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## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

### **TECHNICAL ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE**

DATE: May 6, 2009

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: WCRC Assembly Room, 555 N. Zeeb Rd

Members Present: University of Michigan – Dave Miller, Chair  
City of Ann Arbor Planning – Eli Cooper, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair  
AATA – Chris White  
City of Ann Arbor Engineering – Pat Cawley (for Homayoon Pirooz)  
Village of Dexter – Kristine Kale (for Rhett Gronewelt)  
MDOT Planning – Ola Williams  
Washtenaw County Strategic Planning – Brett Lenart  
Washtenaw County Road Commission Engineering – Roy Townsend  
City of Ypsilanti DPW – Stan Kirton  
MDOT – Paul Lott (for Kari Martin)  
City of Chelsea - Christine Linfield  
Pittsfield Township – Paul Montagno  
Ypsilanti Township – Joe Lawson  
FHWA – Chris Dingman

Members Absent: Eastern Michigan University – Dieter Otto  
City of Saline – Gary Roubal

Others Present: City of Ann Arbor – Dave Dykman  
City of Ann Arbor – Liz Rolla  
MDOT – Larry Dropiewski  
SEMCOG – Jeff Tumidanski  
Washtenaw BOC – Wes Prater  
WBWC – Larry Deck  
WATS – Terri Blackmore, Nick Sapkiewicz, Eric Bombery, Ryan Buck

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#### **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 9:30 am and asked those present to introduce themselves.

2. Public Participation

Chair Miller asked if anyone from the public would like to address the Committee. No one present wished to address the Committee at that time.

3. Approval of the April 1, 2009 Minutes

Chair Miller made a correction to the Thompson street project in the minutes. The project will begin in May rather than April.

Mr. Townsend made a motion to approve the April 1, 2009 Technical Committee minutes as amended. Mr. Lenart supported the motion and the minutes were approved as presented.

4. Communications and Announcements

Ms. Blackmore reported that WATS changed the rural transit bus purchase from stimulus to regular funds. The change protects the funding which will be received by the WCRC.

Ms. Blackmore reported that SEMCOG chose a lump sum funding option that does not allow STP funds to be used with ARRA funds. Representatives from WCRC, Ann Arbor, and Ypsilanti City met May 5 to adjust the STP-U and ARRA programs to allow obligation of funding.

Handouts at place:

1. Upcoming meetings
2. SEMCOG – Ann Arbor to Detroit rail Update
3. ARRA and ARRA Discretionary funding timeline for non-transit projects
4. Town Hall on Transportation Funding flyer
5. 2035 Public Meetings flyer
6. Revised TIP projects

5. WATS Activities

Ms. Blackmore reported the AATA held a WALLY meeting on April 27 to introduce the consultants managing WALLY public image.

Ms. Blackmore announced WATS would be holding a meeting for communities interested in participating in the group traffic counter purchase. Participating communities will have to provide the local match for counters.

Ms. Blackmore reported WATS has been working with the OHSP and a consultant. There will likely be a Washtenaw County traffic safety summit in the fall to review analysis and plan for safety improvements.

Ms. Blackmore reported on the 2035 Long Range Plan: WATS distributed the financial forecasts and 2030 Plan improvements to agencies n April 17. Proposed 2035 Plan improvements were due back to WATS by May 1. WATS has scheduled and plans to hold public involvement meetings throughout June and July. 2035 Plan projects will be available for comment on the WATS blog with a map.

Ms. Blackmore reported the final Transit was presented April 14 at the Lyndon Twp Board meeting. A Transit Plan presentation has also been scheduled for York Twp May 12. The Transit Plan has been endorsed by the Ypsilanti Depot Town DDA.

Ms. Blackmore reported implementation of the Transit Plan has involved WATS managing the Transit Team for the Ann Arbor Regions of success effort. WATS has also continued working with the former county board chair to meet with County leaders to advance the Transit Plan

Ms. Blackmore reported the Mobility Manager is anticipating hiring call takers within two weeks.

6. Old Business

There was no old business.

7. New Business

A. 2010 Congestion Mitigation / Air Quality (CMAQ) Priority

Mr. Bombery reported that the SEMCOG region will likely remain in non-attainment for fine particulate matter, though the EPA is currently re-designating the SEMCOG region as an attainment area for ozone. WATS, SEMCOG and MDOT will be prioritizing projects for 2010 CMAQ funding, programming approximately \$17.4 million throughout the SEMCOG Region. SEMCOG divides funding evenly between transit and non-motorized projects.

Mr. Bombery reported WATS issued a call on February 2, 2009 for FY2010 projects using CMAQ funding. Projects were due back to WATS by March 6, 2009.

Mr. Bombery reported WATS received three non-transit projects from the City of Ann Arbor and the WCRC, and two transit proposals from the AATA. The projects were prioritized using a combined weight of emission reduction cost per ton of Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) and NO<sub>x</sub>. Mr. Bombery explained that the projects were provided in a spreadsheet with cost benefit ration information to aid in the prioritization process. Mr. Bombery also explained that the City of Ann Arbor removed one of their projects just prior to the May Technical Committee meeting which was changed to receive stimulus funds.

Mr. Bombery explained that after the Technical Committee's action on the CMAQ prioritization, WATS staff would bring the recommendation the Policy Committee for their approval. The Policy Committees' recommendation would then be sent to SEMCOG by May 21 for consideration in the Region's joint project selection. SEMCOG and MDOT then award the top prioritized in the region. The remaining projects are then prioritized for further selection based on remaining funding.

Mr. White made a motion to approve the CMAQ prioritization with an amendment to move the Policy Committee approval schedule up by one or two months for an expedited approval. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion and the motion passed.

