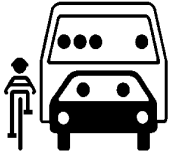


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WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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MINUTES OF MEETING

POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: June 18, 2008

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

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

Members Present: Pittsfield Township – Jim Walter, Vice Chair
Dexter Township/WCPAB – Pat Kelly, Secretary-Treasurer
Village of Dexter – Jim Carson
Ann Arbor Township – Mike Moran
City of Ann Arbor – Mike Anglin
AATA – David Nacht
SWWCOG – Ron Mann
WCBOC – Jessica Ping
Northfield Township – Cindy Wilson
Scio Township – Jean King
City of Ypsilanti – Bill Nickels
Ypsilanti Township – Ruth Ann Jamnick
City of Chelsea – Ann Feeney
MDOT Statewide Planning – Pam Boyd

Members Absent: City of Saline – Gretchen Driskell, Chair
Superior Township – Brenda McKinney
WCRC – Wes Prater
EMU – representative

Others Present: WATS – Terri Blackmore, Ryan Buck, Eric Bombery, Nick Sapkiewicz
WCRC- Steve Puuri
MDOT – Kari Andrewes, Paul Lott, Steve Bower
SEMCOG – Carmine Palombo
Scio Township Resident – Lynn Phillips

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

Policy Minutes

June 18, 2008

Page 2 of 7

1. Call to Order

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

2. Public Participation

Vice-Chair Walter asked if any members of the public wished to address the Committee, no one wished to address the Committee, so the public participation time was closed.

3. Approval of the May 21, 2008 Policy Committee Minutes

Mr. Nacht made a motion to approve the May 21, 2008 Policy Committee minutes. Ms. Ping supported the motion.

Mr. Carson pointed out that the information presented in item 4, Communications and Announcements regarding transit service in Scio Township was incorrect but that it did in fact represent what was said at the meeting. With the comment noted, the minutes were approved as submitted.

4. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore reported that she participated in the AATA Strategic Planning Session on May 27th.

Ms. Blackmore discussed HB 4928 which was introduced by Representative David Agema that would require local bus systems subsidized by state Act 51 CTF tax dollars to generate at least 20 percent of their operating expenses from fares paid by riders or face penalties.

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

1. Upcoming meetings
2. Ann Arbor to Detroit Update
3. Hard hat tour of the new DTW North Terminal
4. May Crashes

5. Approval of Bills over \$500

Ms. Blackmore reported that there were two bills over \$500.

1. \$8,019.00 – LSA Associates for model update
2. \$1,000 – MTPA conference registrations

Mr. Mann made a motion to approve the bills over \$500, Ms. Jamnick supported and the motion passed.

6. Report on WATS Activities

Ms. Blackmore stated that a meeting has been set up with the three railroads later in the month of June to discuss the needs of the proposed service. She added that Mr. Palombo would provide more information during his report.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the WALLY Technical Steering Committee chose RL Banks for the North South Rail Validation study. The consulting team held community meetings and for kick off meetings with the Technical Steering Committee on May 1 and 2 . Three progress reports from the consultant have been received. A draft station report and preliminary cost estimates of capital and operating costs have been provided to Senator Stabenow and Representatives Dingell and Rogers. Final presentations to the two counties will be scheduled in the next few weeks.

Mr. Buck reported that the 2008 Asset Management Data collection will gather pavement surface rating data for 50% of the federal aid system in early July. He stated that staff is working with the Act 51 agencies to ensure everyone is compliant with the Act 51 reporting requirements as soon as possible.

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS recently completed a review of the Sylvan Township Comprehensive Plan. WATS staff has also reviewed and provide comments on an amendment to the City of Ann Arbor Downtown Plan.

Ms. Blackmore reported Ms. Burleigh is working on the last week of May and first week of June crashes and waiting on April and May corrections. She added that WATS is following up with the possibility of electronic crash reporting with the Chief's Association. The Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) has indicated that grant funding is available for the switch to electronic reporting.

Ms. Blackmore reported the model contract is finishing up and the final model will be delivered in July.

Ms. Blackmore reported that a meeting to discuss the future of transit in Washtenaw County including ways to protect transit service in the Eastern portion of the urbanized area was held on May 28th. Additionally, WATS has agreed to complete an analysis of U of M, EMU, WCC and St. Joseph Mercy Health System students and staff to support the development of transit service and to garner support from those agencies

7. Old Business

There was no old business.

8. New Business

A. FY 2008-2009 Administrative Budget - Action

Ms. Blackmore reported that the information presented in the Administrative Budget reflects the work tasks approved in the UWP in March 2008. She noted that the budget proposes no increase in dues for FY 2009. Ms. Blackmore also noted that this year, the agency will be dipping into reserves as budgeted to complete the model update project.

Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the FY 2008-2009 Administrative Budget. Ms. Boyd supported and the motion passed.

B. Annual Meeting

1. Meeting day and time

Ms. Blackmore noted that the Policy Committee has met on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 9:30 am for a long time. The current day and time allow adequate staff turnaround time to prepare materials following the Technical Committee meeting.

Ms. Jamnick made a motion to continue to hold meetings on the third Wednesday of the month for FY 2009. Ms. Ping supported and the motion passed.

2. Report from Nominations Committee

Mr. Nacht reported that after considering several options, the Nominations Committee recommends the following slate of officers to serve for FY 2009.

