



GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

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GVMC BOARD MEETING

June 4, 2015

8:30 a.m.

**Kent County Commission Chambers
300 Monroe
Grand Rapids, MI**

- 1. Approval of Minutes – Attached**
- 2. Public Comment**
- 3. Amendment to FY2014-2015 Unified Planning Work Program – Attached**
- 4. FY 2015-2016 Unified Planning Work Program - Attached**
- 5. FOIA Policy - Attached**
- 6. South West Michigan Trail Support Resolution - Attached**
- 7. Executive Director Review**
- 8. July GVMC Board Meeting**
- 9. Other**
- 10. Adjourn**

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

May 7, 2015

8:30 a.m.

Kent County Commission Chambers
300 Monroe
Grand Rapids

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Al Vanderberg.

Members Present:

Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Rick Baker	At-Large
Rob Beahan	Cascade Township
Ken Bergwerff	Jamestown Township
Nancy Clarey	Algoma Township
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Tom Butcher	Grand Valley State University
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
George Haga	Ada Township
Jerry Hale	Lowell Township
Carol Hennessey	Kent County
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
John Hoppough	City of Greenville
Diane Jones	Kent County
Steve Kepley	City of Kentwood
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
Matt McConnon	Courtland Township
Brenda McNabb-Stange	City of Hastings
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Jay Spencer	Plainfield Township
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming
Patrick Waterman	City of Hudsonville
Duane Weeks	Village of Middleville

Members Absent:

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Jim Buck	Secretary
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Steve Grimm	Cannon Township
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Mark Howe	City of Lowell
Mark Huizenga	City of Walker
Mark Lemoine	At-Large Member
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Steve Maas	City of Grandville
Megan Mullendore	City of Belding
Audrey Nevins-Weiss	Byron Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Michael Selden	City of Wayland
Thad Taylor	City of Cedar Springs
Roger Towsley	Village of Sand Lake
Toby VanEss	Tallmadge Township
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Others Present:

Bonnie Broadwater	Grand Valley Metro Council
Chris Brown	Grand Valley Metro Council
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Wendy Ogilvie	Grand Valley Metro Council
John Weiss	Grand Valley Metro Council

2. Public Comment

None

3. Meeting Minutes

MOTION – To Approve the GVMC Board Meeting Minutes of March 2015. MOVE – Butcher. SUPPORT – Hoppough. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Oath of Office

Kent County Clerk Mary Hollinrake administered the Oath of Office to Nancy Clarey of Algoma Township and Duane Weeks of the Village of Middleville.

5. 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Jim Snell presented the Long Range Transportation Plan. The plan has been 18 months in development with input from 400-500 members of the public. It includes new performance measures as required by the Federal Highway Administration. The document is shorter than before and more reader friendly. The plan has already been approved by the Transportation Policy committee.

MOTION – To Open Public Hearing (8:43 a.m.). MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.

Al Vanderberg asked if there were any members of the public who would like to speak on the issue. NONE

MOTION – To Close the Public Hearing (8:44 a.m.). MOVE – DeVries. SUPPORT – Hoppough.

MOTION – To Approve the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. MOVE – DeVries. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Transportation Recertification

Rachael Tupica of Federal Highway reviewed the Executive Summary and reported on the recertification of GVMC as the Metropolitan Planning Organization. The recertification process happens every 4 years. The federal team did a desk audit, public meetings and onsite visits. They also invited members of the Policy Committee to comment and participate.

The MPO received three commendations and no corrective actions. The organization is in very good shape.

MOTION – To Accept the Report on the Recertification of the MPO. MOVE – Poll. SUPPORT – McNabb-Stange. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Environmental Programs

a. Resolution in Support of the Grand River Restoration Project

MOTION – To Approve the Resolution of Support for the Grand River Restoration Project. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – Poll. MOTION CARRIED.

b. Agreement with Grand Rapids Whitewater for Contracted Services

MOTION – To Approve the Agreement with Grand Rapids Whitewater for Contracted Services. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT - Jones. MOTION CARRIED.

Chris Muller and Mark VanPutten discussed the Grand River Restoration Project and its benefits upstream and downstream of Grand Rapids.

8. Resolution to Establish Account with Mercantile Bank and Establish Signing Authority

MOTION – To Approve Resolution to Establish Account with Mercantile Bank and Establish Signing Authority. MOVE – DeVries. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.

9. Regis Reorganization

Rich Houtteman discussed the structural reorganization of REGIS. The reorganization has been in process for over a year with the GVMC and REGIS Executive Committees working together to find a more fiscally sustainable and collaborative structural model. The changes include the elimination of the position of Director of REGIS, as well as the empowerment of the REGIS Technical Committee to drive development and innovation. The REGIS staff will work collaboratively with the Technical committee and GVMC Executive Director to create a more dynamic organization. The plan calls for collaboration and cooperation among members as well as developing partnerships with other entities.

10. Other

11. Adjournment – 9:45 a.m.

MOTION - To Adjourn – Delabbio. SUPPORT – Kepley. MOTION CARRIED



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MEMORANDUM

TO: GVMC Executive Committee Members
FROM: Abed Itani, Director of Transportation Planning
DATE: Wednesday, May 27, 2015
RE: FY2015 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment

The FY2015 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. Any changes in the federal funding amounts under work items in the UWP warrant a UWP amendment and approval by the GVMC Board.

Staff is requesting the amendment of the FY2015 UWP to reflect additional FTA Section 5307 transit funding for ITP. ITP is requesting to add Human Resource Planning (see attachment) with FTA share of \$28,000 and State share of \$7,000.

In order for ITP to use the additional funding, the FY2015 UPWP needs to be amended.

Recommendation: Approval to amend 2015 UPWP.

MO05272015UWPAMENDGVMC

HUMAN RESOURCES PLANNING

Objectives

To continue Human Resource plans and goals by developing trainings which include EEO annual leadership update, continued advanced diversity and harassment training for all staff, recruitment strategies and updates, management training for new management/supervisory staff, HR policies and procedures training for all staff, continued implementation of the wellness program, ongoing ergonomics updates and training, benefit strategies, and investment counseling. Consultant assistance in reaching EEO and Diversity goals which are required by FTA/EEOC. The research on harassment, diversity, EEO and Civil Rights initiatives which are constantly changing and must be kept up to date in order to keep policies and procedures current and accurate (ADA, Civil Rights, EEOC), updates to handbooks, training of staff and leadership teams and keeping the company apprised of new diversity initiatives in order to remain committed to delivering a fair and pleasurable work environment at *The Rapid*.

Procedures and Tasks

Human Resource staff, along with consultants and other agencies, will assist in developing training programs as indicated above. The above areas of training provide *The Rapid* staff important tools useful in developing ways to keep current or become informed of changes in the workplace, including safety issues; mental health and wellness issues; control benefit costs, employee hiring and retention; and ways to diversify the culture of the organization

Products

Training provides better health and morale and in employees thus a more fruitful workplace resulting in an organizational culture that values differences and common goals.