B. FY 2008 – 2011 Transportation Improvement Program FY 2009 3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment

Mr. Bombery reported the third call for amendments to the FY 2008 – 2009 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) was issued on April 1, 2009. A total of 46 project amendments were submitted by Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, City of Ann Arbor, Village of Dexter, MDOT, People's Express, Washtenaw County Road Commission, and the Western Washtenaw Area Value Express. Of the project amendments, 31 were additions, 3 were changes and 12 were deletions.

Mr. Bombery reported the cost of the 31 new projects to be \$19,715,000 and that the federal portion of 51% is about \$9,967,000, the state portion of 1% is about \$178,000 and the local portion of 48% is about \$9,570,000. Mr. Bombery explained that projects using funding sources including: federal transit funds, ARRA (Stimulus), Build Michigan, CMAQ, and STP safety are not fiscally constrained by WATS. Mr. Bombery also explained that one of the projects adds \$78,000 in STP rural federal funding which uses rural funds from deleted and administratively amended funding reductions from other projects. Three projects add \$2,023,000 in STP urban federal funding from projects that are now receiving ARRA funding.

Mr. Bombery reported that three of the new projects could impact the Environmental Justice (EJ) protected populations. None of the projects will have a negative impact.

Mr. Bombery reported SEMCOG's environmental mitigation analysis of the amended projects, which were attached in a spreadsheet, and that agencies interested which projects may need further review should contact the WATS office.

Mr. Cawley asked to have the Ann Arbor non-motorized project removed. Mr. Williams noted an incorrect funding code for an AATA project. Mr. White made a motion to approve the amendments as amended. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion and the motion passed.

C. FY 2008 – 2011 TIP Amendments

Mr. Bombery reported that WATS completes administrative amendments as needed to the FY 2008 – 2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Bombery explained that administrative amendments are small changes that might include a change in project limits, or a small change in cost that do not require Committee approval. A list of the 33 administrative amendments was provided.

8. Agency Reports

A. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Cooper reported that the Ann Arbor City Council unanimously approved the Ann Arbor Transportation Plan. Mr. Cooper reported there would be a meeting on May 7 to discuss non-motorized enhancements including: restriping of roadway to include 10 new miles of bike lanes, and increase awareness of non-motorized traffic by adding new signage. Mr. Cooper reported that the Ann Arbor connection feasibility discussion has been tabled.

Mr. Cawley reported that construction has begun on the roundabout at Huron Parkway at Nixon, with Nixon closed. The project is expected to be completed July 31. Mr. Cawley reported that Huron River Drive is closed to construction and will be completed July 31. Mr. Cawley reported that the Stadium at Pauline project is underway and that the annual local street resurfacing program is underway. Mr. Cawley also reported that the City of Ann Arbor has applied for Local Bridge funds for the Stadium bridges over State and the Ann Arbor Railroad.

B. AATA

Mr. White reported that the AATA board is in negotiations with the candidate for Executive Director and expect a June hire. Mr. White reported that AATA buses will stop going into Arborland to pick up riders beginning July 1 as the management company representing the mall owner stated there are too many commuter vehicles staying in Arborland parking. Mr. White also reported that AATA has taken delivery of 7 new hybrid buses, bring the total number of hybrids in the AATA fleet to 27.

C. City of Chelsea

Ms. Linfield was not present.

D. Village of Dexter

Ms. Kale had nothing to report.

E. Eastern Michigan University

Mr. Otto was not present.

F. FHWA

Mr. Dingman reported that an update on discretionary stimulus funding would be released soon, possibly within the next week.

E. Pittsfield Township

Mr. Montagno reported that Pittsfield Twp hired a consultant to evaluate the Pittsfield parks master plan and the path and non-motorized plan. Mr. Montagno also reported that the Platt Rd greenway is on schedule for a June letting and July/August construction.

F. MDOT Planning, TSC and Region

Mr. Lott provided MDOT 2009 construction maps. Mr. Lott reported MDOT will be pulling TIP projects for review prior to submitting for final review and ARRA certification.

Mr. Dropiewski reported that Washtenaw Ave Patching would be completed by August 21. Mr. Dropiewski also reported that US 12 north and south of State St near Walmart would include temporary widening for traffic shift. The Northfield Church rest area at US 23 is scheduled to be let this Fiscal Year

G. City of Saline

Mr. Roubal was not present.

H. SEMCOG

Mr. Tumidanski reported on upcoming SEMCOG Universities including: May 12 at Schoolcraft College on grants, June 9 Webinar on SEMCOG data, and July 23 on detention basins.

I. U of M

Mr. Miller reported had nothing to report.

J. WCSP

Mr. Lenart reported on the upcoming Evolving Washtenaw Ave. Talent Center presentation. Mr. Lenart also reported that the County document on historic bridge preservation would be completed soon.

K. WCRC

Mr. Townsend reported that the WCRC has begun pouring concrete on the Jackson Blvd project. The Dexter Main St bridge project will be finished in June. Mr. Townsend explained the water level of the Huron River must go down before work can continue on the E Delhi Bridge. Mr. Townsend also reported the Hewitt, Milan-Oakville and Plymouth Rd bridge projects will begin in June. The Plymouth at Gottfredson project will begin in July and a Preventive Maintenance start date is being determined.

L. City of Ypsilanti

Mr. Kirton reported that curb cuts on S Mansfield have begun and that N Mansfield work would begin in one week. Mr. Kirton also reported that the Leforge bridge project would begin in June

M. Ypsilanti Township

Mr. Lawson had nothing to report.

N. WCBOC

Mr. Prater reported that all Ypsilanti Twp millage renewal issues on the recent ballot passed

8. Adjournment

Mr. Townsend made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kirton seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 10:44.