

Board Meeting Agenda

Monday April 11, 2011 • 10 a.m. • Kent County Commission Chambers

- 1. Call to Order by Chair**
- 2. Public Comment**
- 3. Swearing-in of New Board Member**
 - a. Patrick Waterman, City Manager, City of Hudsonville**
- 4. Approval of Minutes dated March 3, 2011 (attachment)**
- 5. GVMC Strategic Initiatives - Progress Report (attachment)**
- 6. Transportation Department – Report on Pavement Conditions in the GVMC MPO Region (attachment)**
- 7. Legislative Advocacy**
 - a. Report on GVMC membership survey regarding “best practices”**
 - 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: March 29, 2011
Re: Agenda Items for our April 11, 2011 Board meeting

Attached are the agenda and support documents for our next GVMC Board of Directors meeting, scheduled for a special day and time of **10 am Monday April 11, 2011 at the Kent County Commission Chambers in downtown Grand Rapids**. Recall that we changed the meeting date and time to accommodate those Board members who will be taking the first week of April for Spring Break.

This month, following the swearing-in of Patrick Waterman from Hudsonville as our newest Board member, I will bring an update on our GVMC Strategic Plan. We also will have a detailed report on pavement conditions in the GVMC-MPO region presented by Senior Transportation Planner Jim Snell. As part of our legislative update, I will bring you the results of our survey of GVMC-member counties and communities regarding “best practices” and we’ll have an update on the rapidly developing issues at the capitols in both Lansing and Washington.

We’ll start by reviewing and accepting the attached minutes from our March 3, 2011 GVMC Board meeting.

GVMC STRATEGIC INITIATIVES – PROGRESS REPORT

We are staffing up with volunteer interns and a GVSU graduate assistant to keep moving forward toward our goal of achieving the GVMC Strategic Initiatives. Previously reported technical challenges in moving us to a web-based information portal are being resolved. I have attached for your review a succinct, three-page summary memo tracing our progress in achieving the GVMC Strategic Initiatives.

TRANSPORTATION: REPORT ON PAVEMENT CONDITIONS IN THE GVMC-MPO REGION

For the sixth warm weather season, the Metro Council’s Mobile Pavement Asset Management System is being deployed throughout the Grand Rapids urbanized area to survey pavement

conditions on all federal aid-eligible roads within the GVMC-MPO region. As GVMC Senior Transportation Planner Jim Snell prepares to buckle up and hit the road to ascertain conditions and ride quality of the roads that help move people and product throughout our region, I asked Jim to give us a report on his pavement condition analysis from the past season.

I have attached a summary of Jim's pavement condition report. The full report (9.4 MB) can be downloaded and viewed by clicking or copying and pasting the link below.

<http://www.gvmc.org/transportation/documents/GVMCPavementConditionReport.pdf>

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY – MEMBERSHIP SURVEY ON “BEST PRACTICES” AND GOVERNMENTAL REFORMS

On March 21, Governor Rick Snyder stood in the commission chambers at Grand Rapids City Hall and delivered his first “special message” to the Michigan Legislature – this one on governmental reforms and what he calls “best practices” for county and local governments. He called for increased intergovernmental collaboration, asked county and local governments to develop a “dashboard” to help residents track fiscal performance, and urged county and local governments to move toward less-costly employee compensation systems.

All of us know that West Michigan counties and communities have been doing these things for years – in some cases decades. In an effort to paint a clear, regional portrait of who is doing what with respect to these “best practices” we currently have a 14-question electronic survey vehicle available to ascertain the level at which county and local officials have deployed cost-saving measures over the past few years. If a representative of your county or community has not yet completed the survey, please take a few moments to complete the electronic questionnaire that was developed by GVMC intern Greg Sperlbaum. We will compile the responses and report the survey results to you at our April 11 meeting of the Metropolitan Council

To access the electronic questionnaire, please click the link below.

