Washtenaw Community College (WCC) comments before the House Appropriations Sub Committee on Joint Capital Outlay regarding its Advanced Transportation Center Capital Outlay Project

February 12, 2020

- WCC received construction authorization for its proposed Advanced Transportation Center (ATC) on June 21, 2018. Based upon preliminary designs, the State approved a total project cost of $5.7 million, with a college share of $3.7 million and a state share of $2 million.

- Upon construction authorization, WCC completed an updated schematic design of the ATC building and based upon the work of our Architectural firm and the services of a professional third-party cost estimating firm, the cost estimates for the ATC building are now projected at $7.9 million, or a $2.2 million over the original estimates.

- WCC is requesting approval to increase the total cost of the ATC project to $7.9 million, with no increase in the state's $2 million funding support. WCC's $5.9 million share of the project cost will be funded through the issuance of long-term debt.

- Key factors that led to this increase include:
  - An increase in total square footage of 1,107 square feet, as a result of moving to a two-story design to provide better pedestrian and parking access.
  - Raw and fabricated material costs have significantly increased over the past year and are forecasted to continue to increase.
  - Labor costs in Metro Detroit are projected to continue to rise due to the demand for skilled trades resulting from significant construction projects that are underway across the region

- The ATC project is a crucial component of the developing mobility/smart cities industry infrastructure in Michigan. The ATC project will:
  - Create a visionary & innovative facility that is a leader in the autonomous vehicle/mobility/smart cities movement
  - Create a collaborative, yet functional learning environment with six classroom dedicated to cyber security and advanced manufacturing programs aligned with the mobility/smart cities industry
  - Will be a place to showcase the innovation in mobility and smart cities technologies and related cyber security initiatives
  - Support WCC's work to help build the talent pipeline for the mobility/smart cities industry

- Upon receiving State approval for this project at the requested $7.9 million total cost, WCC is ready to immediately proceed with design submittal to DTMB and estimate that the ATC building will be open for the Winter 2022 semester

- WCC very much appreciates the Committees ongoing support for this project and look forward to supporting the growing mobility/smart cities industry workforce