

**Washtenaw County  
Unified Planning Work Program  
FY 2014-2015**

**July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015**

**Washtenaw Area Transportation Study  
Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority**

Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS)  
705 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103-1560  
(734) 994-3127 Fax (734) 994-3129  
Email: [buckr@miwats.org](mailto:buckr@miwats.org)  
Website: [www.miwats.org](http://www.miwats.org)  
Blog: [miwats.blogspot.com](http://miwats.blogspot.com)

Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (AAATA (THE RIDE))  
2700 South Industrial Highway  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 973-6500 Fax (734) 973-6338  
Email: [cwhite@theride.org](mailto:cwhite@theride.org)  
[www.theride.org](http://www.theride.org)

**Policy Committee**

**Chair:**

**James Carson, Village of Dexter**

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**Leigh Greden, Eastern Michigan University**

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**Washtenaw County Road Commission**

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**City of Ypsilanti**

**Brenda Stumbo**

**Ypsilanti Township**

**Ex officio Non-voting Members:**

**Andy Pickard**

**Federal Highway Administration**

**Carmine Palombo**

**Southeast Michigan Council of Governments**

**Staff:**

**Ryan Buck**

**Director**

**Eric Bombery**

**Senior Transportation Planner**

**Nick Sapkiewicz**

**Transportation Planner**

**Mark Ferrall**

**Associate Transportation Planner**



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[www.movingyouforward.org](http://www.movingyouforward.org)

*The WATS UPWP represents a portion of the Southeast Michigan Metropolitan Planning Organization's Work Program for transportation planning. The entirety of the Work Program for Southeast Michigan is available on the SEMCOG website at <http://www.semco.org/PublicNotices.aspx>*

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## **Background**

For more than forty years, the federally mandated "continuing, coordinated and comprehensive" (3C) urban transportation planning process in Washtenaw County has occurred at two levels. The Washtenaw Area Transportation Study Committee (WATS), is primarily responsible for conducting transportation planning and maintaining the federal eligibility of communities and transportation providers within Washtenaw County.

The Washtenaw Area Transportation Study's membership covers approximately half of the County's townships; the Cities of Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Milan, Saline, and Ypsilanti; the Villages of Dexter and Manchester, the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority and the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University in addition to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners and the Washtenaw County Road Commission, and Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority.

Local participation in WATS began in 1965. In 1974, WATS reorganized as an inter-municipal committee under Act 200 of the Michigan Public Acts of 1957. All voting member units and agencies of government approved common resolutions of support to accomplish the reorganization. Three Memorandums of Understanding including a Pass-Through of Funds Agreement exist between WATS and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG). As a result, the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study functions as an independent sub-study within SEMCOG's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

WATS focuses on a holistic approach to transportation planning. This includes integrating transportation and land use planning while engaging a diverse group of members, stakeholders and the public.



## 2013 WATS Accomplishments

In 2013, transportation planning and implementation agencies in Washtenaw County were active in working to implement solutions to resolve the issues discussed in SEMCOG's regional prospectus through active engagement with regional partners. The WATS Policy Committee adopted the 2040 Long Range Plan and the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. Staff emphasized the importance of public involvement, utilizing innovating online engagement tools and pulling together 18 local transportation initiatives in one place to streamline the involvement process for interested residents. Staff began work on a countywide land development assessment and assisted local communities in obligating as many local projects as allowable.

Throughout the course of each fiscal year, WATS produces and updates numerous plans and publications and updates the data included and analyzed within them. WATS periodically provides updates on the status of individual work program items and tasks and can provide answers to any questions regarding work program tasks, or products upon request. For an update on the progress of any items in the UPWP email the WATS office at [wats@miwats.org](mailto:wats@miwats.org)

Examples of the WATS products developed or updated as part of the FY 2014-2015 UPWP include:

