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WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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MINUTES OF MEETING

POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: February 19, 2008

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Scio Township Hall, 827 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Members Present: City of Saline – Gretchen Driskell, Chair
Pittsfield Township – Jim Walter, Vice Chair
Dexter Township/WCPAB – Pat Kelly, Secretary-Treasurer
Ypsilanti Township – Ruth Ann Jamnick
Village of Dexter – Jim Carson
MDOT Planning – Pam Boyd
WCRC – Wes Prater
SWWCOG – Ron Mann
WCBOC – Jessica Ping
AATA – David Nacht
Scio Township – Jean King
City of Chelsea – Jason Lindauer (for Ann Feeney)
City of Ypsilanti – Bill Nickels

Members Absent: Superior Township – Brenda McKinney
City of Ann Arbor – Mike Anglin
Northfield Township – Cindy Wilson
Ann Arbor Township – Cheryl MacKrell
EMU

Others Present: WATS – Terri Blackmore, Ryan Buck, Eric Bombery, Nick Sapkiewicz
U of M – Dave Miller
MDOT University Region – Kari Andrewes, Paul Lott
WCRC – Steve Puuri
HRWC – Elizabeth Riggs

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

• CITY OF ANN ARBOR • ANN ARBOR TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY • ANN ARBOR TOWNSHIP • CITY OF CHELSEA • VILLAGE OF DEXTER •
• DEXTER TOWNSHIP • EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY • MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION • 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

1. Call to Order

Chair Driskell called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. She asked those present to introduce themselves.

2. Public Participation

Chair Driskell noted that there were no members from the public wishing to address the Committee so the public participation time was closed.

3. Approval of the December 19, 2007 Policy Committee Minutes

Mr. Prater made a motion to approve the December 19, 2007 Policy Committee Minutes. Ms. Jamnick supported the motion and the minutes were approved as presented.

4. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore introduced Nick Sapkiewicz as the new Associate Transportation Planner. Mr. Sapkiewicz started January 4. WATS interviewed three candidates for the job opening.

Ms. Blackmore stated that the Drive Michigan campaign is looking at the possibility of passing a gas tax increase during the lame duck session. She added that BBT is also looking for additional enabling legislation for local option taxes as part of the Drive Michigan package. Ms. Blackmore stated that there is a need for constituents to contact their Representatives and Senators to support increased transportation funding. She recommended having those that contact local communities to complain about transportation problems contact their legislators.

Ms. Blackmore explained the handouts at each place, which included:

1. Upcoming meetings
2. Complete the Streets Brochure
3. At the Crossroads
4. University Region Safety Projects
5. 2004-2007 Amtrak Ridership
6. Citizens Research Council of Michigan report on Improving the Efficiency of Michigan's Highway Revenue Sharing Formula
7. Report of the Public Transit Subcommittee on Public Transportation in Michigan: An Economic Development Tool Who's Time Has Come.
8. November and December Crashes

5. Approval of Bills over \$500

Ms. Blackmore reported that there was one bill over \$500.

1. \$5,700.00– LSA Associates for model update

Ms. Jamnick made a motion to approve the bills, Mr. Mann supported and the motion passed.

6. Report on WATS Activities

Ms. Blackmore noted that the update to the Ann Arbor to Detroit Rapid Transit Study was provided at each place and that Carmine would be able to provide more information.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the North-South Rail coalition is working towards forming a two county regional transit authority. There is a technical group preparing a business plan and scope of work for a validation review. She added that a meeting was held February 14 to review the draft scope of work for the validation review. The validation study is being reviewed by the Technical Steering Committee and Livingston County.

Ms. Blackmore stated that the Asset Management conference has been scheduled and is included in the list of upcoming meetings. The Asset Management Council will require MPO's to only collect data on 50% of the federal aid system. The Council has requested that the MPO's concentrate on assisting locals with complying with the reporting requirements of Act 51. MDOT has indicated that failure to complete the Asset Management reporting could result in the withholding of MTF dollars.

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS is sending out requests for 2008 HPMS counts this month.

Ms. Blackmore reported Ms. Burleigh is working on the first of the January crashes and waiting on some December corrections. The crash report processing continues to operate close to real time. The Michigan State Police has requested a review of their locating procedures, which were provided to the Technical Committee on February 6. Comments on the procedures are due to Mr. Bombery by February 20.

Ms. Blackmore reported that there were two statewide meetings on local funding options on December 11 and December 14 in Lansing. At the December 11 meeting, the group officially changed the name of the group from Business for Better Roads (BBR) to Businesses for Better Transportation (BBT). The group agreed that without a gas tax increase the effort will not be able to address the maintenance needs of the existing system. Ms. Blackmore added that the group will be meeting with Transit officials on February 21 as part of the Michigan Public Transit Association's Legislative Conference. Ms. Blackmore also reported that the group is working diligently to make the legislature understand that enabling local options does not eliminate the need for a gas tax increase.

