



**GRAND VALLEY
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday January 7, 2010 • 8:30 a.m.

Kent County Commission Chambers • Grand Rapids, MI

- 1. Call to Order by Chair**
- 2. Public Comment**
- 3. Approval of Minutes dated December, 2009**
- 4. Finance: FY 2008-2009 Audit Report**
- 5. Transportation: Presentation on the upcoming “Fix on 196” by staff from the Grand Region-Michigan Department of Transportation**
- 6. January 14, 2010 GVMC Regional Cooperation Committee – Focus on Economic Development**
- 7. Legislative Advocacy**
 - a. January 13 Legislative Committee**
 - b. Issues Update**
- 8. Other items of business and comments from GVMC members**
- 9. Adjournment**



Memorandum

To: Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
From: Donald J. Stypula, Executive Director
Date: January 4, 2010
Re: Agenda Items for our January 4, 2010 Board meeting

Attached are the agenda and support documents for our next GVMC Board of Directors meeting, scheduled for **8:30 am Thursday January 4 at the Kent County Commission Chambers in downtown Grand Rapids.**

This month we will focus on the GVMC's FY 2008-2009 financial audit, give you a complete background look at the Spring 2010 "Fix of 196" freeway reconstruction project in downtown Grand Rapids, provide an update on our upcoming GVMC Regional Cooperation Committee meeting focusing on economic development and look ahead to both the state legislative and U.S. congressional sessions in Lansing and Washington.

We'll start by reviewing and accepting the attached minutes from our December 3, 2009 GVMC Board meeting.

GVMC FY 2008-2009 ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT

Within our specified timeframe and within budget, our auditing firm, Vredeveld Haeffner, has completed our FY 2008-2009 financial audit. For your review, I have attached the electronic (portable document file) versions of both the Single Audit Reports and the Financial Statements prepared by Vredeveld Haeffner. Save paper and don't print these. I will have the bound copies of the combined audit documents and spreadsheets ready for you at our meeting on Thursday.

Doug Vredeveld from Vredeveld Haeffner will join us at the meeting to discuss the audit findings and answer your questions.

Proposed Action: Review and accept the GVMC FY 2008-2009 audit report.

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT: PRESENTATION ON THE "FIX ON 196" PROJECT

Starting April 12, the largest transportation system repair project scheduled this year in the Grand Region kicks off when MDOT begins the long-awaited Fix on 196 project on both directions of the I-196 corridor, from the Grand River east to Fuller Avenue in downtown

Grand Rapids. This complete reconstruction of the major east-west freeway will run through November and result in several closures and detours through the surface street network in downtown Grand Rapids. Once the dust has settled in November, the resulting corridor will be a significant upgrade from its current condition.

I have asked staff from the MDOT Grand Region to join us at our meeting on Thursday and provide a detailed overview of the project and the timelines. It will be a great opportunity to ask questions about the upcoming work on this busy section of West Michigan freeway.

JANUARY 14, 2010 GVMC REGIONAL COOPERATION COMMITTEE

Please plan on gathering from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday January 14 at the large conference room down the hall from the GVMC offices at Riverview Center for the next GVMC Regional Cooperation Committee. Right Place, Inc. CEO Birgit Klohs and her staff will be joining us to provide a detailed update on current economic development trends and to unveil and discuss a regional strategy we have been assembling to improve economic development prospects in the GVMC region.

This is a reschedule of a meeting originally set for Friday November 20 that was postponed due to its proximity to the Thanksgiving holidays.

Background

As I have noted to you in the past I have been meeting with Birgit Klohs and her staff at RPI on various strategies to improve our region's attractiveness as a place to develop and expand business opportunities. Twice in the past few years, Birgit and RPI Vice President Rick Chapla have participated in meetings of the GVMC Regional Cooperation Committee to brief us on the latest trends in the competition for jobs and economic growth and to gauge county and local officials' support for efforts to improve our regional approach to economic development.