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22BYJ777U2V/>

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY – ISSUES UPDATE

Despite the fact that both chambers of the Legislature are on a two week recess (no formal sessions of the full House and Senate until April 12), the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are meeting everyday to develop their respective versions of the FY 2012 state budget. At this juncture, House majority Republicans are moving forward with Governor Snyder's proposed budget recommendations, with Appropriations Sub Committees and the

House Tax Policy Committee reviewing specific proposals from the Governor's budget blueprint.

Business Taxes: On the Senate side, majority Republicans have opted to examine a budget that maintains current state income tax exemptions for current pensioners; taxes the pensions of future retirees; increases the business income tax from 6% (as proposed by Snyder) to 6.75 %; and applies the business tax to all classes of businesses. If votes are lacking for one of these elements, more program cuts would be required to bridge the revenue gap.

Intergovernmental Collaboration: Before leaving for their two-week break, the House passed a four-bill package amending the Intergovernmental Cooperation Acts to remove language that we have flagged that raises barriers to intergovernmental service and cost sharing. Supporters – including GVMC – say the bills help local governments share the cost and delivery of critical public services, while opponents have argued it does so by stripping employees of some of their collective bargaining rights.

Sent to the Senate last Thursday on party-line 63-47 votes were HB 4309, HB 4310, HB 4311, and HB 4312.

Personal Property Tax: It appears that Governor Snyder would rather focus on his immediate priorities of rewriting the Michigan Business Tax and passing the FY 2012 state budget rather than wage a campaign to eliminate the personal property tax. Following testimony from county and local government representatives several weeks ago, legislative supporters of a bill (SB 34) to eliminate the PPT have vowed to work with us on ways to replace the revenue lost to counties, locals and school districts if the PPT is eliminated. GVMC is talking with representatives of the Grand Rapids Area Chamber about empanelling a small task group to work out a reasonable compromise that could be shared with the tax committees in Lansing.

State Transportation Funding: I have heard from multiple sources that Governor Snyder is likely to deliver another special message to the Legislature – this one on transportation funding – in September. We continue to work with a broad-based, statewide coalition to press the issue, but nothing is likely to start moving until the Governor formally weighs in on the issue later this year.

GVMC Legislative Committee: Please note that the next meeting of the **GVMC Legislative Committee is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Wednesday April 13 here at the GVMC offices.**

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

March 3, 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
Tom Butcher	Grand Valley State University
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Rebecca Fleury	Village of Middleville
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
John Helmholdt	At-Large
Carol Hennessey	Kent County
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Jim LaPeer	Cannon Township
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
David Pasquale	City of Lowell
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
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

Members Absent:

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
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Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
Robert May	City of Hastings
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Toby VanEss	Tallmadge Township
Roger Wills	City of Belding
Chris Yonker	City of Wayland
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Others Present:

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Andrea Dewey	Grand Valley Metro Council
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Peter Varga	ITP / The Rapid

2. Public Comment

None

3. Oath of Office for New Members

Mary Hollinrake administered the GVMC Oath of Office to Rebecca Fleury, Village of Middleville; Carol Hennessey, Kent County; and Jim Saalfeld, Kent County.

4. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the February 2011 GVMC Board Meeting.
MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.**

5. Transportation

a. Amendments to the GVMC FY 2011-2014 TIP

Due to several changes being requested by ITP / The Rapid, the Village of Kent City, the

City of Lowell, Hope Network, MDOT and Senior Neighbors to the FY2011-2014 TIP, staff is requesting approval of the following changes:

- ITP / The Rapid has several changes to the FY2011 – 2014 TIP specifically to FY2012. An updated list of projects and the requested changes is attached.
- The Village of Kent City is requesting to add an awarded STP Enhancement project for Streetscape of South Main Street from Spring Street to M-46 to FY2011 of the TIP. The cost breakdown is as follows: \$315,494 Federal, \$128,314 local for a total project cost of \$443,808.
- The City of Lowell has received two STP-Small Urban Programs grants and requests that they be added to the TIP. The first project is Bowes Road reconstruction with sidewalks west of Valley Vista Drive, Federal cost: \$334,000, local cost: \$83,501 for a total cost of \$417,501, add to FY2012. The second project is Bowes Road milling and resurfacing with sidewalks from west of Valley Vista to West Main Street, Federal cost: \$178,648, local cost: \$44,663 for a total cost of \$223,311, add to FY2014.
- Hope Network is requesting to have the attached list of projects added to FY2012 of the TIP utilizing 5310 funds.
- MDOT is requesting an amendment to add a Preliminary Engineering (PE) project to FY2011, I-96 at Cascade Road, bridge deck replacement, widening and operational improvements at a total cost of \$700,000. The addition of this project is necessary because the estimate for construction of the project is estimated at over \$5 Million.
- Senior Neighbors is requesting to have the attached list of projects added to FY2012 of the TIP utilizing 5310 funds.

