

**GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL  
Board Meeting**

April 1, 2004  
8:30 a.m.  
Kent County Building

MINUTES

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Jim Buck.

**Members Present**

Jim Beelen	Allendale Township
Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
Cindy Heinbeck	Alpine Township
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Dennis Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jerry Homminga	Cedar Springs
Ron Howell	Village of Middleville
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Robert May	City of Hastings
Mick McGraw	At-Large Member
James McIntyre	Courtland Township
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
David Morren	Kent County
Deborah Nier	City of Wayland
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Bonnie Shupe	Cannon Township
Larry Silvernail	Byron Township
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Ted Vonk	Kent County
Bill Wiersma	Tallmadge Township
Michael Young	City of Rockford

**Members Absent**

Cindy Bartman	City of East Grand Rapids
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George Bosanic  
Evelyn Champney  
Bev Drake  
Dave Groenleer  
Bryan Gruesbeck  
Bryan Harrison  
Jim Holtvluwer  
Mark Knudsen  
Pauline Luben  
Sandy Frost Parrish  
Bob Rinck  
Tom Wieczorek

City of Greenville  
Village of Sparta  
ACSET Council  
Plainfield Township  
Village of Middleville  
Caledonia Township  
Georgetown Township  
Ottawa County  
City of Hudsonville  
Cascade Township  
Ottawa County  
City of Ionia

**Others Present:**

Brian Berdanier  
Andy Bowman  
Leon Branderhorst  
Jim Fetzer  
Abed Itani  
Gayle McCrath  
Don Stypula  
Peter Varga

Grand Valley Metro Council  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
ITP  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
ITP

**2. Approval of Minutes dated March, 2004**

**MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the March 2004 GVMC Board Meeting.  
MOVE – Kimball. SUPPORT – Patrick . MOTION CARRIED.**

**3. Swearing-In of New Board Members**

Mary Hollinrake, Kent County Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to Deborah Neir of Wayland, Jerry Homminga of Cedar Springs, and Bill Wiersma of Tallmadge Twp.

**4. Financial Report**

Treasurer Cy Moore gave the financial report for the five months ended February 29, 2004. Mr. Moore stated that GVMC is very strong financially. This fiscal year's budget before the rebate will reduce the fund balance by about \$30,000; and after the rebate will reduce it another \$35,000. Financially the organization is in good shape and on budget.

The financial report was accepted into record.

**5. Adjustments to FY 2004 REGIS Budget**

Brian Berdanier explained the request for adjustment to the REGIS budget. The request included a recommended adjustment to fund balance to cover expenditures that have been preplanned over previous budget years or recommended for expenditure by the REGIS

Board.

**6. Motion – To approve the adjustment to the REGIS budget. MOVE – Heinbeck. SUPPORT – Root. MOTION CARRIED.**

**7. Transportation**

**a. Draft Approval of the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan**

The Public Hearing on the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan was opened.

Chris Dingman gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Dingman explained the details of the plan as well as the extensive involvement by the public, and with partners such as ITP and MDOT. This level of ongoing public involvement is fairly groundbreaking for a Long Range Transportation Plan.

George Heartwell asked if the major corridor investment of ITP was on the illustrative list and if it is, how does it work its way into the Long Range Plan?

Mr. Dingman replied that as soon as funding became available, it would move to the plan.

Peter Varga stated that decisions on which projects are on the Long Range Plan are guided by FHWA rules. As such, they must stay on the illustrative list until funding is made available. Mr. Varga also stated that the Metro Council has done an excellent job on the plan, as has Mr. Dingman, especially in involving ITP and MDOT to the extent that they were. Mr. Varga stated he would like to thank the Metro Council and that he fully supported the 2030 plan.

Mr. Heartwell stated he didn't find specific reference to cooperation with other MPOs. He questioned whether there were any barriers.

Mr. Dingman stated that he did not see any barriers. However, federal mandates do not encourage it and there is no incentive or mechanism to do it according to the planning process. He stated there has been some involvement with the US 31 project and that could be continued if directed by the Council.

Don Stypula stated that he has contacted our counterparts in the other area MPOs and will try to get the executive committees of all three together every quarter.

Mr. Heartwell stated that he feels we can't build our way out of congestion, however 14% of the plan is dedicated to enhancement.

Mr. Dingman said he would agree, but the vast majority of the plan is dedicated to supporting the existing system and that 14% is not an unusual amount to have dedicated to enhancement.

Mick McGraw asked about the population and employment forecasts, and how much

the predictions from the locals differed from the final number which was included in the plan.

Mr. Dingman reported that they started with the trend based information received from local experts and compared and adjusted to University of Michigan predictions.

