



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

TECHNICAL ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: April 2, 2008

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: 555 North Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Members Present: City of Saline – Gary Roubal, Chair
University of Michigan – Dave Miller, 1st Vice-Chair
Ypsilanti Township – Dave Nicholson, 2nd Vice-Chair
AATA – Chris White
City of Ann Arbor Engineering – Homayoon Pirooz
City of Chelsea – Christine Linfield
Village of Dexter – Rhett Gronevelt
MDOT Planning – Ola Williams
MDOT Region – Kari Andrewes
Pittsfield Township – Bruce Fowler
City of Ypsilanti DPW – Stan Kirton
Washtenaw County Road Commission Engineering – Roy Townsend
Washtenaw County Planning & Environment – Brett Lenart

Members Absent: City of Ann Arbor Planning – Eli Cooper
Eastern MI University – John Donigan

Others Present: MDOT – Paul Lott
WATS – Terri Blackmore, Eric Bombery, Ryan Buck, Nick Sapkiewicz

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 •

1. Call to Order

Chair Roubal called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

2. Public Participation

Chair Roubal asked if there was anyone from the public who would like to address the Committee. No one from the public wished to address the Committee so public participation time was closed.

3. Approval of the February 6, 2008 Minutes

Mr. Nicholson made a motion to approve the February 6, 2008 minutes. Ms. Linfield supported the motion and the motion passed.

4. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore reported on the Transit Town Hall held on March 24th at Washtenaw Community College. Approximately 80 people attended the meeting.

Ms. Blackmore reported that she and Mr. Bombery met with the Police Chief Harshberger from Ypsilanti. A discussion took place about electronic crash reporting and the issue surrounding CLEMIS, a consortium of law enforcement agencies in southeast Michigan. CLEMIS provides all the software and maintains the computers inside the police cars. CLEMIS has so far refused to support any other software, including crash reporting software, on the computers. Chief Harshberger has strong support for the electronic crash reporting and invited Ms. Blackmore to present on the issue at the Washtenaw county Chief's Meeting on April 9th.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the Drive MI campaign is looking at an increase to the state gas tax in the lame duck session. The BBT is exploring local enabling options to go as part of the Drive MI package of bills. Ms. Blackmore recommended that local agencies refer constituent's complaints to their Representatives, Senators and Governor.

The handouts distributed at the meeting included:

1. Upcoming meetings
2. January Crashes
3. Transportation Profile, for those who have not received one

5. WATS Activities

Ms. Blackmore reported that an update of the Ann Arbor to Detroit rapid transit study was provided at the Transit Town Hall on March 24th.

Ms. Blackmore reported the North – South Rail Coalition received four proposals for the WALLY validation study. The technical Steering committee reviewed the proposals and narrowed the candidates down to two, which follow-up questions have been sent to. A cost sharing proposal has been developed for the validation study where Great Lakes Central RR, SEMCOG, and UM each contribute \$20,000, and Washtenaw and Livingston counties paying 67% and 33% of the remaining balance respectively.

Additionally the Coalition is working towards a two county rail authority with Ms. Blackmore and Shea Charles of the city of Howell serving as co chairs, and the city of Howell as the fiduciary.

Ms. Blackmore reported that Asset Management from 2004 through 2007 is available on the WATS website. The date of the 2008 conference is included in list of upcoming meetings. Planning agencies have been directed by the Asset Management Council to collect only 50% of the federal aid system this year and focus resources on helping local agencies comply with reporting requirements. Noncompliance with reporting requirements could result in MDOT withholding Act 51 dollars.

Ms. Blackmore reported WATS has sent out requests for 2008 HPMS counts.

Ms. Blackmore reported that staff recently completed a review of a City of Ypsilanti Plan amendment, as well as the Salem Township Growth Management Plan Update.

Ms. Blackmore reported that Susan Burleigh is working on the last of the February crashes and is waiting on January and February corrections.

Ms. Blackmore reported the next BBT meeting will be held April 3rd to move forward on sustainable transportation funding. Representative Pam Byrnes supported this effort in a meeting held on March 14th. Steps to gather support will now focus on Speaker Dillon, Senator Bishop and the Governor to make sure the effort will be ready for a lame duck passage. Ms. Blackmore also recommended that to make sure legislators hear from constituents, agencies and communities continue to share complaints they receive with their legislators.

Mr. Buck reported that the WATS model has completed a full run, but that the mode choice structure needs to be finalized. To generate a more accurate mode choice model, more specific survey data should have been gathered. The option to account for new modes will be built into the model, allowing new modes to be included at a later date.

Ms. Blackmore reported the Transit Plan for Washtenaw County has been put into a graphically enhanced version and a final review has been completed.

6. Old Business

A. 2006 Transportation Profile

Ms. Blackmore reported that the 2006 Transportation Profile has been completed and distributed. Mr. Bombery offered additional copies for those who had not yet received one. This is the first Transportation Profile produced since 1998.

