

W
A
T
S



WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

705 NORTH ZEEB ROAD 2ND FLOOR
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48103-1560
PHONE: (734) 994-3127 FAX: (734) 994-3129
WEBSITE: WWW.MIWATS.ORG
E-MAIL: WATS@MIWATS.ORG

MINUTES OF MEETING

POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: September 16, 2009

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

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

Members Present: Village of Dexter – Jim Carson, Chair
Dexter Township/WCPAB – Pat Kelly, Vice-Chair
City of Ann Arbor – Carsten Hohnke, Secretary-Treasurer
WCRC- Doug Fuller
City of Chelsea – Ann Feeny
Pittsfield Township – Mandy Grewal
AATA – Jesse Bernstein
Ann Arbor Township – Mike Moran
University of Michigan – Hank Baier
MDOT Statewide Planning – Pam Boyd
Northfield Township – Deb Mozurkewich
WCBC– Wes Prater
City of Saline – Gretchen Driskell
Scio Township – Nancy Hedberg
City of Ypsilanti – Bill Nickels
Superior Township – Bill McFarlane

Members Absent: SWWCOG – Ron Mann
Ypsilanti Township – Brenda Stumbo
EMU – John Donegan

Others Present: WATS – Terri Blackmore, Ryan Buck, Eric Bombery, Nick Sapkiewicz
MDOT – Kari Martin, Paul Lott, Mark Geib
FHWA – Chris Dingman
WCRC – Steve Puuri
Resident – Bob Binkowski

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 Carson called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. He asked those present to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Prater made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Fuller supported and the agenda was approved.

3. Public Participation

Mr. Bob Binkowski expressed frustration over being required to pay for a portion of a local special assessment district to pave the roads. He stated he understands the financial constraints facing transportation but that something must be done so that an undue burden does not fall on an individual. Mr. Binkowski also expressed frustration regarding the quality of the snow plowing in cul-de-sacs.

Mr. Larry Krieg of "Wake Up Washtenaw" provided written comments that were read at the meeting by Mr. Buck. Mr. Krieg's comments are attached to the copy of the meeting minutes in the WATS office.

4. Approval of the August 19, 2009 Policy Committee Minutes

Mr. Bernstein made a motion to approve the August 19, 2009 Policy Committee minutes. Mr. Prater supported.

Mr. Fuller stated that the minutes stated the Road Commission did not have comments when in fact written comments were provided. These comments will be added to the minutes.

The minutes were approved as amended.

5. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore reported that a rescission of some federal funds is scheduled to take place unless congress acts to rescind the rescission. At stake is \$256 Million in Enhancement, STP, Bridge, CMAQ, Rail, Safety, TEDF-D and metropolitan planning (PL) funds.

Ms. Blackmore also reported WATS received a letter from the University of Michigan Economic Development Administration Community Economic Adjustment Program which provided contact information for the new Project Manager, Tracy Swinburn.

6. Approval of Bills over \$500

Ms. Blackmore reported that there were no bills over \$500.

7. Report on WATS Activities

WATS activities were distributed with the meeting packet.

8. Old Business

A. 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan for Washtenaw County - Action

Ms. Blackmore reported that SEMCOG has agreed to incorporate the WATS plan as is, without removing any projects. She added that following WATS Policy Committee approval, the plan will be voted on by SEMCOG Executive Committee and the General Assembly. Ms Blackmore reported that the public has had opportunities to comment on the plan throughout the plan. She noted that the full plan document's 45 day review closed on Monday September 21, with only two comments received. She noted that County Strategic Planning department and Mr. Krieg were the only comments received. She noted that the Technical Committee recommended approval pending no additional comments.

Ms. Boyd stated that several of the projects in the illustrative list of improvements in the appendices of the plan have not been approved by MDOT and do not have funding identified and have not been through MDOT's prioritization process.

Ms. Blackmore pointed out that several MDOT projects in the illustrative list of improvements were from the freeway study MDOT participated in during the 1990's.

Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan for Washtenaw County. Ms. Driskell supported and the motion passed.

2. New Business

A. FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program - Action

Mr. Bombery reported that this was the first opportunity of FY 2010 to amend the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Bombery reported that there were 17 amendments to the TIP, 11 additions and 6 changes. He stated that all additions were transit equipment which had a positive impact on Environmental Justice areas and would be fiscally constrained by SEMCOG and MDOT.

Mr. Fuller made a motion to approve the FY 2008-2011 TIP amendments. Ms. Boyd supported and the motion passed.

B. FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications – Information

Mr. Bombery provided information on four administrative modifications to the TIP. He reminded the Committee that these are small changes such as a minor change in limits, which are performed at the staff level so that projects can move forward.