Budget Assessments

- Annual Diversity/Harassment Training
- Transportation Specific Recruitment Software Research
- EEO/Civil Rights/ADA Research

Budget

Funding Agency

Performing Agency- ITP/*The Rapid*

FTA-Section 5307	\$ 28,000	Contractual	\$ 28,500
MDOT	<u>7,000</u>	Direct	<u>7,000</u>
TOTAL	\$ 35,000	TOTAL	\$ 35,000



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MEMORANDUM

TO: GVMC Board

FROM: Abed Itani, Director of Transportation Planning

DATE: Friday, May 15, 2015

RE: Proposed FY2016 Unified Planning Work Program Activities and Budget

The FY2016 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).

Attached to this memo, a general outline of the FY2016 UWP transportation tasks related to the GVMC Transportation Department and associated budget to complete these tasks. Also included is the dues structure (local match) proposed for the fiscal year 2016. The GVMC Transportation Program receives its local match through dues assessed to the 32 participating member agencies. The ITP and MDOT activities and associated budgets will be made available to GVMC upon completion before end of May.

Please visit <http://gvmc.org/transportation/documents/FY2015-2016-UPWP.pdf> to view the entire document.

If you have any questions please call me at 776-7606.

Recommendation: Approval of the Proposed FY2016 UPWP.

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council

Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-2016 Unified Work Program

Planning Priorities & Budget

The activities undertaken by the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC) transportation department principally relate to overall transportation program management and fulfillment of federal requirements, MAP-21 - Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and state mandated requirements. The Priorities/activities for the GVMC transportation department are severely restricted and prescribed by federal and state law requirements. Funding for all MPO activities is provided by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the MPO members on an 80/20 split. The 20% local match is mandated by federal law in order for any MPO to receive transportation planning funds. GVMC will manage a five billion dollar Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and an approximately sixty million dollar annual Transportation Improvement Program.

MAP-21 creates a performance-based program and builds on many of the highway, transit, bike, and pedestrian programs and policies established in 1991. The cornerstone of MAP-21's highway program is the transition to a performance and outcome-based program in an effort to increase accountability and efficiency in the way federal transportation dollars are spent. The intention is that, under this performance-based planning program, states/MPOs will invest resources in projects that help to achieve individual performance targets and collectively will make progress toward national goals. In MAP-21, the metropolitan transportation planning processes are continued and enhanced to incorporate performance goals, measures, and targets into the process of identifying needed transportation improvements and project selection. Public involvement remains a hallmark of the planning process. Requirements for a long-range plan and a short-term Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) continue, with the long-range plan to incorporate performance plans required by the Act for specific programs. The long-range plan must describe the performance measures and targets used in assessing system performance and progress in achieving the performance targets. The TIP must also be developed to make progress toward established performance targets and include a description of the anticipated achievements.

Statutory citation(s): MAP-21 §§1106, 1112-1113, 1201-1203; 23 USC 119, 134-135, 148-150

Five years after enactment of MAP-21, the Secretary is to provide to the Congress reports evaluating the overall effectiveness of performance-based planning and the effectiveness of the process in each State and for each MPO. States and MPOs must report to USDOT on progress in achieving targets. If a state's report shows inadequate progress in some areas, most notably, the condition of the NHS or key safety measures, the state/MPO must undertake corrective actions.

The FY2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Transportation Planning in the Grand Rapids Metropolitan Area incorporates in one document all federally assisted state, regional, and local transportation planning activities proposed to be undertaken in the region from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016. The program provides a process for the coordination of transportation planning activities in the area, and is required as a basis and condition for all federal funding assistance for transportation planning by the final planning regulations issued February 14, 2007 by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration.

MAP-21, which became effective October 1, 2012, made some important modifications to the metropolitan planning process, primarily requiring metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) to establish and use a performance-based approach to transportation decision making and development of transportation plans. This work program has been developed to comply with and implement anticipated changes regarding metropolitan planning as called for in MAP-21.

The level of planning effort for the GVMC MPO is driven by the 2040 MTP and operational planning needs of the various transportation operating agencies. The MTP addresses numerous state, and federal

requirements, among which are, MAP-21, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments, responses to Certification Findings by FHWA, and Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) requirements. Staff time and resources are focused to address issues such as intermodal planning, congestion management, pavement management, safety planning, transit planning and concerns, ITS, traffic operations, freight transportation planning, environmental justice, air quality, environmental quality, non-motorized, and needs of the transportation disadvantaged.

The Metropolitan Planning program under MAP-21 provides funding for the integration of transportation planning processes in the MPOs into a unified metropolitan transportation planning process, culminating in the preparation of a multimodal transportation metropolitan plan for the MPO. Title 23 of the United States Code, section 134(f) (revised in SAFETEA-LU section 6001(h)) describes Federal Planning Factors issued by Congress to emphasize planning factors from a national perspective. Under MAP-21 these planning factors remain unchanged. The increased focus level and activities regarding these issues is the result to the SAFETEA-LU/MAP-21 identified eight broad planning factors. The MPO must consider these factors when developing plans and annual programs. The GVMC transportation budget is developed to address these factors and other state and federal requirements. The eight planning factors (for both metro and statewide planning) are as follows:

- Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;
- Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
- Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
- Increase the accessibility and mobility of people and for freight;
- Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns;
- Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;
- Promote efficient system management and operation, and
- Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.

Each of these factors is addressed through various work program tasks selected for FY2015, as shown below:

Planning Factor/Task	Economic Vitality	Increase Safety	System Security	Accessibility	Protect Environment	Integration of System	Efficiency	System Preservation
Database Management		x		x	X	x	x	x
Long Range Planning	x	x	X	x	X	x	x	x
Short Range Planning	x	x	X	x	X	x	x	x
Transportation Management Systems	x	x	X	x	X	x	x	x
Program Coordination	x	x	X	x	X	x	x	x
Land Use & Transportation Coordination	x	x	X	x	X	x	x	x

In order to meet MAP-21 requirements, the transportation annual budget contains the following six work tasks:

DATABASE MANAGEMENT- Listing the work tasks needed to monitor area travel characteristics and factors affecting travel such as socio-economic, land use data, transportation system data, and environmental issues and concerns. Priorities include data collection and analysis, enhanced GIS capabilities development and update. Revenues for the activities under this are listed below.

FHWA STP	FHWA PL	FHWA CMAQ	SPR/ MTF	FTA Sec. 5303	Local Match	Total Funding
\$35,400	\$86,592	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35,379	\$35,896	\$193,267

LONG RANGE PLANNING- Identifying transportation system planning tasks related to long range transportation systems planning. Priorities include the development/update of the MTP, identification of long range transportation needs, goals, objective, policies, improvements, monitoring, and updating and maintaining of the travel demand model. Revenues for the activities under this are listed below.

