

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

November 4, 2010

8:30 a.m.

Wyoming City Council Chambers

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

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

Members Present:

Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Tom Butcher	Grand Valley State University
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Jim LaPeer	Cannon Township
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Robert May	City of Hastings
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Phil Van Noord	Village of Middleville
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming
Roger Wills	City of Belding

Members Absent:

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Dick Bulkowski	Kent County
Chris Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta

Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
John Helmholdt	At-Large
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Sandi Frost Parrish	Kent County
David Pasquale	City of Lowell
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Toby VanEss	Tallmadge Township
Chris Yonker	City of Wayland
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Others Present:

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Tubbs	City of Hastings
Steve Warren	Kent County Road Commission

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the October GVMC Board Meeting. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – Poll. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Strategic Initiatives

- 1) **Managing Emerging Issues:** An on-going service program to help GVMC-member counties and communities develop awareness and knowledge of and properly manage emerging public administration and public policy issues that affect county and municipal operations and service delivery.

- a. Monitor issues and activities throughout the region, state and nation and identify issues that impact county and local governments
- b. Identify and research problem-solving ideas and preferred practices that will help GVMC-member counties and communities effectively manage challenges and policy issues
- c. Work with GVMC members to develop new ordinances, policies and procedures that enable our counties and local governments to effectively manage emerging issues
- d. Assist GVMC members in obtaining additional background information on key issues that impact county and local governments
- e. Develop a web-based information portal where members can track and obtain additional background and information on emerging policy issues

Assigned staff and resources:

Lead(s): Don Stypula and Andy Bowman.

Assistance: All GVMC staff to monitor emerging issues in all disciplines with the assistance of MPA graduate-level interns. GVMC Systems Administrator to develop and maintain data and communications portal.

Timeframe: In progress. Working with School of Public and Non-Profit Administration at GVSU to provide graduate-level interns, working under the supervision of GVMC staff, to track issues, and develop and maintain the web-based information portal.

- 2) **Encouraging Collaborative Service Sharing:** Develop region-wide initiatives to encourage collaborative service and cost sharing models and assist sub-regional neighbors and the counties in identifying, analyzing and developing cost and service-sharing agreements for the delivery of public services.
 - a. Facilitate discussions among GVMC-member counties and communities to encourage the development of cost and service-sharing agreements
 - b. Work with the State of Michigan and the local government associations to identify and pursue service and cost-sharing opportunities for county and local governments.
 - c. Work on an on-going basis to identify existing service / cost-sharing initiatives and work with potential partners and project funders to encourage counties and local units to explore, in detail, service-sharing arrangements.
 - d. Partner with the School of Public and Non-Profit Administration at Grand Valley State University to provide MPA-candidate interns and other assistance to county and local governments seeking to develop service and cost sharing agreements.
 - e. Develop and maintain an on-line source of data and information on collaborative service and cost sharing models that can be accessed by GVMC members.
 - f. Assist GVMC members in obtaining additional information on and moving forward with the development of service and cost sharing agreements.

Assigned staff and resources:

Lead(s): Don Stypula and Andy Bowman.

Assistance: GVSU MPA graduate volunteer working with MPA graduate-level interns. Assistance from GVMC Network Administrator

Timeframe: In progress. Three months to identify existing service / cost-sharing initiatives and work with potential partners and project funders. Staff will explore additional opportunities to coordinate service and cost-sharing discussions and seek local funding opportunities to assist participating communities and counties.

- 3) **Coordinating a Region-Wide Training Exchange for GVMC Members:** Develop a region-wide initiative to share the costs of providing education and training programs on a wide-range of topics for elected officials, administrators and staff.
 - a. Identify and inventory available training activities available from all sources across the region, including training opportunities offered by MML, MTA and MAC.
 - b. Work with a sponsoring county, local unit of government, or institution of higher education to publicize training events, coordinate scheduling for multiple units, and assist with registration
 - c. Work with sponsoring agencies to explore cost sharing opportunities that will lower registration costs for participants
 - d. Develop and maintain an online calendar of training opportunities available to GVMC members.

Assigned staff and resources:

Lead(s): Don Stypula and Andy Bowman.

Assistance: All GVMC staff to monitor emerging issues in all disciplines with the assistance of MPA graduate-level interns. GVMC Systems Administrator to develop and maintain data and communications portal.

Timeframe: 4 months to develop details and work out the technical aspects.

- 4) **Nurturing a Regional Economic Development Partnership:** Galvanize and grow Metro Council's existing partnerships with the area Chambers of Commerce, the Right Place, Inc., Lakeshore Advantage, the Ottawa County Economic Development Office, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and other organizations to communicate a unified, public-private voice on economic development issues and opportunities.
 - a. Work expeditiously through the GVMC Regional Cooperation Committee to finalize the Regional Economic Development "Welcome Mat" paper – a statement of principles on how communities in the region can work collaboratively with economic development agencies to embrace investors interested in expanding existing businesses and developing new business ventures within the GVMC region.
 - b. Work with the Regional Cooperation Committee to develop region-wide "preferred practices" with respect to the granting of Act 198 tax abatements
 - c. Work with partners to sponsor periodic workshops on economic development trends, issues and practices for GVMC members.

- d. Monitor the crafting of legislation, rules and regulations affecting local and regional economic development and advocate for legal tools that enhance local economic development opportunities.

Assigned staff and resources:

Lead: Don Stypula

Assistance: Executives and staff from The Right Place, Inc., and other economic development agencies and Chambers of Commerce, together with the MEDC or its successor agency. GVMC Systems Administrator to develop and maintain data and communications portal.

