported that the City is working on a budget, due in May. Mr. Derezsinski reported that the City is looking at planning at the corridor level, starting with Reimagine Washtenaw. He added that State St. is next, followed by Plymouth and N. Main. Mr. Derezsinski added the Stadium Bridges project is slightly ahead of schedule and that there would be a lot of roadwork this season in the city.

B. City of Ann Arbor DDA

A representative was not present.

C. AATA

Ms. Gabay reported that the Air Ride service started and that ridership levels look good. Ms. Gabay reported that AATA has scheduled most of the district meetings but that two more remained to be scheduled.

D. Ann Arbor Township

Mr. Moran reported that a development on Pontiac Trail appears to be moving forward.

E. City of Chelsea

A representative was not present.

F. Dexter Village

Mr. Carson reported that Main St. in Dexter is under construction including ten crosswalks. Mr. Carson reported that the Village would hold a special Arbor Day celebration that will include the planting of large trees that were lost in the recent tornado.

G. Dexter Township

Ms. Kelly thanked the road commission for their help in clean-up efforts.

H. Eastern Michigan University

A representative was not present.

I. FHWA

A representative was not present.

J. City of Milan

Mr. Armitage reported that a Chinese developer has proposed a significant new development near Milan.

K. Northfield Township

Ms. Mozurkewich stated that Northfield Township met with the road commission to determine this year's improvements. Ms. Mozurkewich reported that the bulk of Township funds would spend on maintaining and improving gravel roads. Ms. Mozurkewich reported that the Township is working on phase II of the Barker Road path with funding from Washtenaw County Parks. Phase II involves a 10 foot path from Main St. to US-23.

L. Pittsfield Township

Ms. Grewal had nothing to report.

M. MDOT Planning

Ms. Martin reported that MDOT has received some negative feedback regarding the proposed four to three lane conversion of a portion of Huron St. Ms. Martin stated that MDOT would not discount the City of Ann Arbor's resolution supporting the proposed conversion. Ms. Martin reported that MDOT would soon evaluate proposals for a Metro/University Region non-motorized plan.

N. MDOT Region/TSC

Mr. Sweeney reported that work is progressing on M-14, M-52, and US-23. Mr. Sweeney reported that a cable barrier project on I-94, an M-52 streetscape project in Chelsea, and a non-motorized path project on M-17 at US-23 would commence this year.

Mr. Sweeney reported that MDOT has received a lot of feedback on the proposed four to three lane conversion of a portion of Huron St. Mr. Sweeney reported that while initial feedback was poor due to an email campaign, more recently, MDOT has received many email supporting the project.

O. City of Saline

Ms. Terharr reported that the city would receive bids soon for this year's roadwork. She added that the City is coordinating with the road commission to install new retro-reflective signage.

P. SWWCOG

Mr. Mann said that road construction in Manchester Village is a challenge but progressing.

Q. SEMCOG

Mr. Palombo reported that SEMCOG has a contract with Parsons Brinckerhoff for Woodward Avenue alternatives analysis. Mr. Palombo reported that the SEMCOG offices might relocate. Mr. Palombo explained that short-term extensions to transportation legislation make it very difficult to keep projects moving forward. Mr. Palombo reported that the Asset Management Council is investigating the possibility of adding more infrastructures to the Asset Management process such as underground pipes, which can make it easier to prioritize coordinated improvements between roads and other utilities. Mr. Palombo reported the State Senate passed a bill that would provide MDOT 135 million dollars of the sales tax on gas.

R. Scio Township

A representative was not present.

S. Superior Township

Mr. McFarlane reported that Superior Township had its annual meeting with the road commission. He reported that the township is planning to improve a bridge on Ridge Road and that next year he hoped they would install a roundabout at Ridge and Geddes. Mr. McFarlane reported that Hyundai is expanding their facility.

T. University of Michigan

Mr. Dolen reported that the university would likely construct a new parking garage on Wall St. to help address immediate parking needs. He added that the university continues to invest in alternative transportation and he is hopeful the university will be able to provide some operations funding for the planned bike-sharing program.

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 reported that the road commissioners would hold a work session on budget changes. He reported that the possibility exists for the road commission to eliminate its popular seal coat program. Mr. Fuller recognized Ypsilanti Township as a community that understands the importance of road maintenance.

W. Ypsilanti Township

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 is looking to hire a new city manager soon.

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.