



**GRAND VALLEY  
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

**Board Meeting Agenda**

**Thursday October 7, 2010 • 8:30 a.m.  
Kent County Commission Chambers**

- 1. Call to Order by Chair**
- 2. Public Comment**
- 3. Approval of Minutes dated September 2, 2010**
- 4. Request by Jamestown Charter Township to Rejoin the Grand Valley Metro Council**
- 5. GVMC Strategic Initiatives**
  - a. Executive Committee Recommendations**
- 6. Legislative Advocacy – Report of the Legislative Committee**
  - a. GVMC Quarterly Luncheon with Bill Ballenger**
  - b. Issues Update**
- 7. Transportation: Amendments to the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program for the Michigan Department of Transportation**
- 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:** October 4, 2010  
**Re:** Agenda Items for our October 7, 2010 Board meeting

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Attached are the agenda and support documents for our next GVMC Board of Directors meeting, scheduled for **8:30 am Thursday October 7, 2010 at the Kent County Commission Chambers in downtown Grand Rapids.**

This month I am asking you to approve a motion to reinstate Jamestown Charter Township as a full participating member of the Metro Council. I am also bringing for your review, discussion and approval the proposed new GVMC Strategic Initiatives for FY 2011. We will have a preview of the October Quarterly Luncheon, discuss some legislative issues and then ask you to approve the first amendments to the FY 2100-2014 GVMC Transportation Improvement Program.

We'll start by reviewing and accepting the attached minutes from our September 2, 2010 GVMC Board meeting.

### **REINSTATEMENT OF JAMESTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP AS A MEMBER OF THE GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL**

On September 20, the Jamestown Charter Township Board voted 4-3 to rejoin the Grand Valley Metro Council. The majority of members on the township board felt that Metro Council provided valuable services and opportunities for continued collaboration with neighboring communities. They are requesting reinstatement as a full, dues-paying member of the Council.

**Proposed Action: Review and approve the request from Jamestown Charter Township to rejoin the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council.**

### **GVMC STRATEGIC INITIATIVES – RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The GVMC Executive Committee has completed its work to develop a new strategic direction

for the Metro Council and is forwarding for your review and approval a list of six strategic initiatives that the Council will pursue for FY 2011 and beyond. I have attached a briefing memo, together with the list of strategic initiatives – including goals, objectives, deliverables, and timetables – for the GVMC staff to pursue in the coming months.

**Proposed Action: Review and approve the Executive Committee recommendations on strategic initiatives for FY 2011.**

### **LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY – QUARTERLY LUNCHEON WITH BILL BALLENGER**

You will not want to miss the next GVMC Quarterly Luncheon, scheduled for 12 Noon Monday October 11, 2010 at the Prince Conference Center at Calvin College as legendary political pundit Bill Ballenger joins us to share his thoughts and unique perspective on the upcoming November 2 general election and what to expect from the next Governor and the 96<sup>th</sup> Michigan Legislature.

**RSVP 776-7613 or [mccrathg@gvmc.org](mailto:mccrathg@gvmc.org) by close of business October 5, 2010.**

### **LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY – ISSUES UPDATE**

I will bring the latest developments on key issues from Lansing and Washington to our meeting on Thursday.

### **TRANSPORTATION: AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2011-2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is requesting an amendment to the GVMC's FY 2011-14 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The amendment for the FY 2011 General Program Accounts (GPA) will ensure that the new TIP is consistent with the previous action the Metro Council has taken for the FY 2008-11 TIP.

I have attached a memorandum from MDOT Regional Transportation Planner Dennis Kent that outlines the specifics of the proposed TIP amendment.

**Proposed Action: Review and approve amendment to the GVMC FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program.**

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](mailto:stypulad@gvmc.org).

**GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL**

**Board Meeting**

September 2, 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 Chairman Jim Buck

**Members Present:**

Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Dick Bulkowski	Kent County
Chris Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Tom Butcher	Grand Valley State University
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
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
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Jim LaPeer	Cannon Township
Robert May	City of Hastings
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
David Pasquale	City of Lowell
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Phil Van Noord	Village of Middleville
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Roger Wills	City of Belding

**Members Absent:**

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
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Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
John Helmholdt	At-Large
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Sandi Frost Parrish	Kent County
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Toby VanEss	Tallmadge Township
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming
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
Peter Varga	TIP/The Rapid

**2. Oath of Office - Roger Wills**

Kent County Clerk Mary Hollinrake administered the Oath of Office to Roger Wills, Mayor of Belding.

**3. Public Comment**

None

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the August GVMC Board Meeting with Correction. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – Meek. MOTION CARRIED.**

**5. Budget**

Open Public Hearing 8:37.

Don Stypula reported the Transportation budget had been approved at the last GVMC Board meeting. Those figures were plugged into the overall GVMC budget to be approved today. Also to be approved is the REGIS budget.

For the overall GVMC budget there is a net revenue over expenditures, however this includes funding for only 2/3 of a year for the Planning and Strategic Initiatives department. Grants are anticipated to help fund the department, but have not yet been confirmed. There will be no increase in general dues and no increase in salaries for the second year in a row for employees. Within the next month or two the Executive Committee will report on the strategic initiative which is now in draft form. A budget amendment is expected to take into consideration the activities within the plan.

Treasurer Cy Moore stated the Finance committee debated whether or not to adopt a balanced / breakeven or deficit budget. The decision was complicated as the strategic initiatives have not yet been passed. The Finance and Executive committees recommend approval of the proposed budget.

Peter Varga spoke on behalf of The Rapid / ITP and reported the budget includes necessary transit funds for planning and he supports approval of the budget.