C. Transit Update- Information

Ms. Blackmore reported that the AATA CEO asked WATS to prepare a document identifying the impact of the county not having transit. The draft brochure was distributed at the beginning of the meeting.

Ms. Driskell asked if this information would be included as part of the Impact meeting on September 29. Mr. Bernstein stated that information could probably be included as part of a presentation at the Impact meeting.

Ms. Grewal asked if Committee members could provide comments to Ms. Blackmore following more time to review. Ms. Blackmore stated that comments were welcome but needed to be sent to her soon by Wednesday September 23 to be incorporated into brochure distributed at the Impact meeting.

3. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Hohnke thanked staff for their work on the Long Range Plan and said he was pleased with the decision to include the WATS plan in its entirety by reference into the SEMCOG plan. He stated that the University and the City are splitting the costs of preliminary planning efforts on the Fuller Intermodal Transfer Station.

B. AATA

Mr. Bernstein reported that many great joint planning activities occurring with the AATA. He added that the Plymouth Road Park and Ride lot construction will start soon. He also reported that the AATA is looking at multiple options for the Blake Transit Center in both the short and longer term.

C. Ann Arbor Township

Mr. Moran reported that WCC is having major parking issues, highlighting the need for high quality transit service in the area.

D. City of Chelsea

Ms. Feeney had nothing to report.

E. Dexter Village

Mr. Carson reported that the Village Road maintenance budget for the year started at \$200,000 but because of favorable prices the program grew to \$600,000. He added that road work should be completed within the next three weeks.

F. Dexter Township

Ms. Kelly had nothing to report.

G. Eastern Michigan University

A representative was not present.

H. FHWA

Mr. Dingman reported that should congress act to rescind the rescission that it would need to do so before the end of the federal fiscal year. He stated that health care seems to be taking up a lot of the legislature's time. He added that SAFETEA-LU is set to expire on September 30th. He stated it is likely to be extended 18 months but whether that occurs in one extension or over multiple extensions is unknown.

I. Northfield Township

Ms. Mozurkewich reported that the Township submitted a TIGER grant to replace the US-23/N. Territorial interchange.

J. Pittsfield Township

Ms. Grewal thanked staff, Ms. Blackmore in particular for assistance with the US-12 TIGER grant application which was submitted Monday. Ms. Grewal also reported that a Platt Road Greenway Dedication is scheduled for November 7th at 10:00am.

K. MDOT Planning

Ms. Boyd reported that some 2010 ARRA projects still need to be certified and reminded the Committee that projects need to be in to Local Agency Programs no later than December 30th to ensure obligation prior to March 2nd. She added that a decision on the TIGER grants by the Office of the Secretary of Transportation is expected in February 2010.

L. MDOT Region/TSC

The MDOT Region/TSC had nothing to report.

M. City of Saline

Ms. Driskell had nothing to report.

N. SWWCOG

A representative was not present.

O. SEMCOG

A representative was not present.

P. Scio Township

Ms. Hedberg reported that the Jackson Road Boulevard Phase III project continues to move forward.

Q. Superior Township

Mr. McFarlane reported his residents appreciated the reduced traffic resulting from the AATA Canton-Ann Arbor subscription bus service.

R. University of Michigan

Mr. Baier reported that the University continues to partner with AATA on subscription service to and from Chelsea and a new service to and from Canton. He added that, while still in the early stages, considerable planning work is underway on the Fuller Intermodal Transfer Station.

S. County Board of Commissioners

Mr. Prater reported that the County Board continues work on the 2010/2011 budget. He stated that a vote on the budget will take place on November 4th. He reported that as of now, the budget is still short by about \$10 million.

Mr. Prater reported that the County may create a land bank authority by the end of the year to help the housing market by acquiring properties that have been abandoned or foreclosed that are reducing the value of the homes in the vicinity.

T. WCRC

Mr. Fuller reported that the Road Commission recently celebrated the rededication of the E. Delhi Bridge. He added that much of the year's work is complete with work on ARRA projects progressing. Mr. Fuller also stated that it appears the State legislature will not act on legislation to increase road funding.

Mr. Puuri reported that the Milan-Oakville road work is underway and should be completed by the end of November. The Plymouth Road Bridge is nearly complete but some work on the approaches remains. The reconstruction of Plymouth Road at Gotfredson is expected to be completed in October. Mr. Puuri stated that the Road Commission has completed or is working on 120 miles of preventive maintenance. He added that the Draft Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is available for the public to review.

U. Ypsilanti Township

A representative was not present.

V. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Nickels had nothing to report.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 A.M.