FHWA STP	FHWA PL	FHWA CMAQ	SPR/ MTF	FTA Sec. 5303	Local Match	Total Funding
\$0.00	\$103,524	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$44,362	\$34,047	\$181,931

SHORT RANGE PLANNING- Identifying transportation system planning tasks related to short range transportation systems planning. Priorities include performance measurement, the development/update of the TIP, providing technical assistance and special studies to the MPO members, Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) planning, safety planning, freight planning, non-motorized planning, and managing the Clean Air Action Program. Revenues for the activities under this are listed below.

FHWA STP	FHWA PL	FHWA CMAQ	SPR/ MTF	FTA Sec. 5303	Local Match	Total Funding
\$0.00	\$202,220	\$78,752	\$0.00	\$70,112	\$82,058	\$433,142

TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS- Listing the work tasks needed to monitor area travel characteristics and factors affecting congestion and pavement conditions. Priorities include collecting transportation system data and analysis, coordination with MDOT and local transportation providers, development of congestion and pavement investment plans, and implementation and monitoring of ITS solutions. GVMC is also involved in a statewide effort to develop, collect data, and implement Michigan's Asset Management System. Revenues for the activities under this are listed below.

FHWA STP	FHWA PL	FHWA CMAQ	SPR/ MTF	FTA Sec. 5303	Local Match	Total Funding
\$114,590	\$185,343	\$0.000	\$19,856	\$0.00	\$66,509	\$386,298

PROGRAM COORDINATION- Describing task functions required to manage the transportation planning process on a continual basis, including program administration, development, review, and reporting. Priorities include the UPWP, public involvement, environmental justice, timely submittal of documents, MPO scheduled meetings, and coordination with all MPO member units. Revenues for the activities under this are listed below.

FHWA STP	FHWA PL	FHWA CMAQ	SPR/ MTF	FTA Sec. 5303	Local Match	Total Funding
\$0.00	\$179,038	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$43,748	\$50,638	\$273,424

LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION – To identify and undertake activities to more effectively link land use decision-making throughout the region with the creation and adoption of the MTP and to guide elements chosen in the Transportation Improvement Program. The scope of this activity is limited to the MPO boundary area. Priorities include Committee meetings in public sessions to review the progress being made, emphasis on successful efforts and encouragement of local government's participation, generating reports to Metro Council, development of socio-economic data, and public education and information. Revenues for the activities under this are listed below.

FHWA STP	FHWA PL	FHWA CMAQ	SPR/ MTF	FTA Sec. 5303	Local Match	Total Funding
\$0.00	\$58,811	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,063	\$23,950	\$98,824

GVMC FY2016 Unified Work Program Activities

- **Travel Demand Model Update/Calibration/Validation/Air Quality (MOVES)**
The transportation department will continue to enhance the travel demand model we currently use. Staff will be involved in the development and maintenance of a mode split model to allow simulation of most modes of transportation. GVMC staff will perform a model validation analysis to determine and improve the model accuracy. GVMC will assist MDOT in collecting freight data for the purpose of developing a freight model. Staff will develop new technical tools to produce data for use in the MOVES2014 program. Staff will develop “Local” data input files for the MOVES2014 program.
- **Safety Conscious Planning and Monitoring**
This task will continue our efforts to bring safety planning into the mainstream MPO planning process as required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) based on the MAP-21 requirements. GVMC will continue to hold safety forums and other educational activities to raise the awareness of safety planning and enhancement within the MPO area.
- **Transportation Geographic Information System**
This task will provide staff training to utilize the REGIS and GIS+/TransCad platforms. This activity will enable the transportation department to migrate fully to a platform that is compatible with the state Framework and REGIS. Staff will update the regional transportation database and will input all data in GIS format.
- **Transit/Mode Split Model**
The transportation department will continue to improve and maintain the transit model, in cooperation with MDOT and the Interurban Transit Partnership (ITP), which will allow simulation and evaluation of most transit bus route alternatives.
- **Freight Planning and Monitoring**
MPO staff will work closely with local officials, interest groups, state, and federal transportation partners to further integrate freight planning into the transportation planning process based on MAP-21 requirements. MPO staff will work with stakeholders to inventory and monitor freight routes and intermodal facilities within the metropolitan area. MPO staff will also monitor freight related issues and seek input from freight stakeholders on how to best integrate freight planning into the existing transportation process.
- **Clean Air Action! Program**
This task will continue the effort of the Council to educate and raise the awareness of the general public with regard to ground level ozone and its negative health impacts.
- **Congestion Management Process (CMP) and Monitoring**
To comply with this federal requirement in MAP-21, the transportation department will continue to expand and improve the Congestion Management Process which allows us to monitor and evaluate congestion and its causes. GVMC staff will collect traffic and travel data by mode, when possible, to analyze recurring and non-recurring congestion. GVMC staff will analyze traffic accident data to identify high accident locations for future improvements. This task will enable GVMC to mitigate non-recurring congestion, reduce recurring congestion, improve day-to-day traffic operations, and improve global connectivity by enhancing freight management and operations.
- **Pavement Management System (PMS) and Monitoring**
To assure compliance with MAP-21 the transportation department will continue to improve

the Pavement Management System which allows us to monitor pavement conditions in the most productive way and efficient fashion. GVMC will again collect pavement condition data within the MPO study area for 1,600 miles of federal aid.

- **Asset Management Data Collection**
Staff will continue to collect data on behalf of the Asset Management Council within the MPO study area.
- **Transportation/Land Use Regional Coordination**
This activity will continue our coordination with land use planning departments within the MPO study area. Staff will continue to develop and update the social economic data for use in the travel demand forecasting model and transportation mobility access and corridor studies.
- **2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Development/Update**
Staff will continue to monitor and update the 2040 MTP. Staff will be working with the MPO communities to update/amend the MTP during this fiscal year. Staff will be working with elected officials, Policy, and Technical Committee members to meet regional goals and objectives in order to improve mobility and reduce congestion and vehicle emissions. Staff will continue to work with MDOT and FHWA to address MAP-21 performance based planning and programming requirements.
- **2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update and Monitoring**
Staff will monitor 2014-2017 TIP projects.
- **2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development**
Staff in coordination with MDOT, FHWA, ITP, and the MPO committees will begin the development of a new 2017-2020 TIP.
- **Intelligent Transportation System (ITS Implementation)**
The transportation department will continue its effort to complete the ITS deployment activities as recommended by the ITS study.
- **Non-Motorized Plan**
Staff will continue to work on updating the non-motorized plan and amending any changes to the Long Range Transportation Plan.
- **Environmental Justice Process**
Staff will continue to address EJ as part of the MTP and the TIP throughout the MPO study area.
- **Environmental Mitigation Process**
Staff, in coordination with MDOT, FHWA, FTA, MDEQ, and ITP, will continue to access environmental impacts resulting from the MTP and TIP projects.
- **Transportation Accessibility Process**
Staff, in coordination with MDOT, FHWA, FTA, and ITP, will continue to evaluate mobility accessibility within the MPO study area as required by MAP-21.
- **Consultation Process**
Staff, in coordination with MDOT, FHWA, FTA, and ITP, will continue to implement and update the consultation process adopted by the MPO for the development of the MTP and TIP. The process provides feedback from the public, transportation

interest groups, and state and federal agencies.