Timeframe: In progress. Schedule a meeting of the Regional Cooperation Committee to update draft of the economic development Welcome Mat; November to finalize statement of principles and tax incentives policy.

- 5) **Planning for Sustainable Communities:** Encourage, promote and directly assist GVMC-member communities in sustainable growth practices through updated master plans, capital improvement plans, and other development tools and regulations. This includes facilitation and direct involvement in regional and multi-jurisdictional planning efforts to encourage sustainable growth and infrastructure investment. Activities include:
 - a. Continually monitoring state and national trends in community planning and working with local planners and planning commissions to incorporate relevant planning innovations.
 - b. Collaborating with local planners on the use of updated tools, techniques and procedures that encourage sustainable development and redevelopment.
 - c. Working to coordinate sustainability plans, standards and practices across numerous regional planning entities, including the development and rollout of a protocol and template for updating individual community master plans.
 - d. Collaborating with existing sustainability groups to identify and pursue grant funding to assist local communities and the region in adopting sustainability elements into local plans.
 - e. Developing metropolitan partnerships supporting and guiding regional sustainability efforts, including consortia similar to that recently proposed in a GVMC-based U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Sustainability Planning Grant.

Assigned staff and resources:

Lead: Jay Hoekstra

Assistance: Andy Bowman and Transportation Department staff to meld trends in both land use and transportation planning. GVMC Systems Administrator to develop and maintain data and communications portal.

Timeframe: In progress.

- 6) **Retooling GVMC's Governance, Structure and Operations:** Empanel a Task Force consisting of GVMC members to review and recommend changes to GVMC's organizational structure and develop an operational model for Metro Council that improves efficiency and addresses members' needs.

Assigned staff and resources:

Lead(s): Don Stypula, Andy Bowman and Gayle McCrath.

Oversight: Chairman James Buck and the GVMC Executive Committee

Assistance: MPA and MNPA graduate-level interns. GVMC Systems Administrator to assist as needed.

Timeframe: 2 months for staff to scope out the charge, develop a recommendation and begin the work of the task force. The Task force shall its work and forward recommendations to the executive committee and the Metro Council by June 30, 2011.

George Heartwell noted under 5C – GVSU and the City of Grand Rapids worked together to form a framework which is highly adaptable and the City would offer it up for a template others could use.

5. Legislative Advocacy

Don Stypula reviewed the presentation given by Mitch Bean to Snyder’s transition team. There will be a lot of challenges. First on the agenda will be restructuring of the business tax.

There is a possibility transportation legislation could move during the lame duck session

6. Transportation Amendment to the FY2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Abed Itani explained the requested transportation amendment. Due to several changes being requested by several jurisdictions to the yet to be approved FY2011-2014 TIP, staff is requesting approval of the following:

FY2011

- Delete Hall Street from Kalamazoo to Eastern – City of Grand Rapids.
- Delete Eastern Avenue from 52nd to 60th (former ACC Project) – City of Kentwood.
- Delete GVMC’s “Planning Studies” (Pavement Management System, Congestion Management System, GIS Maintenance).
- Add a new project Fulton Street from the Grand River to Division. The cost breakdown is \$260,085 Federal, \$89,915 local and \$350,000 total. This project will be pending public involvement, EJ and consultation.
- Change the limits on Hall Street from Madison to Eastern to Madison to Union and reduce the cost.
- Move 28th Street Kraft to I-96 ramps from FY2014 to FY2011 – KCRC.
- The remaining STP Urban Federal funds; redistribute to all projects. This will increase the Federal percentage to 74.31%.

- Add Burton Street at Conrail Railroad (BHT Federal fund source) Bridge grant – City of Grand Rapids.
- Add Alger Street at C&O Railroad and Market Avenue at Conrail Bridge for guardrail upgrades (Safety Project Grant) – City of Grand Rapids.
- Add 68th Avenue from Fillmore Street to M-45 (EDDF Funded) – OCRC.
- Hope Network would like to add the attached capital project requests utilizing 5310 funds.
- American Red Cross would also like to add the attached capital project requests utilizing 5310 funds.
- ITP The Rapid has several changes to the FY2011 – 2014 TIP. An updated list of projects is attached to the agenda.
- The City of Lowell in conjunction with Lowell Charter Township, Vergennes Township and the Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA) was awarded Enhancement funding for a non-motorized trail at a total cost of \$1,065,000. This project needs to be listed in the TIP to be funded.
- Staff is recommending adding the (GVMC approved) FY2011 CMAQ program to the FY2011 – 2014 TIP. The FY2011 CMAQ program is in the final stages of approval at MDOT and is pending approval at FHWA.
- MDOT requests several changes to the FY2011-2014 TIP.

FY2012

- Delete 17 Mile Road US-131 Ramps to West Street – KCRC.
- Move East Paris Avenue from Cascade to Kentwood City Limit from FY2014 to FY2012 - KCRC.
- Add 6th Street Bridge over the Grand River (MCS State fund source) to FY2012 – City of Grand Rapids.
- Add 68th Street over Plaster Creek (BHT Federal fund source) Bridge grant – KCRC.

FY2014

- Add a total of \$630,000 Federal (ACC) Division Avenue 54th to 60th project from the two projects that moved up in the TIP – City of Kentwood. There is still \$396,479 Federal Advance Construction Conversion in FY2015.

MOTION – To Amend the FY2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as Presented. MOVE - Heartwell. SUPPORT – Meek. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Adjournment – 9:40

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