Together, the staffs of RPI and GVMC have designed a Regional Economic Development Welcome Mat -- a concise list of preferred practices that counties and communities can adopt to make our region of Michigan the most attractive to investors and job creators. As Birgit and her staff travel throughout the country and the world in search of entrepreneurs and investors they would like to tell these prospects that no matter where they decide to locate in West Michigan, they will receive friendly, streamlined "red carpet" treatment from counties and communities that value and appreciate the economic development, investment and jobs.

Please take the time to join us at **2 p.m. Thursday January 14, 2010** at the conference center just down the hall from the GVMC offices to learn the latest about RPI's global efforts to attract investment and jobs and the steps we can take in our counties and home towns to roll out the Welcome Mat! I encourage everyone in the GVMC family -- including your colleagues on boards, councils and commissions -- to attend.

Please RSVP directly to me at stypulad@gvmc.org

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY – JANUARY 13 GVMC LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The Legislative Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. January 13 at the GVMC offices to discuss several issues that may be popping up on the radar screens of decision makers in Lansing and Washington. From Lansing, I will provide an update on a bill to hike “tipping fees” for solid waste going to land fills; proposals to increase transportation funding; and efforts to enact governmental reforms. From Washington, I will have the latest on discussions regarding federal transportation funding and the debate between the two houses of Congress over health insurance reform.

As always, we’re looking forward to seeing you and having a fruitful discussion. If you have any thoughts, comments, questions or suggestions you can reach me anytime on my cell phone at 616-450-5217, in the office at 776-7604, at home at 257-3372 or via email at stypulad@gvmc.org.

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

December 3, 2009

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
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
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
David Pasquale	City of Lowell
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming

Members Absent:

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Dick Bulkowski	Kent County
Randy DeBruine	City of Belding
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
John Helmholdt	City of Grand Rapids
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
Mick McGraw	At-large Member

Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Roger Morgan	Kent County
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Chris Yonker	City of Wayland
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Toby VanEss	Tallmadge Township
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Others Present:

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
TaiWo Jaiyeoba	ITP
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Tubbs	City of Hastings
Phil Van Noord	Village of Middleville

2. Moment of Silence

The Council observed a moment of silence in recognition of the fallen police officers in Tacoma, Washington.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Tribute to Sue Higgins

The Council recognized Sue Higgins, Executive Director of the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council for her many years of service.

5. Presentation by Fire Chiefs on Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System

Fire Chiefs James Car, Kentwood; William Schmidt, Walker; Laura Knapp, Grand Rapids; and David Patterson, Plainfield Twp. Gave a presentation on the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System and asked the Council to endorse the system.

Don Stypula will bring a resolution to the January GVMC Board meeting endorsing the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System and encouraging member communities to consider it.

6. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the November, 2009, GVMC Board Meeting. MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – VerHuelen. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Transportation Amendments

Darrell Robinson described the requested amendments which include the following:

- The Ottawa County Road Commission (OCRC) requested to fund a project on 20th Avenue at Baldwin Street, addition of dedicated left and right turn lanes on 20th Avenue at a cost of \$238,000 Federal utilizing a portion of the surrendered FY2010 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. This project was located in FY2009 and was not obligated before Obligation Authority ran out at the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).
- The City of Grand Rapids requested to fund a project: ITS Traffic signal Communications, Traffic operations center upgrades at a cost of \$150,000 Federal utilizing a portion of the surrendered FY2010 CMAQ funds. This project was located in FY2009 and was not obligated before Obligation Authority ran out at MDOT.
- The Kent County Road Commission (KCRC) requested a project at the intersection of Cascade, Spaulding and Hall Street using CMAQ funds in the amount of \$126,458 Federal using a portion of the surrendered FY2010 CMAQ funds. The KCRC also requested to fund a project on Northland Drive from M-57 to Indian Lakes Road, reconstruct and widen to 3 lanes at a cost of \$2,072,000 Federal utilizing the surrendered FY2010 EDFC funds. Lastly the KCRC has received Conditional Commitment on a STP-Enhancement Project. The project is located in Byron Center on 84th Street. The KCRC is requesting to have this project placed in the FY2008-2011 TIP specifically in FY2010.
- MDOT is requesting to add three trunk line bridge rehabilitation projects to the FY2008 – 2011 TIP specifically for FY2010. The first bridge is on US-131 under 32nd Street, the second is on I-96 over M-11 (28th Street) and the third bridge is on I-96 west bound over C & M railroad. The total estimated for all three bridges is \$2,102,000. MDOT is also requesting an amendment to the MPO TIP to include an AMTRAK Station Relocation project, planned for the GVMC MPO area in FY 2010. This project will include the use of federal funding. Lastly, MDOT is requesting to add General Program Accounts (GPA's) to the FY2008-2011 TIP, specifically FY2010 for local highway safety; state trunk line program development/scoping - \$320,000; and local bridge.
- The City of Lowell is requesting to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP specifically FY2010 to combine the Bowes Road projects and a change in scope of the micro seal portion.