- **Visualization Process**

Staff, in coordination with MDOT, FHWA, FTA, and ITP, will continue to apply the visualization process throughout the MPO process as required by MAP-21.

- **Transit Planning & Coordination**

Staff will continue to coordinate with ITP, FTA, FHWA and MDOT on all transit related needs, such as the transit model, MTP, TIP, and transit studies.

- **State and Federal Coordination and Cooperation**

Staff will continue to meet on a regular basis with FHWA, FTA, MDOT, and MDEQ to address transportation needs and issues.

- **Public Involvement/Information**

Staff will continue to improve public involvement in the transportation process as required by MAP-21.

- **Technical Assistance**

Staff will continue to provide technical assistance on various projects as requested from the MPO members.

Funding Sources for Planning Activities

All work, including MPO staff time and consultant studies, listed in the UPWP are funded by one or more of the following funding sources.

FHWA Planning grant funds (also known as “PL” or metropolitan planning funds)

Federal planning funds can be used for up to 81.85 percent of a project, with a required 18.15 percent match typically provided by local governments.

FHWA State Planning and Research (SPR) grant funds

SPR funds are federal dollars from the State Planning & Research Program administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation. Some SPR funds may be allocated to the MPO to help with planning studies. A 20 percent match is required that is provided by MDOT.

FTA Section 5303 grant funds

Section 5303 funds are federal funds designated for transit planning and research activities. Up to 80 percent federal funds can be used for a project. The remaining 20 percent match is typically provided by local governments.

FHWA Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds

Federal STP funds can be used for up to 81.85 percent of a project, with a required 18.15 percent match typically provided by local governments.

FHWA Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program (CMAQ) funds

Federal CMAQ funds can be used for up to 80 percent of a project, with a required 20 percent match typically provided by local governments

Local matching funds

All federal grant funds require at least a 18.185 percent non-federal match. The MPO receives funding from member jurisdictions on a proportionate fair share basis using population distributions published by the most recent decennial census, and lane miles as defined by the national highway functional classification network approved by MDOT and FHWA.

<u>GVMC FY2015-16 MPO Revenue Estimates</u>	
STP-U	\$150,000
CMAQ	\$80,000
SECTION-5303	\$210,167
PL-112	\$827,889
SPR	\$0.00
State Asset Management	\$20,000
Local Match Required	\$293,098
TOTAL	\$1,631,154

Staffing

Work Load and federal funding is available to support seven (7) full time and one part time staff positions. The proposed staffing model is as follows:

Transportation Director
Senior Transportation Planner (2)
Transportation Planner (4)
Part time Interns (1)

Director of Transportation Planning: Responsible for administration of the transportation planning program, development of the Council's transportation unified work program and policies, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, establishment of project budgets, management of the transportation staff, management of the transportation department budget, staff coordinator of GVMC Transportation Committees, and coordinates with state and federal agencies.

Senior Transportation Planner: Duties will include travel demand modeling, traffic impact studies, GIS data development and updates, updating the Transportation Management Systems (CMS, PMS and SMS), and updating the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Senior Transportation Planner: Duties will include work on updating the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, development and management of a regional non-motorized plan, developing non-motorized projects for future funding and inclusion in the TIP, participation in early transit route planning and services with the transit providers, collecting traffic data, air quality conformity analysis and land use activities.

Transportation Planner: Duties will include assistance in preparing agendas for the Transportation Programming Study Group, Technical and Policy committees meetings, updating traffic and demographic data files, assisting in Clean Air Action Program activities, coordinating with the transit agency, involvement in the development of the freight plan, preparing annual reports, and other administrative tasks.

Transportation Planner: Duties will include work on developing a regional safety plan as a part of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, involvement in the ITS program, assist in the development of SMS and updating of the PMS, collecting traffic data, coordinating efforts with MDOT and FHWA regarding safety issues, and providing technical assistance to local units of government.

Transportation Planner: Duties will include work on developing and managing the Transportation Improvement Program, traffic count program, managing enhancement and CMAQ projects, HPMS updates, collecting traffic data, GIS data updates, air quality conformity analysis for the TIP and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and coordination with MDOT, FHWA, transit providers and local units of government.

It is assumed that all staff time will be charged to MPO transportation related activities.

FY2016		FY2014	FY2015	FY2016
<u>MPO Membership Dues</u>				
<u>Estimates</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Dues</u>	<u>Dues</u>	<u>Dues</u>
Kent Co Rd Comm. Urban		\$39,721	\$39,512	\$39,446
Kent Co Rd Comm. Rural		\$6,230	\$6,196	\$6,126
Ada	13,142	\$1,990	\$1,987	\$1,928
Algoma	9,932	\$1,504	\$1,501	\$1,457
Alpine	13,336	\$2,020	\$2,016	\$1,957
Byron	20,317	\$3,077	\$3,071	\$2,981
Caledonia	10,821	\$1,639	\$1,636	\$1,588
Cannon	13,336	\$2,020	\$2,016	\$1,957
Cascade	17,134	\$2,595	\$2,590	\$2,514
Courtland	7,678	\$1,163	\$1,161	\$1,127
Gaines	25,146	\$3,808	\$3,801	\$3,689
Grand Rapids	16,661	\$2,523	\$2,519	\$2,445
Plainfield	30,952	\$4,688	\$4,679	\$4,541
Lowell	5,949	\$0	\$899	\$873
Subtotal	183,425	\$72,979	\$73,585	\$72,628
Ottawa Co Rd Comm. Urban		\$11,895	\$11,830	\$11,809
Ottawa Co Rd Comm. Rural		\$383	\$381	\$377
Allendale	20,708	\$2,873	\$2,870	\$2,784
Georgetown	46,985	\$6,518	\$6,511	\$6,316
Jamestown	7,034	\$976	\$975	\$946
Tallmadge	7,575	\$1,051	\$1,050	\$1,018
Subtotal	82,302	\$23,697	\$23,617	\$23,249
Cities/Villages				
Cedar Springs	3,509	\$723	\$721	\$706
East Grand Rapids	10,694	\$2,132	\$2,126	\$2,080
Grand Rapids	188,040	\$39,557	\$39,429	\$38,623
Grandville	15,378	\$4,721	\$4,699	\$4,630
Hudsonville	7,116	\$1,856	\$1,848	\$1,817
Kentwood	48,707	\$11,301	\$11,260	\$11,049
Lowell	3,783	\$910	\$906	\$890
Rockford	5,719	\$1,376	\$1,371	\$1,346
Sand Lake Village	0	\$0	\$345	\$343
Walker	23,537	\$6,756	\$6,727	\$6,622
Wyoming	72,125	\$17,618	\$17,551	\$17,236
Subtotal	382,748	\$86,950	\$86,986	\$85,343
Other Transportation Members				
ITP	N/A	\$14,500	\$14,500	\$14,500
Gerald R. Ford Airport	N/A	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
MDOT	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal		\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000
Kent County	602,622	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Ottawa County	89,418	\$1,476	\$1,476	\$1,476
Subtotal		\$4,476	\$4,476	\$4,476

Total

\$259,104

\$254,664

\$251,697

GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

WRITTEN PUBLIC SUMMARY OF FOIA PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

Consistent with Public Act 563 of 2014 amending the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the following is the Written Public Summary of GVMC's FOIA Procedures and Guidelines relevant to the general public.

