

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

February 5, 2009

8:30 a.m.

Kent County Building
Commissioners Chambers

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chairman Jim Buck.

Members Present:

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Jerry Alkema | Allendale Township |
| Alex Arends | Alpine Township |
| Dale Bergman | Sparta Township |
| Jim Buck | City of Grandville |
| Dick Bulkowski | Kent County |
| Mike DeVries | Grand Rapids Township |
| Brian Donovan | City of East Grand Rapids |
| Tom Fehsenfeld | At-Large Member |
| Cindy Fox | Cascade Township |
| Doyle Hayes | At-Large Member |
| John Helmholdt | City of Grand Rapids |
| Don Hilton, Sr. | Gaines Township |
| Denny Hoemke | Algoma Township |
| Jim Holtrop | Ottawa County |
| Jim LaPeer | Cannon Township |
| Mick McGraw | At-large Member |
| George Meek | Plainfield Township |
| Jim Miedema | Jamestown Township |
| Roger Morgan | Kent County |
| David Pasquale | City of Lowell |
| Steven Patrick | City of Coopersville |
| Chuck Porter | Courtland Township |
| Milt Rohwer | City of Grand Rapids |
| Rick Root | City of Kentwood |
| Carol Sheets | City of Wyoming |
| Bill VerHulst | City of Wyoming |

Members Absent:

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|----------------|-----------------------|
| Pat Capek | City of Cedar Springs |
| Daryl Delabbio | Kent County |
| Randy DeBruine | City of Belding |
| Sharon DeLange | Village of Sparta |
| Jason Eppler | City of Ionia |

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|---------------------|------------------------|
| Brian Harrison | Caledonia Township |
| Pauline Luben | City of Hudsonville |
| Elias Lumpkins, Jr. | City of Grand Rapids |
| Robert May | City of Hastings |
| Cy Moore | Treasurer |
| Lon Myers | Village of Middleville |
| Audrey Nevins | Byron Township |
| Deborah Nier | City of Wayland |
| Ken Snow | City of Greenville |
| Al Vanderberg | Ottawa County |
| Rob VerHeulen | City of Walker |
| Michael Young | City of Rockford |

Others Present:

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| Andy Bowman | Grand Valley Metro Council |
| David Czurak | Grand Rapids Business Journal |
| Abed Itani | Grand Valley Metro Council |
| Gayle McCrath | Grand Valley Metro Council |
| Don Stypula | Grand Valley Metro Council |
| Don Tubbs | City of Hastings |
| Peter Varga | The Rapid |

2. Public Comment

None

3. Oath of Office

Kent County Clerk Mary Hollinrake administered the Oath of Office to Dick Bulkowski of Kent County, Alex Arends of Alpine Township, and Jerry Alkema of Allendale Township.

Jim Buck welcomed the new members to the Council

4. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the January 2009, GVMC Board Meeting.
MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.**

5. Transportation Department

Amendments to 2008-2011 TIP

Abed Itani explained the proposed amendments to the 2008-2011 TIP.

- KCRC is requesting to change the phasing of their 4 Mile Road project currently located in FY2010 and 2011. The project will now be implemented in two phases instead of three. Phase one (FY2010) will begin at Old Orchard Drive and end at Baumhoff Avenue with a new total cost of \$2,000,000. The second phase (FY2011) will continue at Baumhoff Avenue and end at Peach Ridge Avenue with a new total cost of \$2,000,000. The total project cost will be \$4,000,000.
- Staff is requesting to amend the FY2009 TIP to de-obligate the Congestion Management System (CMS) project (\$61,388 Federal) and to delete this line item from the TIP. Staff is also requesting to move a City of East Grand Rapids FY2008 project; Breton Avenue from Lake to Hall; Advance Construction Conversion to FY2009 (approximately \$61,000 Federal).
- Staff is also requesting an amendment of the FY2009 UWP.
- The City of Lowell is requesting to amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY2009 adding a Federal Safe Routes to School program project to the TIP. The project (construct a 10' wide path) is located on Gee Drive from Creekside Park to Alden Nash. The grant total is \$269,700.

MOTION – To Approve the Proposed 2008-2011 TIP Amendments. MOVE – Morgan. SUPPORT – Donovan. MOTION CARRIED.

Amendments to the 2009 Unified Work Program

The FY2009 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC) includes the budget for all federally assisted transportation planning activities that the GVMC Transportation Division, the Interurban Transit Partnership (ITP) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), will undertake. Any changes in the federal funding amounts under work items in the UWP warrant a UWP amendment and approval by the GVMC Board. Staff is requesting an amendment of the FY2009 UWP to delete the Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding amount of \$75,000 under “Work Item 4.2” Congestion Management System (CMS). This action is needed to maintain financial constraints in the FY2009 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ozone Action! Program, “4.1”- Pavement Management System (PMS), and “4.2”- Congestion Management System (CMS).