MOTION – To Approve the Requested Amendments to the GVMC FY 2011-2014 TIP. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – LaPeer. MOTION CARRIED.

b. GVMC 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan

Abed Itani gave a presentation on the GVMC 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan.

The Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, as the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Kent and Eastern Ottawa Counties, is responsible for the development of a multi-modal Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). This purpose of the LRTP is to ensure that transportation investments in our area enhance the movement of people and freight efficiently, effectively, and safely. The LRTP addresses all modes of transportation and uses data such as population projections, traffic count and travel time studies, pavement management data, and results from the travel demand model to provide analysis tools for deficiency identification.

The LRTP must be approved by the Michigan Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in order for federal transportation dollars to be expended in our area. The LRTP must also be fiscally constrained, project specific, take into consideration public opinion and environmental justice, and meet established air quality standards. The document is updated every four years and this LRTP has a 25 year horizon, balancing transportation investments through the year 2035.

The primary finding of the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan is that the needs of the transportation system in our region surpass the resources available to address them. Examples include a 131% increase in ridership on The Rapid since 2000, over a quarter of the pavement on the Federal-Aid system requires an overlay or complete reconstruction, and millions of dollars of identified unfunded non-motorized transportation needs. The funding available for these improvements is projected to increase between 4.04% and 4.89% a year, but with project costs projected to increase at a similar rate, there is simply not enough funding to address all of the transportation objectives. The document and project list is complete and available on www.gvmc.org website for review.

MOTION – To Approve the GVMC 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan. MOVE – LaPeer. SUPPORT – Meek. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Strategic Initiatives

Don Stypula reported items 1, 2, & 3 on the strategic initiatives list are fitting together nicely. He will sign an agreement soon with GVSU for a graduate assistantship to provide help.

7. Legislative Advocacy

Legislative Chair, Rick Root, reported collaboration and consolidation are the latest buzz words in Lansing. We need to look at the proposals they come up with in-depth. Many of the ideas are not well thought out.

8. Other

The next Board meeting will be April 11 at 10:00 a.m.

9. Adjournment – 9:45 a.m.

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



GVMC FY 2011 Strategic Initiatives

As Approved by the Metropolitan Council – October 7, 2010

March 2011 Progress Report

▲ = Achieving now ► = Being developed/in-progress ▼ = Delayed

1) Managing Emerging Issues:

- ▲ Staff-wide effort underway to identify and flag developments in all areas and issues impacting the operations of county and municipal government, including transportation, land use and environmental/natural resource management.
- ▲ Continuously tracking and analyzing rapidly developing issues and trends at the capitols in Lansing and Washington and communicating via email updates to GVMC members.
- Have developed and we are currently testing a web-based tool to keep members up-to-date on trends and issues.

2) Encouraging Collaborative Service Sharing:

- ▲ Have partnered with MML to offer financial assistance to communities seeking consultant advice on developing service and cost-sharing agreements.
- ▲ Will sign three-year agreement today with Grand Valley State University to provide a GVSU graduate assistant at 20 hours per week for a 15 week semester to develop a GVMC-based clearinghouse on information and data regarding successful service and cost-sharing arrangements throughout the state and the nation.
- ▲ Have deployed a short electronic survey vehicle to identify communities and counties that have embraced the use of “best practices” as envisioned by Governor Snyder. The information will be combined with data from MML and a 2009 Citizens Research Council report on service sharing and will be shared with

the Governor's administration and our West Michigan legislators. Awaiting Governor's special message to the Legislature on March 21 to finalize.