Mike DeVries explained the GVMC administrative dues have not changed, but the Transportation dues have.

Don Stypula reported the Transportation Policy committee met intensively to consider a change in Transportation dues based on the needs to maintain mandated services. The Executive committee determined GVMC general dues should not be used as local match to subsidize Transportation funding. The subsidy will be phased out within the next four years.

Abed Itani stated we are trying to make Transportation self sustainable. Previously approximately \$80,000 of general dues were used subsidize transportation each year. The committee looked at several options and changed the methodology.

**MOTION – To Approve the GVMC FY 2010/2011 Budget as Proposed. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Vanderberg. MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION – To Approve the REGIS FY 2010/2011 Budget as Proposed. MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – Eppler. MOTION CARRIED.**

Close Public Hearing 9:05

## **6. Strategic Initiative**

Don Stypula explained the Executive committee is continuing to discuss the strategic initiative based on the input from the GVMC retreat at the Gaines Township Hall and the membership survey. The Executive Committee meets on the 16<sup>th</sup> and hopefully will come to a conclusion.

On September 20 there will be a State of Michigan Shared Public Services Initiative meeting at the Grand Rapids Township Hall at 1:00. Please send RSVPs to Don directly. We will be partnering with Region 8 on this.

**7. Legislative Advocacy**

Rick Root reported the Legislative committee has reviewed the GVMC priorities and added unfunded mandates to the list. We will be very vigilant in getting our priorities to the candidates. A number of meetings will be scheduled with legislative candidates as well as with candidates for Governor.

**8. Quarterly Luncheon**

Don Stypula reported the October 11 Quarterly Luncheon will be held at the Prince Center and will feature a report on the City of Greenville.

**9. Report from Nominating Committee**

Al Vanderberg reported the Nominating Committee recommended the following as members of the Executive Committee:

Jim Buck, Don Hilton, Daryl Delabbio, Cy Moore, Cindy Fox, George Heartwell, Rick Root, Rob VerHeulen, Al Vanderberg, and Michael Young.

The Nominating Committee recommended the following as GVMC officers:

Jim Buck – Chair  
Don Hilton – Vice Chair  
Daryl Delabbio – Secretary  
Cy Moore – Treasurer

**MOTION – To Approve the slate of GVMC Executive Committee Members and Officers Recommended above. MOVE – Vanderberg. SUPPORT – Meek. MOTION CARRIED.**

**10. Adjournment – 9:55**

**MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Eppler. SUPPORT – Meek. MOTION CARRIED.**



## The Grand Valley Metropolitan Council

### MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
**FROM:** Donald J. Stypula, Executive Director  
**DATE:** October 4, 2010  
**RE:** New Strategic Initiatives for Metro Council

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The Executive Committee has completed its work in developing a new strategic direction for the Metro Council and is recommending for your consideration six strategic initiatives that will drive the work of the Council in the next several years. Those recommended strategic initiatives are attached for your review.

Recall that a sub-committee of the Executive Committee met over two days to analyze the results of the May 11 membership retreat and the GVMC membership survey conducted in June to develop a concise list of goals and objectives and a new strategic direction for the Metro Council. The full Executive Committee reviewed the results of these efforts and gathered at a special meeting on September 27 to work with executive staff to finalize the recommendation for the Metro Council.

The six strategic initiatives recommended by the Executive Committee are 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:

- Developing an on-going system 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;
- 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.

- 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";
- Assisting communities to implement sustainable growth practices through updated master plans, capital improvement plans, and other development tools and regulations;
- Conduct a thorough review of GVMC's governing structure and operations to better meet the changing needs of member counties and communities.

The complete list of the Executive Committee's suggested strategic initiatives, together with goals, objectives and timelines is attached for your consideration.

# GVMC FY 2011 Strategic Initiatives

## As Recommended by the Executive Committee

- 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

*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.

***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 or local unit of government 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.

***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.

**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.

**Timeframe:** In progress. The HUD grant guidance contains no timetable for the federal agency to respond to grant applicants.

- 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.

***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.



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
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1420 FRONT AVENUE NW  
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49504  
PHONE: 616-451-3091 FAX: 616-451-0707

KIRK STEUDLE  
DIRECTOR

September 27, 2010

**TO:** Abed Itani, Transportation Director  
Grand Valley Metro Council

**FROM:** Dennis Kent, Region Transportation Planner  
MDOT/Grand Region

**SUBJECT:** **FY 2011-14 TIP Amendment / Early FY 2011 Projects**

MDOT is requesting the following amendment to the FY 2011-14 MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), for FY 2011 General Program Accounts (GPA), to be consistent with the previous MPO action taken for the FY 2008-11 TIP:

**FY 2011**

<b>FY</b>	<b>JN</b>	<b>Route</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Work Description</b>	<b>Total Cost Est.</b>
11	N/A	Various	Areawide	Trunkline Road CPM - GPA	\$6,600,000
11	N/A	Various	Areawide	Trunkline Pre-Construction Phases - GPA	\$400,000
11	N/A	Various	Areawide	Trunkline Bridge CPM/CSM - GPA	\$300,000
11	N/A	Various	Areawide	Trunkline Highway Safety - GPA	\$2,400,000
11	N/A	Various	Areawide	Trunkline Program Development/Scoping - GPA	\$400,000

Please amend or modify the Grand Rapids FY 2011-14 MPO TIP to include these changes. Feel free to contact me at 616/451-3091 if you have any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

cc GVMC MPO Committees  
V. Weerstra, MDOT  
E. Kind, MDOT

D. Robinson, GVMC  
S. Cornell-Howe, GVMC