1. How do I submit a FOIA request to The Grand Valley Metro Council?
 - a. Requests to inspect or obtain copies of public records prepared, owned, used, possessed or retained by The Grand Valley Metro Council must be submitted in writing.
 - b. A request must sufficiently describe a public record so as to enable GVMC to find it.
 - c. No specific form to submit a written request is required. However a FOIA Request form for your use and convenience is available on GVMC's website at www.gvmc.org
 - d. Written requests can be made in person by delivery to any GVMC office in person or by mail.
 - e. A request may also be submitted by e-mail. To ensure a prompt response, e-mail requests should contain the term "FOIA" or "FOIA Request" in the subject line and be sent to info@gvmc.org
 - f. Note: If you are serving a sentence of imprisonment in a local, state or federal correctional facility you are not entitled to submit a request for a public record.

2. What kind of response can I expect to my request?
 - a. Within 5 business days of receipt of a FOIA request GVMC will issue a response. If a request is received by e-mail the request is deemed to have been received on the following business day. GVMC will respond to your request in one of the following ways:
 - i. Grant the request.
 - ii. Issue a written notice denying the request.
 - iii. Grant the request in part and issue a written notice denying in part the request.
 - iv. Issue a notice indicating that due to the nature of the request GVMC needs an additional 10 business days to respond.
 - v. Issue a written notice indicating that the public record requested is available at no charge on GVMC's website.
 - b. If the request is granted, or granted in part, GVMC will ask that payment be made for the allowable fees associated with responding to the request before the public record is made available. If the cost of processing the request is expected to exceed \$50, or if you have not paid for a previously granted request, GVMC will require a deposit before processing the request.

3. What are GVMC's fee deposit requirements?
 - a. If GVMC has made a good faith calculation that the total fee for processing the request exceeds \$50.00, GVMC will require that you provide a deposit in the amount of 50% of the total estimated fee. When GVMC requests the deposit it will provide you a non-

binding best efforts estimate of how long it will take to process the request following receipt by GVMC of your deposit.

- b. If GVMC receives a request from a person who has not paid GVMC for copies of public records made in fulfillment of a previously granted written request, GVMC will require a deposit of 100% of the estimated processing fee before it begins to search for the public record for any subsequent written request when all of the following conditions exist:
 - i. the final fee for the prior written request is not more than 105% of the estimated fee;
 - ii. the public records made available contained the information sought in the prior written request and remain in GVMC's possession;
 - iii. the public records were made available to the individual, subject to payment, within the time frame estimated by GVMC to provide the records;
 - iv. 90 days have passed since GVMC notified the individual in writing that the public records were available for pickup or mailing;
 - v. the individual is unable to show proof of prior payment to GVMC; and
 - vi. GVMC has calculated an estimated detailed itemization that is the basis for the current written request's increased fee deposit.
 - c. GVMC will not require the 100% estimated fee deposit if any of the following apply:
 - i. the person making the request is able to show proof of prior payment in full to GVMC;
 - ii. GVMC is subsequently paid in full for all applicable prior written requests; or
 - iii. 365 days have passed since the person made the request for which full payment was not remitted to GVMC.
4. How does GVMC calculate FOIA processing fees?
- a. A fee will not be charged for the cost of search, examination, review and the deletion and separation of exempt from nonexempt information unless failure to charge a fee would result in unreasonably high costs to GVMC because of the nature of the request in the particular instance, and GVMC specifically identifies the nature of the unreasonably high costs.
 - b. The Michigan FOIA statute permits GVMC to assess and collect a fee for six designated processing components. GVMC may charge for the following costs associated with processing a request:
 - i. Labor costs associated with searching for, locating and examining a requested public record.
 - ii. Labor costs associated with a review of a record to separate and delete information exempt from disclosure of information which is disclosed.
 - iii. The cost of computer discs, computer tapes or other digital or similar media when the requester asks for records in non-paper physical media.
 - iv. The cost of duplication or publication, not including labor, of paper copies of public records.
 - v. Labor costs associated with duplication or publication, which includes making paper copies, making digital copies, or transferring digital public records to nonpaper physical media or through the Internet.
 - vi. The cost to mail or send a public record to a requestor.

- c. Labor Costs
 - i. All labor costs will be estimated and charged in 15 minute increments with all partial time increments rounded down.
 - ii. Labor costs will be charged at the hourly wage of the lowest-paid GVMC employee capable of doing the work in the specific fee category, regardless of who actually performs work.
 - iii. Labor costs will also include a charge to cover or partially cover the cost of fringe benefits.
 - d. Non-paper Physical Media
 - i. The cost for records provided on non-paper physical media, such as computer discs, computer tapes or other digital or similar media will be at the actual and most reasonably economical cost for the non-paper media.
 - ii. This cost will only be assessed if GVMC has the technological capability necessary to provide the public record in the requested non-paper physical media format.
 - e. Paper Copies
 - i. Paper copies of public records made on standard letter (8 ½ x 11) or legal (8 ½ x 14) sized paper will not exceed \$.10 per sheet of paper. Copies for non-standard sized sheets will reflect the actual cost of reproduction.
 - ii. GVMC may provide records using double-sided printing, if cost-saving and available.
 - f. Mailing Costs
 - i. The cost to mail public records will use a reasonably economical and justified means.
 - ii. GVMC may charge for the least expensive form of postal delivery confirmation.
 - iii. No cost will be made for expedited shipping or insurance unless requested.
5. How do I qualify for a reduction of the processing fees?
- a. GVMC may waive or reduce the fee associated with a request when GVMC determines that to do so is in the public interest because release of the information is considered as primarily benefitting the general public.
 - b. GVMC will waive the first \$20.00 of the processing fee for a request if you submit an affidavit stating that you are:
 - i. indigent and receiving specific public assistance; or
 - ii. if not receiving public assistance, stating facts demonstrating an inability to pay because of indigency.
 - c. You are not eligible to receive the \$20.00 waiver if you:
 - i. have previously received discounted copies of public records from GVMC twice during the calendar year; or
 - ii. are requesting information on behalf of other persons who are offering or providing payment to you to make the request.
 - d. GVMC will waive the fee for a nonprofit organization which meets all of the following conditions:
 - i. the organization is designated by the State under federal law to carry out activities under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act