Staff is also requesting the amendment of the FY2009 UWP, to reflect federal STP and Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) Program, previously obligated unspent funds from FY2008 under work items “1.3”- Geographic Information System (GIS), “3.3”- Staff is requesting to amend “Work Item 1.3” for the amount of \$178,480, “Work Item 3.3” by the amount of \$133,585, “Work Item 4.1” by the amount of \$194,359, and “Work Item 4.2” by the amount of \$150,830. The annual expenditures of the GVMC Transportation Department

for FY2009 will not increase due to the FY2008 previously obligated unspent funds. In order for GVMC to retain these funds the FY2009 UPWP needs to be amended.

MOTION – To Approve the Amendments to the FY 2009 UPWP. MOVE – MEEK. SUPPORT – Donovan. MOTION CARRIED.

Request to Authorize GVMC Policy Committee to Grant Final Approval to TIP Amendments Governing “Federal Economic Stimulus Projects”

Abed Itani explained the request to authorize the GVMC Policy Committee to grant final approval to the TIP Amendment regarding the list of projects included in the Federal Stimulus Package. This would be temporary authority and only pertain to the list of projects for the Federal Stimulus Package. It is necessary because of the short time frames involved in approving the list and the more extensive and lengthy GVMC MPO approval process.

Tom Fehsenfeld asked if the ability to authorize the amendment is within the GVMC Bylaws. Has anyone checked?

Don Stypula stated yes it is. We could also take these to the Tech and Executive Committees, but to our knowledge, we wouldn't be breaking the Bylaws.

Abed Itani stated GVMC has done this in the past and other MPOs have done this. The Feds approve of it.

Carol Sheets said if this authority is approved, a complete list of the projects should be included in the next GVMC Board package.

Don Hilton emphasized all members of the MPO have a seat at the Policy Committee and will be giving their input at that time.

Mike DeVries stated the process requires projects that will be shovel ready within 90 days and we will have trouble making that window if we do not grant this authority. After that, we will need to supply projects which will be shovel ready within 180 days. We will work to create a list for progressive readiness.

Abed Itani said the authority requested is only for the first phase of the stimulus package, within 120 days of signing the bill.

Peter Varga stated that 180 days might be a more appropriate time line.

Abed Itani said he wanted to assure members that our TIP programs are not pork. We initially received 123 projects for the list and then learned we had to go through the Federal Aid process. This dropped the projects down from \$157 million to \$25 million. There is zero pork in our list.

Don Hilton stated we want to make sure we have the ability to capture all of the funds we can and not restrict ourselves by too short of a timeline. Since this approval is only for the first phase of the Federal Stimulus Package and nothing else, we should just say that and take the number of days designated out of the motion.

MOTION – To Authorize GVMC Policy Committee to Give Final Approval for the TIP Amendments in the First Phase of the Federal Economic Stimulus Package. MOTION – Hilton. SUPPORT – Sheets. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Legislative Advocacy

Rick Root stated at the last meeting of the Legislative Committee we gave Don Stypula orders to organize a field trip to Lansing.

Don Stypula stated he has looked at several options for holding events in Lansing. He has worked with Senators Jansen and Hardiman. The MML room is booked for the spring. The House Mackinaw room is literally scheduled out years in advance. The third option is in the Capital itself. It is a great venue for one-on-one discussions with our legislators. It is not conducive for presentations. You should schedule time with your legislators in their offices and I will help you with that. We will gather on Wednesday morning to discuss this further. I will have solid recommendations at that time.

I have reviewed the Governor's State of the State address and budgets will have significant cuts. It appears the legislature will address PA 7&8 as well as 312 and the Metropolitan Councils Act, which should be helpful to us.

I feel the Federal Stimulus package has gotten out of hand and counties, cities and townships are being painted in a bad light. Other organizations have put together lists of projects they are seeking funding for which are embarrassing.

Tom Fehsenfeld stated he felt GVMC should provide leadership in notifying members of funding opportunities and how they can tap into them.

Jim Holtrop asked about legislation concerning 2011 tax implementation.

Don Stypula stated it was being addressed under the Stimulus Package. The House is looking to delay implementation while the Senate is trying to eliminate it.

7. Other

Don Stypula stated GVMC has agreement on the layout for the new office location and it should be moving A.S.A.P. We should have a draft lease to you at next month's meeting.

8. Adjourn – 9:50

MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.