Chair – Gretchen Driskell
Vice-Chair – Ruth Ann Jamnick
Secretary-Treasurer – Pat Kelly

Mr. Moran made a motion to elect the officers as recommended by the Nominations Committee. Ms. Ping supported and the motion passed.

C. Ann Arbor to Detroit Rail - Presentation

Mr. Palombo stated that a short movie illustrating the travel experience along the proposed Ann Arbor to Detroit Rail line has been created. The Committee watched the movie which discussed each proposed rail stop along the line as well as the commuting experience. The movie is currently available on the SEMCOG website.

9. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Anglin had nothing to report.

B. AATA

Mr. Nacht stated that the AATA strategic meeting went well. He added that Jesse Bernstein had been appointed to the AATA board which Mr. Nacht cited as a fantastic appointment given his business background. Mr. Nacht stated that exactly what an expanded AATA service area might look like has yet to be determined but that the conversation has been initiated by the AATA board and senior staff. He added that there is also a movement for the agency to become more cost effective.

C. Ann Arbor Township

Mr. Moran reported that the Township is incorporating comments on a redraft of their General Development Plan. He stated that there are several large proposed developments in the Township including a 280 unit senior assisted living facility at Geddes and Dixboro as well as an additional 440 employees at the KLB Corporate building near Plymouth, Earhart and US-23.

Mr. Moran reported that Ann Arbor Township has entered into an agreement with Northfield Township, which it shares Joy Road with to advance the funds to maintain the road and have Northfield Township pay back a share of the cost over the next five years.

D. City of Chelsea

Ms. Feeney reported that the Chelsea road construction projects will begin next week.

E. Dexter Village

Mr. Carson reported that the Dexter Village construction projects are all progressing.

F. Dexter Township

Ms. Kelly reported that she had received surprisingly few complaints regarding the Dexter Main Street bridge construction project.

G. Planning Advisory Board

Ms. Blackmore reported that the PAB will be reviewing the Ann Arbor Downtown Plan. She also noted that MSU Extension is holding training sessions on new Planning legislation.

H. Eastern Michigan University

A representative was not present.

I. FHWA

A representative was not present.

J. Northfield Township

Ms. Wilson had nothing to report.

K. Pittsfield Township

Mr. Walter cited a 2002 Township Plan which called for roads to be improved in a more complete fashion, with amenities for both pedestrians and transit ridership. He stated how difficult it is for communities to try to retrofit rural road cross sections as areas urbanize.

L. MDOT Planning

Ms. Boyd stated that FY 2009 is the last year under SAFETEA-LU. She reported that MDOT is working on revenue forecasts for upcoming Long Range Plans. She also reported that EPA continues to lower Air Quality standards which can make conformity analysis difficult. Ms. Boyd also reported that the spring TIP amendment was approved on June 9th

M. MDOT Region/TSC

Mr. Lott distributed copies of the 2008 Paving the Way maps which show major MDOT construction projects for the year. He also mentioned that the new Grass Lake rest area is open.

Mr. Bower reported that all the major MDOT work in Washtenaw County has commenced. He fielded questions regarding a recent Sylvan Township resolution calling for changes to the curve at Kalmbach Road. He stated that MDOT is evaluating the facts and looking at crash statistics as well as reevaluating geometrics to try and determine possible courses of action. Ms. Kelly asked that MDOT consider some advance warning signs for the curve.

N. City of Saline

A representative was not present.

O. SWWCOG

Mr. Mann reported that the SWWCOG joint planning commission is working on the transportation component of its plan. He added that a wireless Washtenaw tower is up and operational in Manchester Township. Manchester Township is looking at increasing setbacks on US-12 in case an expansion of US-12 occurs in the future.

Ms. Andrewes added that the M-52 project may have more delays because of concerns by the State Historic Preservation Office.

P. SEMCOG

Mr. Palombo invited all to next Thursday's General Assembly at The Henry Ford. He added that the federal corrections bill on SAFETEA-LU is finally out and that there are several changes, including one to the Pittsfield Township Greenway.

Mr. Palombo also stated that there is a series of new bills proposed by Senator Gilbert related to transportation. One in particular recommends that cities and villages receiving less than \$250,000 per year in MTF funding would not receive that money and that it would be provided to the Road Commission with no provision for the maintenance of the city or village roads.

Q. Scio Township

Ms. King reported that the Jackson Road Phase III project was progressing and that a meeting to discuss transit service with People's Express has been scheduled.

R. Superior Township

A representative was not present.

S. University of Michigan

A representative was not present.

T. County Board of Commissioners

Ms. Ping reported that the County Court and Jail Building has been finalized. She stated that the board will only accept applications from local contractors in an effort to boost the local economy. The RFP for the Saline Court project has also been finalized. Ms. Ping noted that Wireless Washtenaw is moving forward and that the County is committed to making it work.

U. WCRC

Mr. Puuri reported on some of the current and upcoming Road Commission and permit projects. The Toyota improvements in York Township are on schedule as are the two intersection projects on Geddes at Leforge and Superior. The Holmes Road project is having utility work performed which is also the case with the Jackson Road Phase III boulevard project. The dam at the Main Street Bridge in Dexter is being removed and the water level lowered in one foot increments. Mr. Puuri also reported that the WCRC is in the process of becoming ISO 9001 certified for best management practices.

V. Ypsilanti Township

Ms. Jamnick reported that the Township tabled action on the annual agreement with the Road Commission because they need further information.

W. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Nickels had nothing to report.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 A.M.