7. New Business

A. 2007 Crash Report

Mr. Bombery reported that a draft 2007 Crash Report is available. The document includes analysis of 7,231 reports, representing 72% of the total crashes reported in Washtenaw County. The report

now also includes bike and pedestrian crashes. It was asked that the committee review the report and make any comments by April 23rd. Mr. White noted an error with the graph on page 3, and Mr. Roubal asked the value of the included crash rates. Mr. Bombery explained the value of crash rates over the just crash frequency and that the rates would be used in developing the upcoming Long Range Plan.

B. STPU Amendment

Mr. Bombery explained that the Ypsilanti project on Lowell from FY 2006 was obligated with \$206,000 of STPU in FY 2006 and \$113,000 of STPU in FY 2009 through Jobs Today. However, it was not reflected that way in the STPU program. Since Ypsilanti has been paid Jobs Today funds the STPU program must be adjusted to reflect the FY 2009 AC payback so Ypsilanti can keep its Jobs Today funds. To accomplish this Ypsilanti must replace one of its FY 2009 projects with the AC payback of Lowell.

A motion was made by Mr. White to approve the amendments, and was seconded by Mr. Kirton. The motion passed.

8. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Pirooz reported that the contractor has been selected for the 2008 Ann Arbor street resurfacing program. Work will be commencing in May and concluding in August.

Mr. Pirooz reported that the Nixon Road roundabout project which was to begin this summer will likely be postponed until 2009 as CMAQ funds will not be available until October of 2008.

Mr. Pirooz reported that the W. Stadium from Pauline to Seventh project is under design and is projected to begin in 2008 and conclude in 2009. The project is also being coordinated with a closure of one lane of north bound traffic on Main between Stadium and Pauline due to UM construction on the football stadium.

B. AATA

Mr. White reported that proposed changes to the AATA schedule can be found on the AATA website. The proposed changes add service in some areas while reductions occur in other areas. The changes are balances and improve service efficiency.

Mr. White also reported the routes and schedule for Chelsea commuter service are available on the AATA website. Service will begin May 15 with monthly tickets likely to be available at \$125.

C. City of Chelsea

Ms. Linfield had nothing to report.

D. Village of Dexter

Mr. Gronevelt reported the Ann Arbor Dexter Rd project is in the April letting.

E. Eastern Michigan University

Mr. Donegan was not present.

F. FHWA

Mr. Dingman had nothing to report.

E. Pittsfield Township

Mr. Fowler reported an opening for a planning intern.

F. MDOT Planning, TSC and Region

Mr. Williams reported MDOT planning is working with FHWA on the TIP amendment.

Ms. Andrewes reported that MDOT work has begun on M-14 and I-94 work will begin in June. Ramp closures for sign replacements are not known at this time, but will likely involve on and off ramps be closed during off-peak hours.

Ms. Andrews also reported that there will be a US-23 multi-modal workshop at Green Oak Township Hall on April 22.

Mr. Lott reported that the Washtenaw Access Management contract has ended. A final plan will be compiled and sent to committee members.

G. City of Saline

Mr. Roubal reported that two projects for 2008 are in design, Maple from US-12 to the library and Mills from US-12 to Hollywood.

H. SEMCOG

Mr. Tumidanski was not present

I. U of M

Mr. Miller reported that the University has launched ride matching software to help match carpoolers. Preference in pricing and parking availability will be given to carpoolers by UM and Ann Arbor DDA.

J. WCPE

Mr. Lenart reported that an amendment to the Washtenaw County Master Plan was approved by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Lenart reported the Ways and Means Committee would be reviewing a county budget memo at their April 2nd meeting. The memo is available on the Washtenaw County website.

Washtenaw County Planning has provided assistance to Chelsea for CAPT/DART grant application.

Washtenaw County is also building out a GIS analysis tool which will help predict development patterns, and assist in related planning initiatives.

K. WCRC

Mr. Townsend reported the projects at Geddes and LeForge have commenced. The Dexter Main St Bridge project will be starting in April, Jackson Rd project will begin in April, and E. Delhi project will start in November.

Mr. Townsend reported the Road Commission is looking to re-stripe Ford Blvd back to four lanes.

L. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Kirton reported that Karen Hart is no longer with the City of Ypsilanti.

M. Ypsilanti Township

Mr. Nicholson reported that engineering had been completed for the Holmes Rd project and that construction will begin in April. Ypsilanti Township has received board approval for Merritt road project with private funding from Pulte Homes.

Mr. Nicholson reported Whittaker/Stony Creek roundabout project has been postponed until ADA arrangements have been reached for cross walks.

N. City of Milan

The city of Milan has nearly completed its 5 year Capital Improvement Plan.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30.