



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: September 3, 2008

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: 705 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Members Present: University of Michigan – Dave Miller, Chair
 AATA – Chris White
 City of Ann Arbor Engineering – Homayoon Pirooz
 City of Ann Arbor Planning – Eli Cooper, 2nd Vice-Chair
 Village of Dexter – Rhett Gronevelt
 Eastern Michigan University – Dieter Otto
 MDOT Planning – Ola Williams
 Pittsfield Township – Bruce Fowler
 Washtenaw County Planning & Environment – Brett Lenart
 Washtenaw County Road Commission Engineering – Roy Townsend
 City of Ypsilanti DPW – Stan Kirton
 MDOT – Kari Andrewes

Members Absent: Ypsilanti Township – Dave Nicholson, 1st Vice-Chair
 City of Saline – Gary Roubal
 FHWA – Chris Dingman
 City of Chelsea – Christine Linfield
 SEMCOG – Jeff Tumidanski

Others Present: City of Milan – Dan Bishop
 MDOT – Paul Lott
 MDOT Passenger Transportation – Janet Holoweiko, Erica Busick
 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 Miller called the meeting to order at 9:34 am and asked those present to introduce themselves.

2. Public Participation

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

3. Approval of the April 6, 2008 Minutes

Mr. Pirooz made a motion to approve the April 6, 2008 minutes. Mr. Townsend supported the motion and the minutes were approved.

4. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore reported TIP amendments are due by Friday September 5 at noon for the fall amendment. Jobs Today paybacks and earmarks must be submitted this year. This year may also have a large rescission so funding may be very tight and the projects are funded on a first come first serve basis so get in your projects in early.

Handouts at place:

1. Upcoming meetings
2. Important Legislation
3. PowerPoint on WATS Blog
4. July Crashes
5. STPU and STPR/TEDF-D project ranking sheets

5. WATS Activities

Ms. Blackmore reported that the WALLY Coalition meeting was held on August 25th at the Northfield Twp Public Safety building. The Coalition is still interested in moving the project forward. The final report is available on the WALLY website at www.ewashtenaw.org/wally.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the 2008 asset management data has been collected and will be posted to the website soon. Previous year's data including tables, charts and maps are available on the Agency's website. WATS has begun providing the Asset Management data to communities for inclusion in their Master Plan updates.

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS has sent out the requests for 2008 HPMS counts and has begun to receive counts. Due to a fire at an Ann Arbor City storage facility and the age of the counters, there is a need to replace the County's traffic counters. An STP Urban projects for new counters is included in the proposed program.

Ms. Blackmore reported that staff has reviewed an amendment to the City of Ypsilanti Master Plan and assisted with drafting a Transportation Chapter for the Joint Manchester Planning Commission Plan. Staff is also currently reviewing the Ann Arbor Township Master Plan update.

Ms. Blackmore reported that Susan Burleigh is currently working on August crashes and July and August corrections. It is not looking as though the County law enforcement agencies will be applying for an electronic submission grant. Clemis has submitted a grant application but it is unclear if it would be awarded as the application's funding request is quite high. A decision will need to be made on whether to continue the WATS correction program. All other programs like the one at WATS in the state have ceased. Mr. Bombery reported that the MSP have started to correct the intersecting streets in the crash data files and we are hopeful they will continue to correct easily identified mistakes by officers such as a head on crash with both cars traveling in the same direction.

Mr. Buck reported that the model was complete and delivered to WATS on August 26th. The model has been run several times and the results look good. He noted that he has begun running the model to identify congestion. For the 2035 plan development, Ms. Blackmore reported that the project cost funding will enter in current dollars throughout the plan and SEMCOG will adjust the costs for the region for year of construction as required by FHWA.

Ms. Blackmore reported that the final Transit Plan for Washtenaw County has been presented at several of the regional planning groups. This is primarily an education effort to help the communities understand the recommendations of the plan. The Plan will be presented at the Ann Arbor Township Board meeting on September 15.

Ms. Blackmore reported that meetings are being held at the Ypsilanti Chamber with the DDA's cities and other interested parties to discuss the future of transit in Washtenaw County, which is exploring ways to protect the transit in the eastern portion of the county. WATS completed an analysis of the origin of staff and students for EMU, UM, WCC and St Joseph Mercy Hospital. The next meeting will likely include the new EMU President.

Ms. Blackmore reported that as part of the implementation of the County wide Transit Plan, WATS has been collecting data on other authorities funding, organizational laws and board make up. WATS also worked with AATA to apply for federal funding for a general public survey and education campaign.