- 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan and plan amendments
- FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program, amendments, and administrative modifications
- Federal Compliance documentation related to Title VI
- Annual list of Obligated Projects
- Travel Demand Model assumptions and documentation
- Annual Crash Report
- Motorized and non-motorized traffic counts
- Toyota Crash Data Collection program final report
- CMAQ project prioritization
- Local Plan reviews for the City of Ann Arbor and City of Ypsilanti
- Individual Community Asset Management (pavement condition) report.
- Updated Urban and Rural Federal Aid Programs

WATS also maintains information related to completed transportation improvements. For a list of improvements in 2013 visit [www.miwats.org](http://www.miwats.org), email the WATS office at [wats@miwats.org](mailto:wats@miwats.org) or call 734-994-3127

# Summary of Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority Past Year Accomplishments

During FY 2013, accomplished major activities including:

## Plan Monitoring

- Routine monitoring of service conducted.
- Monthly and quarterly reports of ridership, on-time performance, vehicles, and service quality.
- Year-end operating and financial reports compiled including the National Transit Database, state operating assistance report, and audit report.
- Publication of searchable annual service and performance data on the AAATA website.
- Development of techniques to compile and organize boarding data from fareboxes.
- Service monitoring of new service, AirRide airport shuttle, implemented in April 2012.

## Plan Development and Detailing

- Completion of the Transit Master Plan. Urban Core plan development continues into FY 2014.
- Beginning of an alternatives analysis study of high-capacity transit (Connector Study).
- Participation in the development of local and regional plans including the development of a bike share program in Ann Arbor, and continuing plans for transit corridor on Washtenaw Ave.
- Development of an expanded vanpool program in coordination with University of Michigan.
- Transfer of Mobility Management program internally to reduce costs and increase oversight.
- Investigation of park-and-ride opportunities along Washtenaw Avenue.
- Development of purchase of service contracts.
- Development of updated 5-year capital and categorical grant program.

## Plan Implementation

- Development of 2014 operating budget
- Development and implementation of plan to deal with upcoming road construction on routes.
- Development of plans to continue to improve safety, comfort, and accessibility at bus stops.
- Development of alternatives for AAATA to expand operation of the vanpool program.
- Development of alternatives for airport shuttle service and consultation various parties.

## Program Administration

- Development of unified planning work program for FY 2014.
- Development of FY 2011 – 2014 TIP amendments.
- Development of programming and documentation for FY 2014 application to MDOT.
- Data compilation for annual National Transit Database (NTD) report.
- Development of JARC and New Freedom applications.
- Development of CMAQ documentation for submission to SEMCOG.
- Updated route planning, scheduling, ridership, on-time performance, and fare revenue systems.

## II. UNIFIED PLANNING ACTIVITIES

### SUMMARY

The Unified Work Program has been prepared to provide details of the WATS and AAATA (THE RIDE) planning process, work scheduled for the July 1 to June 30 fiscal year, and proposed expenditures by work element. The Program seeks to reflect WATS Committee goals, roles, responsibilities, and available resources. The Program will undergo reevaluation at mid-year, and amendments made if necessary.

The Unified Work Program is presented in five elements that group the types of activities needed to maintain, update, report, implement, and administer the Washtenaw County transportation planning process. This process is in conjunction with the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments' regional planning program. The five major elements and their general content are as follows:

1. Plan Monitoring: These activities are concerned with the regular collection, maintenance, and analysis of area wide planning related data. Using established data files and accepted data collection procedures, land use, transportation, employment, demographic and environmental indicators, WATS monitors their influence on the area wide transportation planning process. WATS structures the monitoring work tasks to facilitate their use in the development and periodic reappraisal of comprehensive plan elements and plan implementation activities. WATS coordinates the tasks to avoid duplication of the monitoring efforts of SEMCOG and local agencies.

2. Plan Development and Detailing: Consistent with policy directives and monitoring activities, WATS details and revises sub-elements of the Washtenaw County Transportation Plan when deemed necessary by the Policy Committee. Updated activities may focus on a specific geographic area, such as a particular transportation corridor, center on a specific aspect of the Plan such as public transportation, non-motorized facilities or land use, or focus on policy development or refinement.