- of 2000 and the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act;
 - ii. the request is made directly on behalf of the organization or its clients;
 - iii. the request is made for a reason wholly consistent with the provisions of federal law under Section 931 of the Mental Health Code; and
 - iv. the request is accompanied by documentation of the organization's designation by the State
6. How may I challenge the denial of a public record or an excessive fee?
- a. Appeal of a Denial of a Public Record If you believe that all or a portion of a public record has not been disclosed or has been improperly exempted from disclosure, you may file an appeal of the denial with the Office of The Executive Director. The appeal must be in writing, specifically state the word "appeal" and identify the reason or reasons you are seeking a reversal of the denial. Within 10 business days of receiving the appeal The Executive Director will respond in writing by:
 - i. reversing the disclosure denial;
 - ii. upholding the disclosure denial; or
 - iii. reverse the disclosure denial in part and uphold the disclosure denial in part. Whether or not you submitted an appeal of a denial to The Executive Director, you may file a civil action in Kent County Circuit Court within 180 days after the Council's final determination to deny your request. Should you prevail in the civil action the court will award you reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and disbursements. If the court determines that the Council acted arbitrarily and capriciously in refusing to disclose or provide a public record, the court shall award you damages in the amount of \$1000.00
 - b. Appeal of an Excessive FOIA Processing Fee If you believe that the fee charged by the Council to process your FOIA request exceeds the amount permitted by state law, you must first submit a written appeal for a fee reduction to the GVMC Board. The appeal must be in writing, specifically state the word "appeal" and identify how the required fee exceeds the amount permitted. Within 10 business days after receiving the appeal, the Executive Director will respond in writing by:
 - i. waiving the fee;
 - ii. reducing the fee and issue a written determination indicating the specific basis that supports the remaining fee;
 - iii. upholding the fee and issue a written determination indicating the specific basis that supports the required fee; or
 - iv. issuing a notice detailing the reason or reasons for extending for not more than 10 business days the period during which the Executive Director will respond to the written appeal.

Within 45 days after receiving notice of The Executive Director's determination of the processing fee appeal, you may commence a civil action in Kent County Circuit Court for a fee reduction. If you prevail in the civil action by receiving a reduction of 50% or more of the total fee, the court may award all or appropriate amount of reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and disbursements. If the court determines that

GVMC acted arbitrarily and capriciously by charging an excessive fee, court may also award you punitive damages in the amount of \$500.00.

Need more details or information?

This is only a summary of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's FOIA Procedures and Guidelines. For more details and information, copies of The Grand Valley Metro Council's FOIA Procedures and Guidelines are available at no charge at any Council office and on the Council's website, www.gvmc.org.

GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES

Preamble: Statement of Principles

It is the policy of The Grand Valley Metro Council that all persons, except those who are serving a sentence of imprisonment, consistent with the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), are entitled to full and complete information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts of those who represent them as public officials and employees. The people shall be informed so that they fully participate in the democratic process.

The Grand Valley Metro Council's policy with respect to FOIA requests is to comply with State law in all respects and to respond to FOIA requests in a consistent, fair, and even-handed manner regardless of who makes such a request.

The Grand Valley Metro Council acknowledges that it has a legal obligation to disclose all nonexempt public records in its possession pursuant to a FOIA request. The Grand Valley Metro Council acknowledges that sometimes it is necessary to invoke the exemptions identified under FOIA in order to ensure the effective operation of government and to protect the privacy of individuals.

The Grand Valley Metro Council will protect the public's interest in disclosure, while balancing the requirement to withhold or redact portions of certain records. The Grand Valley Metro Council's policy is to disclose public records consistent with and in compliance with State law.

Section I: General Policies

The Coordinator is authorized designate other GVMC staff to act on his or her behalf to accept and process written requests for GVMC's public records and approve denials.

If a request for a public record is received by facsimile or e-mail, the request is deemed to have been received on the following business day. If a request is sent by e-mail and delivered to a GVMC spam or junk-mail folder, the request is not deemed received until one day after the FOIA Coordinator first becomes aware of the request. The FOIA Coordinator shall note in the FOIA log both the date the request was delivered to the spam or junk-mail folder and the date the FOIA Coordinator became aware of the request.

The FOIA Coordinator may, in his or her discretion, implement administrative rules, consistent with State law and these Procedures and Guidelines to administer the acceptance and processing of FOIA requests.

GVMC is not obligated to create a new public record or make a compilation or summary of information which does not already exist. Neither the FOIA Coordinator nor other GVMC staff are obligated to provide answers to questions contained in requests for public records or regarding the content of the records themselves.

The FOIA Coordinator shall keep a copy of all written requests for public records received by GVMC on file for a period of at least one year.

Section 2: Requesting a Public Record

A person requesting to inspect or obtain copies of public records prepared, owned, used, possessed or retained by GVMC must do so in writing. The request must sufficiently describe a public record so as to enable GVMC personnel to identify and find the requested public record.

No specific form to submit a request for a public record is required. However the FOIA Coordinator may make available a FOIA Request Form for use by the public.

Written requests for public records may be submitted in person or by mail to any GVMC office. Requests may also be submitted electronically by e-mail. Upon their receipt, requests for public records shall be promptly forwarded to the FOIA Coordinator for processing.

A person may request that public records be provided on non-paper physical media, electronically mailed or other otherwise provided to him or her in lieu of paper copies. GVMC will comply with the request only if it possesses the necessary technological capability to provide records in the requested non-paper physical media format.

A person may subscribe to future issues of public records that are created, issued or disseminated by The Grand Valley Metro Council on a regular basis. A subscription is valid for up to 6 months and may be renewed by the subscriber.

A person who makes a verbal, non-written request for information believed to be available on GVMC's website, where practicable and to the best ability of the employee receiving the request, shall be informed of the pertinent website address.

A person serving sentence of imprisonment in a local, state or federal correctional facility is not entitled to submit a request for a public record. The FOIA Coordinator will deny all such requests.

Section 3: Processing a Request

Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the person making the request, within 5 business days of receipt of a FOIA request GVMC will issue a response. If a request is received by e-mail or other electronic transmission, the request is deemed to have been received on the following business day. GVMC will respond to the request in one of the following ways:

- Grant the request.
- Issue a written notice denying the request.
- Grant the request in part and issue a written notice denying in part the request.
- Issue a notice indicating that due to the nature of the request GVMC needs an additional 10 business days to respond. Only one such extension is permitted.

- Issue a written notice indicating that the public record requested is available at no charge on GVMC's website.

If the request is granted, or granted in part, the FOIA Coordinator will require that payment be made in full for the allowable fees associated with responding to the request before the public record is made available. The FOIA Coordinator shall provide a detailed itemization of the allowable costs incurred to process the request to the person making the request. A copy of these Procedures and Guidelines shall be provided to the requestor with the response to a written request for public records, provided however, that if these Procedures and Guidelines, and its Written Public Summary are maintained on GVMC's website, then a website link to those documents may be provided in lieu of providing paper copies.

If the cost of processing a FOIA request is \$50 or less, the requester will be notified of the amount due and where the documents can be obtained.

