

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

June 2, 2011

8:30 a.m.

Kent County Commission Chambers

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

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

Members Present:

Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Chris Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Rebecca Fleury	Village of Middleville
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
Carol Hennessey	Kent County
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Jim LaPeer	Cannon Township
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
David Pasquale	City of Lowell
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Jim Saalfeld	Kent County
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming
Roger Wills	City of Belding

Members Absent:

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Tom Butcher	Grand Valley State University
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township

Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
John Helmholdt	At-Large
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Robert May	City of Hastings
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Martin Super	Village of Sparta
Toby VanEss	Tallmadge Township
Patrick Waterman	City of Hudsonville
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
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Brian Pouget	The Rapid / ITP
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Conrad Venema	The Rapid / ITP

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the May 2011 GVMC Board Meeting with Correction. MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – VerHulst. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Transportation

a. Presentation of the Draft Findings and Recommendations of the Kent County Transit Needs Assessment Study

In 2008, the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, in cooperation with ITP/The Rapid and Kent County, successfully applied for and received a \$150,000 Service Development New Technology grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation to conduct a transit needs assessment for Kent County. These funds, combined with \$100,000 in supporting funds from

ITP/The Rapid, were used to fund the Kent County Transit Needs Assessment study. The purpose of the Kent County Transit Needs Assessment (KCTNA) is to complete an assessment of the unmet need and demand for transit in Kent County, in particular those parts of Kent County that are not currently served by The Rapid. The information collected as part of this study provides information about the potential expansion of transit service beyond the current scope of existing transit service providers in the county.

Specifically, the KCTNA's primary goals are to:

- a) Examine the current transit use and service provided and identify gaps in service,
- b) Anticipate future transit demand by identifying areas that may need transit to meet demand, and finally
- c) If a latent demand is identified, to identify governance options and financial implications of future public transportation service.

In December, 2009 RLS & Associates, Inc. was selected as the consultant to perform the \$223,685 KCTNA study and in March 2010 work began. Since that time a technical workgroup made up of representatives of several townships, Kent County, MDOT, The Rapid, Hope Network, Disability Advocates, and GVMC has met seven times to assist the consultant with the development of the study.

Four Technical Memorandums have been generated along with a Draft KCTNA Report and are available on the GVMC website (<http://www.gvmc.org/transportation/KCTNA.shtml>):

- Technical Memo #1: Existing transit services, costs, ridership, population demographics
- Technical Memo #2: Latent demand estimation from a 1,000-household and employer surveys
- Technical Memo #3: Potential transit service options
- Technical Memo #4: Alternatives to finance and govern the proposed transit service options.

In June 2010, six public meetings were held to introduce the study and make available preliminary information about existing transit service providers and demographics. At the same time a series of focus groups were coordinated by the consultant with various transit users, nonusers, and caregivers. Now that the study is nearly complete, another series of six public meetings are scheduled May 23-26, 2011 to reveal the results of the study and gather public input on the Draft KCTNA report.

In addition to the public meetings, final presentations of the Draft KCTNA report, including consultant recommendations for new transit service in Kent County, will be presented to the GVMC Board (June 2) and the Kent County Board of Commissioners (June 9). Comments received at these final presentations, combined with notes from presentations to the ITP/The Rapid and Hope Network boards, will be incorporated into a final KCTNA Report, expected late June, 2011.

5. Legislative Advocacy

Legislative Committee Chair Rick Root reported GVMC has sent out the resolution on support of Gov. Snyder's reinvention initiatives, which was well received.

Don Stypula stated a workgroup will be meeting at the GVMC offices today on the replacement of the Personal Property tax. GVMC is also hosting discussion groups on infrastructure financing and expects to report to the Governor's staff in the fall. Curtis Holt has been working with Senator Jansen on intergovernmental cooperation.

6. Adjournment – 9:45 a.m.

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