Mr. Buck reported that the WATS model development effort is progressing and that both WATS and MDOT are actively tracking the progress of the consultant. Mr. Buck reported that the next set of deliverables include a mode choice model, time of day model which will lead into the first traffic assignment to begin calibration. Mr. Buck stated that despite the delay, the project is still expected to be completed in spring of 2008.

Ms. Blackmore stated that both the Transit Plan Steering Committee and the WATS Technical Committee have reviewed the Transit Plan for Washtenaw County. All comments were considered and incorporated where appropriate. She added that a Transit Town Hall Meeting on

March 24 at 7:00 pm at Washtenaw Community College to discuss moving the implementation of the plan forward.

Ms. Blackmore stated that Mr. Bombery with the assistance of Nick Sapkiewicz has completed a draft of the Transportation profile which was provided on the Agency website for public comment.

7. Old Business

A. Federal Funding Policy PE & ROW - Action

Ms. Blackmore stated that Ms. Jamnick was Chair of the sub-committee, which made a recommendation on the federal funding policy; and asked her to report on the sub-committee's recommendation.

Ms. Jamnick stated that a lot of discussion happened at the sub-committee meeting and since the meeting. She indicated that her recommendation was to evaluate requests for funding PE and ROW on a case by case basis.

Mr. Puuri stated that option 2 provides limitations which are good for this type of Policy. He stated that this is a practice allowed by MDOT and that other areas in the SEMCOG region are already using federal funds for PE and ROW.

Mr. Carson stated that he supported the Road Commission on this decision.

Ms. Jamnick pointed out that every agency has financial issues to work through, not just the Road Commission. She stated that everyone is responsible for the financial integrity of WATS.

Ms. Kelly suggested that the policy be sent back to the Technical Committee for further review.

Ms. Driskell stated that some Policies don't need to be made.

Ms. Jamnick made a motion to send the policy back to Technical Committee for further discussion after an additional task force meeting is called. She added instructions that the Policy Committee is looking for a recommendation that includes a sunset and includes limitations on dollars. Mr. Nacht supported the motion.

Ms Driskell and Mr. Nickels voted NO on the motion and the motion passed.

B. Michigan Flyer Letter – Information

Ms. Blackmore indicated that letter supporting the Michigan Flyer was sent to the Airport Authority and is provided at each place.

C. 2006 Transportation Profile - Action

Mr. Bombery stated that the draft transportation profile had previously been distributed and comments incorporated where appropriate. He stated that agencies will receive a final copy which will be graphically enhanced and spiral bound at next month's meeting. He noted that the Technical Committee recommended Policy Committee approval of the 2006 Transportation Profile.

Mr. Nacht made a motion to approve the Transportation Profile. Ms. Kelly supported and the motion passed.

D. Transit Plan for Washtenaw County – Action

Ms. Blackmore stated that the draft Transit Plan had previously been distributed and comments incorporated where appropriate. She stated that agencies will receive a final copy which will be graphically enhanced and spiral bound. She noted that the Technical Committee recommended Policy Committee approval of the Transit Plan for Washtenaw County.

Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the Transit Plan for Washtenaw County, Ms. Ping supported and the motion passed.

8. New Business

A. Presentation on Transfer of Developmental Rights - Presentation

Ms. Riggs gave a presentation on Transfer of Developmental Rights and highlighted the portion of the study take was completed for land in Washtenaw County. The presentation showed TDR as a market based approach to sustainable development and that TDR could likely be implemented to save open space in Michigan if it were enabled by the State.

The presentation is attached.

B. 2009 Safety Project Prioritization - Action

Mr. Bombery stated that six projects were received from local agencies for consideration for FY2009 Safety funding. One of the six applications was deemed ineligible because it was on a State facility and was submitted to the MDOT Regional office for consideration. He noted that the remaining five were ranked by cost/benefit ratio. Mr. Bombery reported that the Technical Committee reordered the projects based on the Road Commissions priorities.

Ms. Boyd made a motion to approve the FY 2009 Safety applications as recommended by the WATS Technical Committee in the following order:

1. Plymouth Rd. and Gotfredson Rd. - Installation of fully actuated signals and left turn lanes on Plymouth
2. Rawsonville Rd. and Bemis Rd. - Installation of fully actuated signals and left turn lanes on all approaches.

3. Waters Road. and Wagner Road. east to beginning of pavement – Remove obstacles, improve drainage, surface condition and create recoverable slopes.
4. Geddes Road., Hickory Lane to entrance of Gallup Park – Install guardrail while increasing clear area, improve pavement surface and add dedicated pedestrian pathway
5. Woodland Drive between Wildwood Trail and Sycamore Run – Install midblock crossing with pedestrian island and pavement imbedded pedestrian activated LED lights.

Ms. Jamnick supported the motion and the motion passed.

C. FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments - Action

Mr. Bombery stated that this was the second amendment period for the FY 2008-2011 TIP. Of the 18 amendments submitted, 3 are new projects and one project is being deleted. The remaining changes are either project limits or changing of funding year.