If based on a good faith calculation by GVMC, the cost of processing a FOIA request is expected to exceed \$50, or if the requestor has not fully paid for a previously granted request, GVMC will require a good-faith deposit before processing the request. In making the request for a good-faith deposit the FOIA Coordinator shall provide the requestor with a detailed itemization of the allowable costs estimated to be incurred by GVMC to process the request and also provide a best efforts estimate of a time frame it will take GVMC to provide the records to the requestor. The best efforts estimate shall be nonbinding on GVMC, but will be made in good faith and will strive to be reasonably accurate, given the nature of the request in the particular instance, so as to provide the requested records in a manner based on the public policy expressed by Section 1 of the FOIA.

If the request is denied or denied in part, the FOIA Coordinator will issue a Notice of Denial which shall provide in the applicable circumstance:

- An explanation as to why a requested public record is exempt from disclosure; or
- A certificate that the requested record does not exist under the name or description provided by the requestor, or another name reasonably known by GVMC; or
- An explanation or description of the public record or information within a public record that is separated or deleted from the public record; and
- An explanation of the person's right to submit an appeal of the denial to either the office of The Executive Director or seek judicial review in the Kent County Circuit Court; and
- An explanation of the right to receive attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements as well actual or compensatory damages, and punitive damages of \$1,000, should they prevail in Circuit Court.
- The Notice of Denial shall be signed by the FOIA Coordinator.

If a request does not sufficiently describe a public record, the FOIA Coordinator may, in lieu of issuing a Notice of Denial indicating that the request is deficient, seek clarification or amendment of the request by the person making the request. Any clarification or amendment will be considered a new request subject to the timelines described in this Section.

GVMC shall provide reasonable facilities and opportunities for persons to examine and inspect public records during normal business hours. The FOIA Coordinator is authorized to promulgate rules regulating the manner in which records may be viewed so as to protect GVMC records from loss, alteration, mutilation or destruction and to prevent excessive interference with normal GVMC operations.

The FOIA Coordinator shall, upon written request, furnish a certified copy of a public record at no additional cost to the person requesting the public record.

Section 4: Fee Deposits

If the fee estimate is expected to exceed \$50.00 based on a good-faith calculation by GVMC, the requestor will be asked to provide a deposit not exceeding one-half of the total estimated fee.

If a request for public records is from a person who has not fully paid GVMC for copies of public records made in fulfillment of a previously granted written request, the FOIA Coordinator will require a deposit of 100% of the estimated processing fee before beginning to search for a public record for any subsequent written request by that person when all of the following conditions exist:

- the final fee for the prior written request is not more than 105% of the estimated fee;
- the public records made available contained the information sought in the prior written request and remain in GVMC's possession;
- the public records were made available to the individual, subject to payment, within the time frame estimated by GVMC to provide the records;
- 90 days have passed since the FOIA Coordinator notified the individual in writing that the public records were available for pickup or mailing;
- the individual is unable to show proof of prior payment to GVMC; and
- the FOIA Coordinator has calculated a detailed itemization that is the basis for the current written request's increased estimated fee deposit. The FOIA Coordinator will not require an increased estimated fee deposit if any of the following apply:
 - the person making the request is able to show proof of prior payment in full to GVMC;
 - GVMC is subsequently paid in full for the applicable prior written request; or
 - 365 days have passed since the person made the request for which full payment was not remitted to GVMC.

Section 5: Calculation of Fees

A fee will not be charged for the cost of search, examination, review and the deletion and separation of exempt from nonexempt information unless failure to charge a fee would result in unreasonably high costs to GVMC because of the nature of the request in the particular instance, and GVMC specifically

identifies the nature of the unreasonably high costs. The following factors shall be used to determine an unreasonably high cost to GVMC:

- The particular request incurs costs greater than incurred from the typical or usual request received by GVMC. See *Bloch v Davison Community Schools*, 2011 Mich App Lexis 771, 2011 WL 1564645
- Volume of the public record requested
- Amount of time spent to search for, examine, review and separate exempt from non-exempt information in the record requested.
- Whether public records from more than one GVMC department or various GVMC offices is necessary to respond to the request.
- The available staffing to respond to the request.
- Any other similar factors identified by the FOIA Coordinator in responding to the particular request.

GVMC may charge for the following costs associated with processing a FOIA request:

- Labor costs directly associated with searching for, locating and examining a requested public record.
- Labor costs associated with a review of a record to separate and delete information exempt from disclosure of information which is disclosed.
- The actual cost of computer discs, computer tapes or other digital or similar media.
- The cost of duplication of publication, not including labor, of paper copies of public records.
- The cost of labor associated with duplication or publication, including making paper copies, making digital copies or transferring digital public records to non-paper physical media or through the Internet or other electronic means.
- The actual cost of mailing or sending a public record.

Labor costs will be calculated based on the following requirements:

- All labor costs will be estimated and charged in 15 minute increments with all partial time increments rounded down.
- Labor costs will be charged at the hourly wage of the lowest-paid GVMC employee capable of doing the work in the specific fee category, regardless of who actually performs work.

- Labor costs will also include a charge to cover or partially cover the cost of fringe benefits. GVMC may add up to 50% to the applicable labor charge amount to cover or partially cover the cost of fringe benefits, but in no case may it exceed the actual cost of fringe benefits
- Overtime wages will not be included in labor costs until agreed to by the requestor; overtime costs will not be used to calculate the fringe benefit cost.

The cost to provide records on non-paper physical media when so requested will be based on the following requirements:

- Computer disks, computer tapes or other digital or similar media will be at the actual and most reasonably economical cost for the non-paper media.
- This cost will only be assessed if GVMC has the technological capability necessary to provide the public record in the requested non-paper physical media format.
- In order to ensure the integrity and security of GVMC's technological infrastructure, GVMC will procure any requested non-paper media and will not accept non-paper media from the requestor

The cost to provide paper copies of records will be based on the following requirements:

- Paper copies of public records made on standard letter (8 ½ x 11) or legal (8 ½ x 14) sized paper will not exceed \$.10 per sheet of paper. Copies for nonstandard sized sheets of paper will reflect the actual cost of reproduction.
- GVMC may provide records using double-sided printing, if cost-saving and available.

The cost to mail records to a requestor will be based on the following requirements:

- The actual cost to mail public records using a reasonably economical and justified means.
- GVMC may charge for the least expensive form of postal delivery confirmation.
- No cost will be made for expedited shipping or insurance unless requested.

If the FOIA Coordinator does not respond to a written request in a timely manner, the following shall be required:

- Reduce the labor costs by 5% for each day GVMC exceeds the time permitted under FOIA up to a 50% maximum reduction, if any of the following applies:
 - The late response was willful and intentional.
 - The written request, within the first 250 words of the body of a letter facsimile, e-mail or e-mail attachment conveyed a request for information
 - The written request included the words, characters, or abbreviations for "freedom of information", "information", "FOIA", "copy" or a recognizable misspelling of such, or legal code reference to MCL 15. 231 et seq or 1976 Public

Act 442 on the front of an envelope or in the subject line of an e-mail, letter or facsimile cover page.

- Fully note the charge reduction in the Detailed Itemization of Costs Form

Section 6: Waiver of Fees

The cost of the search for and copying of a public record may be waived or reduced if in the sole judgment of the FOIA Coordinator a waiver or reduced fee is in the public interest because such can be considered as primarily benefitting the general public.