Ms. Blackmore reported that another effort is underway on the development of a statewide transit vision. A draft that outlines the need and benefits of a statewide system and what the system would look like has been completed. An executive summary, press releases and a PowerPoint are completed.

Ms. Blackmore reported that an individual has been hired to develop and manage a mobility management function for the entire county. This effort will be funded by grants and allocations of funds for JARC and New Freedom funds.

6. Old Business

A. 2007 Mode Split Funding

Mr. Buck stated that at the October 17, 2006 Policy Committee meeting, an updated Federal Funding Split Policy with revised funding targets of 80 percent for roads, 10 percent for transit and 10 for non-motorized improvements, was approved with an evaluation to occur in late 2007 or early 2008. In preparation of the evaluation, WATS documented the split of federal funds used for each target category for 2007. WATS contacted Act 51 agencies that expended at least one of the following types of federal funds; STP-U, STP-R, TEDF-D, CMAQ and SAFETY. WATS requested each agency provide information on the total cost, total federal amount spent on each project as well as the portion spent on non-motorized and transit supportive improvements.

Mr. Buck reported that the 2007 Federal Funding Mode Split analysis shows the total Federal amount spent on the 12 projects was \$12,194,121. Of the total, \$1,259,620 or 10.3% was spent on non-motorized improvements and 172,101 or 1.4% was spent on transit supportive improvements. If the cost of non-motorized improvements is split for those projects that occur on transit routes, the non-motorized component is \$1,193,970 or 9.5% and \$237,751 or 1.95% on transit supportive improvements.

Mr. Buck stated that recently the Urban Federal Aid Committee called into question the way the mode split target policy is considered in short term programming such as the STP-U program, highlighting the need for additional discussion by the WATS Committees. Specifically, several items should be addressed including: clarification of the methodology for the collecting , reporting the data and the way the targets are implemented for short range planning activities such as the Urban, Rural and TEDF-D programs What types of improvements should be included as non-motorized or transit projects funds as they relate to the mode split target policy? Should non-motorized improvements along bus routes also be credited as a transit supportive improvement? Should the report include information on dollars obligated, or projects physically constructed and over what time frame - fiscal year or calendar year, how many years?

Mr. Buck stated that WATS staff recommends Technical Committee consider the results of the FY 2007 Federal Funding Mode Split Report and recommend to Policy Committee that the tracking of federal spending continue for FY 2008 with further direction from the Funding Task Force.

Mr. Cooper stated that the Technical Committee already talked about this after the adoption of the Non-Motorized plan and is pleased that funds are being tracked. Mr. Cooper suggested that 10% of STP funds should be set aside specifically for implementation of the Non-Motorized plan. Mr. Cooper stated that in Ann Arbor, multi-modal projects and restriping do not count towards their Non-Motorized set aside. Mr. White indicated that he understood the City policy but the Technical Committee was discussing the WATS policy.

Ms. Blackmore pointed out that paved shoulders are the majority of rural non-motorized projects, if these aren't counted, the rural area could not compete. Mr. Cooper stated that all projects using STP funds should be required to have paved shoulders and that possibly going back out and paving shoulders by themselves could be counted. Ms. Blackmore stated it would likely be cost prohibitive

to get a crew to go out and just pave shoulders. Mr. Cooper suggested that monitoring has occurred and the WATS committees should move onto the next step. Mr. Lott stated that shoulders should be counted as Non-Motorized in the rural area and should be done with road construction.

Mr. Lenart stated that the Committee needs to decide if the 10% target is being met or not. Some non-motorized improvements on existing roads should count but not all, it should probably be decided on a case by case basis. Mr. Lenart supported reconvening the task force.

Mr. Townsend stated that paved shoulders in the rural area are for the safety of all users. Road diets in the urban area also benefit safety and non-motorized just as paved shoulders in the rural area. The WCRC is scaling back to just maintenance so going out to just pave shoulders will not happen.

Mr. Gronevelt stated that projects with multiple uses should be partially counted to each. Mr. Gronevelt was not convinced that all Policy Committee representatives understand all the implications of the designs of roads and requested someone from Technical be there to explain questions that might come up.

Mr. Cooper made a motion to recommend Policy Committee continue to monitor funding and to reconvene the task force. Mr. White supported the motion and the motion passed.

7. New Business

A. STP Urban Program Amendments

Ms. Blackmore stated that the STP Urban program was included in the packet. A project for a pool of counters was added at the federal aid committee due to the fire damaging many of the Ann Arbor counters. The program was extended out through 2013.

Mr. Townsend made a motion to recommend Policy Committee approval of the STP Urban program as amended. Mr. Pirooz supported the motion and the motion passed.

