

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

August 5, 2010

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 Vice Chairman Don Hilton

Members Present:

Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Chris Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Jim LaPeer	Cannon Township
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Robert May	City of Hastings
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Sandi Frost Parrish	Kent County
David Pasquale	City of Lowell
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Phil Van Noord	Village of Middleville
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming

Members Absent:

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Randy DeBruine	City of Belding
Tom Butcher	Grand Valley State University
Dick Bulkowski	Kent County

Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
John Helmholdt	At-Large
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Toby VanEss	Tallmadge Township
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Chris Yonker	City of Wayland
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Others Present:

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
David Czurak	Grand Rapids Business Journal
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Marsha Small	MDOT
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the July GVMC Board Meeting. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – Holtrop. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Strategic Initiative

Don Stypula explained the progress and process in developing the GVMC strategic initiative.

A sub-committee of the Executive Committee has been meeting to analyze the results of the May 11 membership retreat and the GVMC membership survey to develop a concise list of goals and objectives and a new strategic direction for the Metro Council. The full Executive Committee will review the results of these efforts on August 19 and report to the Metro Council on September 2.

The Executive Committee is exploring five strategic initiatives with goals and objectives that the staff, working with all of you, will pursue in the next few months. These include:

- A thorough examination of Metro Council’s current structure and operational procedures together with development of a plan to reinvigorate the role of GVMC’s sub-regions;
- A renewed emphasis on regional economic development by galvanizing our partnership with the region’s economic development agencies and working with the Right Place, Inc. to finalize GVMC’s Regional Economic Development “Welcome Mat”;
- Developing an on-going initiative to track, analyze and assist GVMC-member counties and communities to better manage emerging public administration, policy and local governance issues;
- Administering a region-wide initiative to encourage and assist sub-regional municipal neighbors and the counties in identifying, analyzing and developing cost and service sharing agreements for the delivery of public services; and
- Developing and administering a region-wide initiative to identify and make available training and education opportunities on a wide-range of topics for elected officials, administrators and staff.

The Executive Committee will meet on August 19 to discuss, prioritize and finalize the list of strategic initiatives, together with goals, objectives and timelines. The GVMC FY 2010-2011 general fund budget will reflect these priorities.

5. Finance – FY 2011 General Fund Budget Projections

Don Stypula updated the Board on the progress in developing the FY 2011 GVMC budget. It will be financially constrained and will reflect the goals and objectives of the strategic plan.

6. Transportation / MPO

a. Amendments to the FY 2008-2011 GVMC Transportation Improvement Program for the Michigan Department of Transportation

- Add approximately \$1.781 Million to the total cost of the M-21 over the Grand River project. The total cost for the new bridge and associated work is approximately \$14.8 Million.
- Add approximately \$450,000 CMAQ funds to the total cost of the US-131 NB & SB Weave and Merge lanes (Leonard St. to Ann St.) project for the preliminary engineering phase. Revised total cost is \$1,100,000.
- Add approximately \$150,000 CMAQ funds to the Signal Interconnect and Optimization project. Revised total cost is \$300,000.
- Add approximately \$1,560,000 to the total cost of the GPA Road-Trunkline CPM.
- Add approximately \$1,872,000 to the total cost of the GPA EPE/PE/ROW.
- Add a new FY2010 project on M-44 from Ramsdell Drive to ECL at a total cost of \$425,000, for preliminary engineering phase.
- Add a new FY2010 alternative energy project on I-96 at M-44/M-37 Interchange at a total cost of \$700,000.
- Add approximately \$784,000 to the total cost of the I-96 over M-11 (28th Street) project.

The MDOT General Program Account EPE/PE/Row item listed had a last minute cost update. Itani noted that there would be an engineering feasibility study as part of the GPA. The FY2011 projects listed in the agenda packet will be amended into the TIP with the first amendment to the 2011-2014 TIP.

In addition to the requested MDOT amendments staff also requested the GVMC Board approve matching FY2011 of the FY2008 – 2011 TIP to FY2011 of the new FY2011 – 2014 TIP.