- The City of Walker was awarded an STP-Enhancement project for the construction of 4 miles HMA trail, timber boardwalks and other trail amenities in the amount of \$850,000 Federal and \$850,000 local.

**MOTION – To Approve the Requested Amendments. MOVE – . SUPPORT – .
MOTION CARRIED.**

8. Extension of Contract with Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber, Inc. to Administer GVMC’s Regional Storm Water Phase II Compliance Program.

Don Stypula explained the request to extend the contract with FTCH. Jim Smalligan of FTCH answered questions regarding the contract.

MOTION – To Approve the Extension of the Contract with Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr, & Huber, Inc. to Administer GVMC’s Regional Storm Water Phase II Compliance Program. MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – Hoemke. MOTION CARRIED.

9. Legislative Advocacy

Rick Root explained the Municipal Partnership Act and reported the GVMC Legislative Committee had recommended approval.

MOTION – To Support the Draft of the Municipal Partnership Act. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.

10. Adjourn – 9:40 a.m.

MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – LaPeer. SUPPORT – Holtrop. MOTION CARRIED.

Michigan Department of Transportation

I-196 From the Grand River to the Fuller Ave. interchange

"The Fix on 196"

➤ PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will consist of the reconstruction of the existing concrete pavement in both the eastbound and westbound directions and adding a concrete median barrier between the bounds. Also included is the addition of a third through lane and weave/merge lanes between the interchanges of Ottawa Avenue/Ionia Avenue, Fuller Avenue and College Avenue.

Along with the roadway work, five bridges will be completely replaced during this project: Coit Avenue over I-196, Eastern Avenue over I-196, Diamond Avenue over I-196 and the two bridges that carry I-196 eastbound and westbound over Lafayette Avenue.

Other improvements to be made with this project include but are not limited to the following: corridor safety/geometric upgrades, corridor aesthetics (through partnering with the City of Grand Rapids and Stakeholders/Foundations), Freeway lighting upgrades, drainage upgrades, signal upgrades, freeway signing and pavement marking upgrades.

➤ MAINTAINING TRAFFIC

Stage I - During Stage I of the construction, traffic will be maintained by means of a modified closure of the freeway. This plan will allow local access within the I-196 closure to Fuller Avenue and College Avenue for westbounders, and Ottawa Avenue and College Avenue for eastbound I-196 traffic. The modified closure with local access alternative was selected based on information gathered from several stakeholder and public meetings. Through traffic will be detoured by means of M-6, I-96 and US-131. Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times.

Stage II - During Stage II of the construction, two lanes of through traffic will be allowed on both bounds of I-196 with partial access to Fuller Avenue, College Avenue and Ottawa Avenue.

➤ PROJECT SCHEDULE

➤ Start

- MDOT advertised the project for a September, 18th 2009 Bid
- Pre-stage work completed during the fall of 2009
- Stage work "Construction" begins April, 12th 2010

➤ Completion

- Reconstruction work (Stage I), Open To Traffic, August 2010
- Reconstruction work (Stage II), Substantially Complete, November 2010
- Restoration work, Overall Completion, Summer 2011