B. STP Rural and TEDF-D Amendments

Ms. Blackmore stated that both the STP Rural and TEDF-D programs are rural and that the program was including in the packet. The funding targets in these programs remain the same in the out years since the federal funding issues don't look good.

Mr. Townsend stated that it is frustrating for the WCRC that Willis is the only actual project in the programs in the out year but this is the reality of the funding situation of the WCRC. Preventive maintenance will be the main work being done in the out years.

Mr. Townsend made a motion to recommend Policy Committee approval the STP Rural and TEDF-D programs as amended. Mr. Kirton supported the motion and the motion passed.

C. 2035 Long Range Plan Blog for Public Involvement

Mr. Buck gave a presentation on a proposed WATS blog on the 2035 Long Range Plan. The presentation is attached to the filed packet in the WATS office.

Mr. White asked what WATS would do with comments submitted on the blog that were actually questions? He also requested staff time to keep track of the time required to maintain the blog. Mr. Pirooz suggested that WATS forward questions specific to a particular agency or community to them to answer the questions. Mr. Buck stated that WATS would answer the questions and is willing to forward specific questions to agencies.

Mr. Lenart stated that WATS needs to take the time to keep the blog up to date with frequent posts to keep interest in the site. Mr. Cooper stated that this kind of interaction with the public is a step forward from typical public interaction and hopes it is successful. Mr. Gronevelt stated to try the blog and see how it goes, there is no harm in trying.

Mr. White made a motion to recommend Policy Committee approve use of the weblog for the 2035 LRP. Mr. Townsend supported the motion and the motion passed.

8. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Cooper passed out a handout on the city's Transportation Plan. The handouts have workshop meeting dates on them and he encouraged everyone to stop by.

Mr. Pirooz reported that Huron River Drive from Bird to Main was opened for the winter and will resume construction next year in the spring. The Newport and Sunset intersection that had been closed was now open and complete. The 2008 resurfacing program was still underway with 5 streets currently being resurfaced and 3 more to be completed yet this year. Mr. Pirooz informed the Committee that there had been a discussion with MDOT about the planned resurfacing on Huron and Jackson on the west side of the City and it went well. The 2009 project on W. Stadium is starting design and a citizens advisory committee was being formed.

B. AATA

Mr. White reported that service changes went into effect last week with a reallocation of buses from underused routes to heavier traffic routes.

C. City of Chelsea

Ms. Linfield was not present.

D. Village of Dexter

Mr. Gronevelt reported that the project on Ann Arbor St will be complete by the end of this week.

E. Eastern Michigan University

Mr. Otto had nothing to report.

F. FHWA

Mr. Dingman was not present.

E. Pittsfield Township

Mr. Fowler had nothing to report. Ms. Blackmore reminded Pittsfield and the WCRC that the earmark for the path on Platt needed to be obligated this year. Mr. Fowler stated that only one more property was the problem and that it had entered the condemnation process.

F. MDOT Planning, TSC and Region

Mr. Williams stated that an MDOT presentation on the current funding situation will be presented soon to the committee.

Ms. Andrewes reported that the Washtenaw County traffic summit will be held at 9:00 am October 21st at the WCRC.

Mr. Lott reported that the left turn restriction on Huron in Ann Arbor will remain through next year. The work on M-14 will be complete in November and Curtis Road Bridge was now open.

G. City of Saline

Mr. Roubal was not present.

H. SEMCOG

Mr. Tumidanski was not present.

I. U of M

Mr. Miller reported that the students were back and the football team had not won yet.

J. WCPE

Mr. Lenart reported that planning was assisting with a survey of riders/users and that they will be distributed at 4 intercept points along the border to border trail.

K. WCRC

Mr. Townsend reported that Jackson has a temporary road that will be used for traffic until one side of the new boulevard is complete. Work will continue on the project with the water main construction through the winter. Holmes from Ford to the west is complete, work will continue from Ford to the east. The Main St Bridge is half complete and will open to 2-way traffic next week. The E. Delhi bridge rehabilitation is underway and the bridge has been moved off the

abutments for the repairs to be made. The intersections on Geddes at Superior and Leforge are complete. The WCRC is trying to get commitments from the school district and township to pave Bemis from Hitchingham to Whittaker. Work on Old State has begun this year at the Walmart site and work on Michigan Avenue will happen next year.

L. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Kirton reported that the paving on the one local project on First Ct and Armstrong is mostly complete and only needs striping.

M. Ypsilanti Township

Mr. Nicholson was not present.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Lenart made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. White supported the motion and the meeting adjourned at 11:10.