The 3 new projects are funded by State dollars. Since there is no additional federal funding, the TIP remains fiscally constrained. Mr. Bombery reported that all 3 new projects lie within Environmental Justice areas but that all three provide positive benefits to the surrounding areas. Mr. Bombery also reported on the Environmental Mitigation Analysis for the project amendments.

Ms. Jamnick made a motion to approve the FY 2008-2011 TIP amendments, Ms. Kelly supported and the motion passed.

D. 2nd Quarter Financial Statements – Action

Ms. Blackmore stated that the second quarter financial statements were provided in the packet. Ms. Blackmore indicated that there are three expense categories significantly over 50% of budget at the midpoint of the year including subscriptions, telephone and postage. Ms. Blackmore stated that telephone expenses may continue to be over budget because the agency now pays for Ms. Blackmore's phone email access. The license and subscriptions as well as the postage items are over budget due to the continuation of the crash program.

Ms. Blackmore indicated that overall the agency is in good financial shape with \$131,230.10 in cash, \$235,416 in investments and accounts receivable of \$103,456.

Mr. Lindauer made a motion to approve the 2nd Quarter financial statement. Ms. Ping supported the motion and the motion passed.

E. FY 2009 Unified Work Program – Action in March

Ms. Blackmore stated that the WATS UWP is at each persons place. The UWP must be developed 6 months before the beginning of the agencies fiscal year. The document is being distributed for action in March. She noted that the Policy Committee will have an opportunity to review the budget again in June prior to the adoption of the Administrative Budget and dues level.

9. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

A representative was not present.

B. AATA

Mr. Nacht had nothing to report.

C. Ann Arbor Township

Mr. Moran reported that the Township continues to work on the road issues resulting from the Dixboro and Geddes senior development.

D. City of Chelsea

Ms. Feeney had nothing to report.

E. Dexter Village

Mr. Carson had nothing to report.

F. Dexter Township

Ms. Kelly reported that overall, the Dexter Township Board does not support Phase II of the Dexter Main Street Bridge project.

G. Planning Advisory Board

Ms. Blackmore had nothing to report.

H. Eastern Michigan University

A representative was not present.

I. FHWA

A representative was not present.

J. Northfield Township

A representative was not present.

K. Pittsfield Township

Mr. Walter had nothing to report.

L. MDOT Planning

Ms. Boyd reported that a meeting to rectify remaining form and function issues with the uniform STIP would take place February 29th. Ms. Boyd also reported that the Jobs Today funding program is scheduled to sunset in April and at this time it is not anticipated that the program will be renewed. Ms. Boyd stated that there is movement to restore the Economic Development Funds that were cut for FY 2008 in FY 2009.

M. MDOT Region/TSC

Ms. Andrews reported that MDOT was hosting a meeting that night in Manchester to discuss the realignment of the intersection in the four corners area. She indicated that there is an issue with the State Historic Preservation Office regarding the historical significance of an adjacent funeral home and a tree.

Ms. Andrewes stated that the next meeting of the US-23 coalition meeting is Tuesday at 1:30. Ms. Andrewes also reported that the Region office is working on the 2011 MDOT Safety projects for the region.

Mr. Lott reported that final comments have been received on the Access Management study and that meetings with 3 of the 4 communities have taken place. Mr. Lott added that at the March meeting the consultant would present information from the Washtenaw Asset Management Study.

N. City of Saline

Ms. Driskell had nothing to report.

O. SWWCOG

Mr. Mann had nothing to report.

P. SEMCOG

Mr. Palombo reported that progress continues to be made on the Ann Arbor to Detroit project and added that the Rail Capacity study should be completed in 4-6 weeks. Mr. Palombo also reported that the Asset Management Council is only requiring MPO's to collect data on 50% of the federal aid system. This year there is an increased focus on the additional reporting responsibilities of the Act 51 agencies.

Q. Scio Township

Ms. King had nothing to report.

R. Superior Township

A representative was not present.

S. University of Michigan

Mr. Miller had nothing to report.

T. County Board of Commissioners

Ms. Ping reported that the county's budget is not yet balanced and that a hiring freeze is in effect.

U. WCRC

Mr. Prater reported that the funding for the Road Commission is dangerously low. Mr. Puuri reported that the Road Commission is approximately \$200,000 over their winter maintenance budget. The salt provider has agreed to honor the price up to 130% of the Road Commission's agreement but after that point, the price would increase drastically. Mr. Puuri reported that the Carpenter Road project has resumed. Mr. Puuri stated that the Dexter Main Street Bridge would be constructed to accommodate Phase 2 of the project, should it occur. Mr. Puuri reported that the Superior and Geddes roundabout construction would begin in March and that culvert replacements along Leforge would also begin in spring.

V. Ypsilanti Township

Ms. Jamnick had nothing to report.

W. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Nickels had nothing to report.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 A.M.