Steven Patrick questioned whether there were any discussions regarding light rail between Grand Rapids, Muskegon and Holland.

Peter Varga stated the current corridor study is within our urban area and covers 8 – 12 miles. Something between those three cities would be a different study. It would have to be initiated by multiple MPOs. Mr. Varga clarified that the current study is not a light rail study, but a multi modal corridor study.

Tom Fehsenfeld stated that the overall structure of the process is great and asked if in the future the staff could bring to the Board a scorecard on where we are at to date on the key objectives.

Mr. Dingman stated that is something that is included in this plan and could certainly be continued in the future.

Mr. Varga commented that ITP – The Rapid is reactive to land use issues; Land use issues does not guide them. He stated work that the Metro Council does in conjunction with land use is very helpful to his organization to help it deal with these issues also.

Chairman Buck asked for any additional questions from the public. There were none.

The public hearing was closed.

**MOTION – To approve the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan. MOVE – Kimball. SUPPORT – Patrick. MOTION CARRIED.**

**b. FY 2004 TIP Amendments**

Daryl Robinson explained the five TIP amendments requested.

The amendments would:

1. Reduce the cost of a para transit vehicle line item and to add FY 2003 carry-over funds to another project.
2. Include a grant request for 5310 funds for FY2005 from Senior Neighbors.
3. Allow for the splitting of a project between the City of Grand Rapids and Wyoming (changing the scope of the project currently listed in the FY 2004 TIP.
4. Carry over funds for the 48<sup>th</sup> Street Project.
5. Include several changes requested by MDOT to maintain financial constraint while developing the next 5 year road and bridge program and the call for projects for FY2009.

The amendment has been approved by the Policy and Tech Committees.

**MOTION – To approve the 2004 TIP Amendments – MOVE – Hilton.  
SUPPORT – Wiersma. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **8. Resolution of Support for Continued Public Transit Funding**

Don Stypula reported the Michigan House of Representatives has recently passed funding for public transit, however, Senator Johnson wants to cut transit funding from MDOT and individual transit systems. He requested the adoption of a resolution in support of continued transit funding.

**MOTION – To Approve the resolution in support of continued transit funding.  
MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – Patrick. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **9. Legislative Update -- Written report to be distributed on April 1, 2004**

Don Stypula gave the legislative update.

He reported that TEA-21 is being debated in the House today, and it is a mess. The President has issued a communication saying he wouldn't accept a bill with any more than \$265 billion over 6 years.

State revenue sharing is in flux. The proposal to eliminate county revenue sharing is dead. But that will put revenue sharing for cities and townships in jeopardy.

The MML has released a study that shows the State's fiscal policy is crippling Michigan's Communities. Mr. Stypula will bring the authors of the study, Plant and Morran, as well as the MML, in on a conference call on at the next Legislative Committee Meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **10. Contract for Housing Market Study (tabled on March 4, 2004)**

**MOTION – To remove the Contract for Housing Market Study from the table.  
MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – Kimball. MOTION CARRIED.**

Don Stypula reported he has asked three members of the HBA to serve on a committee to review the product that comes out of this study to ensure the product is useful to them and their concerns are heard. The individuals are Mick McGraw, David Bos, and Ted Bosgraph.

Rob VerHeulen questioned whether these people have been consulted with.

Mick McGraw stated he has talked to Andy Bowman. He said the study needs to include how many people are interested in buying a home in general as a baseline. This would be a good time to let an independent party take a look at our data regarding population growth to see if they concur. The study will be beneficial, but it may need to be broadened in some areas and narrowed in others.

Andy Bowman stated that he has talked to the others and they are excited about the opportunity. He added that this is a unique study. It is not a garden variety housing study. The scope is not meant to do everything. However it could be broadened to some extent to give it more credibility.

Dave Morren thanked everyone for their work and the issue. He knows and approves of the individuals and supports the action.

Denny Hoemke questioned whether this was supposed to specifically study the town/center type of development which is encouraged by the Blueprint to determine its viability.

Mr. Bowman answered yes.

Bonnie Shupe stated Cannon Township is interviewing the same firm to do the same type of study for Cannon. It sounds like there could be some duplication of services here.

Mr. Bowman stated they should talk about that.

**MOTION – To approve entering into a contract for the Housing Market Study.  
MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – Heartwell. MOTION CARRIED.**

## **11. Other**

Chairman Buck reviewed the March 19, Strategic Planning Session and encouraged everyone to attend the May 21, session at Grand Rapids Township.

## **12. Public Comment**

None

## **13. Adjournment**

**MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Heinbeck. SUPPORT - VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.**