3) Coordinating a Region-Wide Training Exchange for GVMC Members:

- ▶ A volunteer graduate in public administration has researched training needs throughout the Metro Council region and is working with GVMC's web administrator to develop an on-line tool for GVMC officials to share training needs or request a cost-sharing partnership to provide training for elected officials and staff.
- ▲ Worked with Kent County Commissioner Tom Antor to provide the first GVMC region-wide training on purchase of development rights issues on March 24 at the GVMC offices. Officials from Lancaster County, PA detailed that county's experience with PDR and answered questions posed by 40 participants.
- ▲ Collaborating with Grand Rapids City Commissioner Rosalynn Bliss and Kentwood City Commissioner Sharon Brinks to develop an April 2011 training session for elected officials and staff on the issue of Land Banks.

4) Nurturing a Regional Economic Development Partnership:

- ▲ Work on a daily basis with the Right Place, Inc. to share information and monitor trends on region-wide efforts to retain current job provider and attract new business ventures.
- ▼ Efforts to develop a region-wide economic development "welcome mat" have been delayed by the move in Lansing to eliminate state-sponsored economic development incentives and tax credits.

5) Planning for Sustainable Communities:

- ▲ Just completed a multi-year planning project on the Division Avenue corridor involving three GVMC-member cities and ITP-The Rapid.
- ▲ Work with stakeholders in the Division Avenue corridor, together with a consultant, to identify and prepare for redevelopment environmentally impacted properties.

- ▲ Continuing to monitor developments and advise community planners regarding the issue of medical marihuana
- ▲ At the request of the City of Grand Rapids Planning Department, we have successfully petitioned U.S. EPA to use a portion of remaining funding from a brownfields assessment grant to develop a remediation and reuse plan for a mix of properties on Wealthy Street.
- ▲ Tracking recently-released U.S. Census data and developing a program to discuss the results and future trends with GVMC members

6) **Retooling GVMC's Governance, Structure and Operations:**

- ▲ Task Force on Governance, Structure and Operations has met three times to dissect GVMC's current structure and operations and has developed one recommendation.
- ▲ Executive Director and staff are working with chairs of standing committees and collaborating on specific recommendations to be brought to the Task Force for discussion and adoption.
- ▶ Final report and recommendations will be presented to the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council in July, 2011.



Transportation Asset Program Pavement Condition Report January 18, 2011

Executive Summary

For more than 100 years the municipalities in the Grand Rapids metropolitan area have been developing, improving, and maintaining a viable transportation system for the residents and businesses to use for the expressed purpose of efficiently moving people and goods throughout the region and beyond. At no time in those more than 100 years have the municipalities seen more challenge than today in simply maintaining the transportation infrastructure.

Historic underinvestment, steady erosion of purchasing power, continued inflation in material costs, flattening levels of federal assistance and a decline in fuel-tax revenues have put the transportation infrastructure throughout the country in the dire position of steady decline. The Grand Rapids metro area has not been immune to these steady declines. While maximizing the use of the funding that has been available over the years has helped stem the tide, the system cannot continue to be maintained with “band-aid” solutions.