MOTION – To Approve the Amendments to the FY 2008-2011 GVMC TIP. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – Root. MOTION CARRIED.

b. Presentation and Approval of the GVMC FY 2010-2011 Transportation Department Unified Planning Work Program and Budget

The FY2011 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. The GVMC must submit the UPWP annually to the sponsoring federal agencies, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal Transit Administration, prior to October 1st. It functions as the coordinated budget for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

As per the Policy Committee recommendation, at the June 2010 meeting, a Policy Subcommittee met to review and address the FY2011 UPWP activities, staffing need, and funding levels to meet “bare minimum” federal requirements. After a total of five meetings and a thorough analysis, the Policy Subcommittee approved the FY2011 transportation planning activities proposed by staff, and adopted a new funding model. The proposed funding model structure has two components, a “common planning” activity that benefits all MPO members, and an “operational” activity that is directly related to implementing projects in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The Unified Work Program activities were grouped based on the two components of the new model, and the local match needed was allocated to urban and rural areas accordingly. Road agencies and cities were allocated all “operational” cost since they receive most of the transportation funding directly through listing projects in the LRTP and TIP. Population numbers were used to determine dues per jurisdiction for the “common planning” activities, and lane road miles were used to determine dues for “operational” cost per jurisdiction. In the urban area an exception had to be made for ITP, the GRR airport, and MDOT. ITP and the airport dues were adjusted to compensate for the exception.

The Policy Committee on July 21, 2010 approved the FY2011 UPWP and the new funding model. I included four years of projections based on what I believe the cost and savings would be in the next four years.

MOTION – To Approve the 2010-2011 Transportation Department Unified Planning Work Program and Budget. MOVE – DeVries. SUPPORT – Arends. MOTION CARRIED.

c. Presentation and Approval of the new FY 2011-2014 GVMC Transportation Improvement Program

On February 10th 2010, the Transportation Planning Study Group (TPSG) Committee met and began the process of programming projects for the FY2011-2014 TIP. The result of that programming effort is reflected in the attached proposed FY2011-2014 project list. This list of projects comprises all of the projects recommended (Local, Interurban Transit Partnership (ITP), and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)) by the TPSG Committee for inclusion in the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. Grand Valley Metro Council (GVMC) staff performed an Environmental Justice Review of the FY2011-2014 TIP projects. Staff then generated letters to property owners informing them of possible future transportation improvements in their area and when those improvements should be completed. The final component of the letter informed the property owner that if they had any comments or input they would like to provide on the proposed project that they could contact GVMC staff via mail, email, phone call or attend the GVMC public meeting.

Air Quality analysis has been performed on the entire FY2011-2014 TIP with the analysis showing that the TIP conforms to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) budgets assigned for the Grand Rapids Metro Area for Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC).

GVMC hosted two public meetings to seek comments on the draft of the Fiscal Year 2011 through 2014 Transportation Improvement Program. The first meeting was held on Monday, May, 3, 2010 from 5:00 PM through 7:00 PM at the GVMC Offices. The second meeting was held on Tuesday May 18, 2010 from 5:00 PM through 7:00 at the GVMC Offices. These meetings were open to the public.

GVMC is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Grand Rapids metro area, is responsible for the development of a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which is required by both the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

It is the finding by GVMC that the transportation planning process implemented to develop the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is certified in accordance with the requirements of US Code 23 CFR 450 and SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users) and that the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program is consistent with the Grand Rapids Area 2035 Long Range Plan and conforms to the SIP for air quality.

The current FY2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program remains in effect until the FY2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program is approved by the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Governor, and has been found to conform to the SIP by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

MOTION – To Approve the FY 2011-2014 GVMC TIP. MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – Vanderberg. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Legislative Advocacy
a. Report on July 12 Legislative Candidate Luncheon

Rick Root reported on the July 12 legislative candidate luncheon.

Mike DeVries suggested sending letters of congratulations to the primary winners with a reiteration of GVMC's 5 legislative priorities. The letter should also let the candidates know GVMC and its members are the go to people for information on these subjects.

Don Stypula will draft a letter and get it out to all candidates.

8. Other

9. Adjournment – 9:30

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