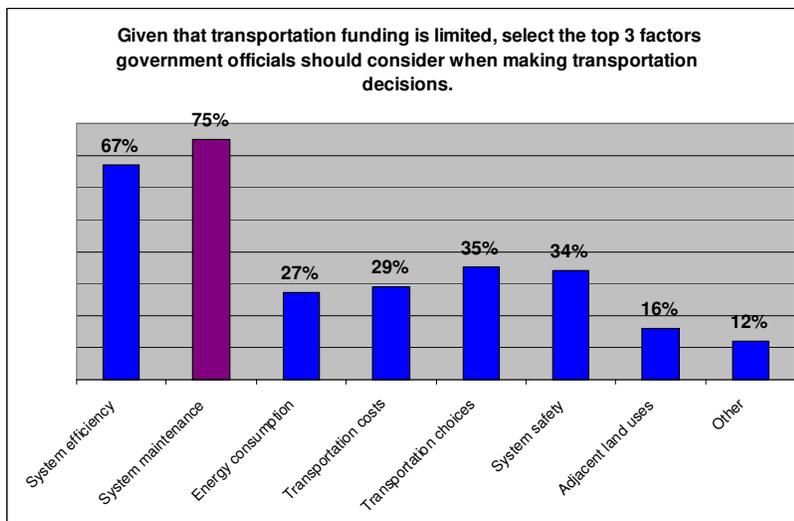
System Need

If this area continues down the path we are currently on the transportation infrastructure will suffer dire consequences. Currently, 36% of the entire non-trunkline federal aid system in the GVMC area is in poor condition. If the current investment levels and trends are continued through 2035, 58% of the system is projected to be in poor condition.

To maintain the system in its current state it is estimated that the investment in the system will need to nearly **double** to \$21,500,000. To get the system up to a 90% overall good or fair condition which is considered somewhat less than ideal, it will require an investment of **triple** the current investment, or \$33,000,000 per year.

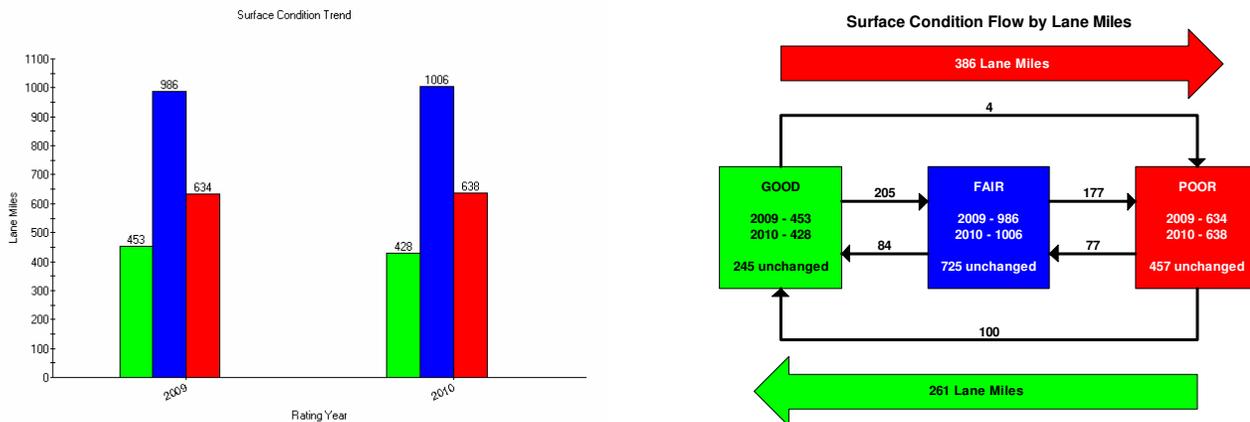
Public Opinion

In a recent GVMC public opinion survey 75% of the respondents surveys placed the importance of pavement condition as their top transportation related priority.



2010 Survey Results

It should come as no surprise that the overall pavement condition in the GVMC area has continued to fall. Continued under investment in the core transportation infrastructure combined with the loss of buying power for local municipalities has resulted in the worst conditions since GVMC started doing surveys 15 years ago. The graphics below depict the pavement condition comparison between 2009 and 2010.



What's it worth??

If the local federal aid system were in pristine condition it would be worth an estimated \$3.15 Billion. In its current condition, the system is currently worth an estimated \$2.075 Billion. In 2009, the system was valued at \$2.09 Billion. This is a \$15 million loss in value over a one year period despite an investment of over \$30 million by state and local agencies. The net loss to the system between 2009 and 2010 exceeds \$45 million.

Hard Truth

Unfortunately, what will happen to the system as time passes and conditions become more dire is the necessary fixes will become more and more costly. The chart below depicts the three various scenarios outlined above, but the reality is really very simple. The region needs do to all it can to protect its transportation asset and the massive investment that has been made over these last 100 years. Without a sound transportation infrastructure none of the other goals of the GVMC long range plan will be attainable.