The FOIA Coordinator will waive the first \$20.00 of the processing fee for a request if the person requesting a public record submits an affidavit stating that they are:

- indigent and receiving specific public assistance; or
- if not receiving public assistance stating facts demonstrating an inability to pay because of indigency.

An individual is not eligible to receive the waiver if:

- the requestor has previously received discounted copies of public records from GVMC twice during the calendar year; or
- the requestor requests information in connection with other persons who are offering or providing payment to make the request.

An affidavit is sworn statement. The FOIA Coordinator may make a Fee Waiver Affidavit Form available for use by the public.

A nonprofit organization designated to by the State to carry out activities under subtitle C of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 200 and the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act, or their successors, if the request meets all of the following requirements:

- is made directly on behalf of the organization or its clients;
- is made for a reason wholly consistent with the mission and provisions of those laws under Section 931 of the Mental Health Code, MCL 330.1931;
- is accompanied by documentation of its designation by the State.

Section 7: Appeal of a Denial of a Public Record

When a requestor believes that all or a portion of a public record has not been disclosed or has been improperly exempted from disclosure, he or she may file an appeal of the denial with the Executive Director. The appeal must be in writing, specifically state the word "appeal" and identify the reason or reasons the requestor is seeking a reversal of the denial.

Within 10 business days of receiving the appeal The Executive Director will respond in writing by:

- reversing the disclosure denial;

- upholding the disclosure denial; or
- reverse the disclosure denial in part and uphold the disclosure denial in part.
- Under unusual circumstances, such as the need to examine or review a voluminous amount of separate and distinct public records or the need to collect the requested records from numerous facilities located apart from the office receiving or processing the request, The Executive Director may issue not more than 1 notice of extension for not more than 10 business days to respond to the appeal

Whether or not a requestor submitted an appeal of a denial to The Executive Director, he or she may file a civil action in Kent County Circuit Court within 180 days after GVMC's final determination to deny the request.

If the court determines that the public record is not exempt from disclosure, the court will award the appellant reasonable attorneys' fees, cost and disbursements. If the court determines that the appellant prevails only in part, the court in its discretion may award all or an appropriate portion of reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and disbursements.

If the court determines that GVMC arbitrarily and capriciously violated the FOIA by refusing or delaying the disclosure of copies of a public record, it shall award the appellant punitive damages in the \$1,000.

Section 8: Appeal of an Excessive FOIA Processing Fee

If a requestor believes that the fee charged by GVMC to process a FOIA request exceeds the amount permitted by state law, he or she must first submit a written appeal for a fee reduction to the Office of The Executive Director. The appeal must be in writing, specifically state the word "appeal" and identify how the required fee exceeds the amount permitted.

Within 10 business days after receiving the appeal, The Executive Director will respond in writing by:

- waive the fee;
- reduce the fee and issue a written determination indicating the specific basis that supports the remaining fee, accompanied by a certification by The Executive Director that the statements in the determination are accurate and the reduced fee amount complies with these Procedures and Guidelines and Section 4 of the FOIA;
- uphold the fee and issue a written determination indicating the specific basis under Section 4 of the FOIA that supports the required fee, accompanied by a certification by The Executive Director that the statements in the determination are accurate and the fee amount complies with these Procedures and Guidelines and Section 4 of the FOIA; or
- issue a notice detailing the reason or reasons for extending for not more than 10 business days the period during which The Executive Director will respond to the written appeal.

Within 45 days after receiving notice of The Executive Director's determination of a fee appeal, a requestor may commence a civil action in Kent County Circuit Court for a fee reduction. If a civil action is filed appealing the fee, GVMC is not obligated to process the request for the public record until the Court resolves the fee dispute.

If the court determines that GVMC required a fee that exceeds the amount permitted, it shall reduce the fee to a permissible amount. If the appellant in the civil action prevails by receiving a reduction of 50% or more of the total fee, the court may award all or appropriate amount of reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and disbursements.

If the court determines that GVMC has acted arbitrarily and capriciously by charging an excessive fee, the court shall also award the appellant punitive damages in the amount of \$500.

Section 9: Conflict with Prior FOIA Policies and Procedures; Effective Date

To the extent that these Procedures and Guidelines conflict with previous FOIA policies promulgated by GVMC Commission or GVMC Administration these Procedures and Guidelines are controlling. To the extent that any administrative rule promulgated by the FOIA Coordinator subsequent to the adoption of this resolution is found to be in conflict with any previous policy promulgated by GVMC Commission or GVMC Administration, the administrative rule promulgated by the FOIA Coordinator is controlling.

To the extent that any provision of these Procedures and Guidelines or any administrative rule promulgated by the FOIA Coordinator pertaining to the release of public records is found to be in conflict with any State statute, the applicable statute shall control. The FOIA Coordinator is authorized to modify this policy and all previous policies adopted by GVMC Commission or GVMC Administration, and to adopt such administrative rules as he or she may deem necessary, to facilitate the legal review and processing of requests for public records made pursuant to Michigan's FOIA statute, provided that such modifications and rules are consistent with State law. The FOIA Coordinator shall inform GVMC Commission of any change these Policies and Guidelines.

These FOIA Policies and Guidelines become effective July 1, 2015.

Section 10: Appendix of GVMC FOIA Forms

- Detailed Itemization of Fees Form
- Request Form

FOIA FEE ITEMIZATION FORM

(EFFECTIVE July 1, 2015)

Component	Cost Calculations	Total
1. Labor Costs – Search, Location and Examination of Records	<p>Enter the hourly wage of lowest paid employee capable of performing the search, location and examination</p> <p>\$ _____ per hour</p> <p>Multiply the wage by the fringe benefit multiplier (maximum of 50% of the hourly wage); OR, if the requested information is available online and the requestor requests the documents to be provided in another format, the fringe benefits multiplier may exceed 50% (not to exceed actual cost)</p> <p>_____ %</p> <p>Multiply the hourly wage times the fringe benefit multiplier</p> <p>\$ _____ x 1. _____ = \$ _____</p> <p>If stipulated by the requestor, add the hourly overtime wage increment (but do not include in the calculation of fringe benefit costs)</p> <p>\$ _____ + _____ = \$ _____</p> <p>Divide the resulting hourly wage by four (4) to determine the charge per fifteen (15) minute increment</p> <p>\$ _____ / 4 = \$ _____</p>	
	<p>Number of 15 minute increments (partial time increments must be rounded down) multiplied by the permitted rate</p> <p>_____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____</p>	<p>\$ _____</p>
2. Employee Labor Costs – Redaction	<p>If performed by the public body’s employee:</p> <p>Enter the hourly wage of the lowest paid employee capable of performing the redaction</p> <p>\$ _____ per hour</p> <p>Multiply the wage by the fringe benefit multiplier (maximum of 50% of the hourly wage); OR, if the requested information is available online and the requestor requests the documents to be provided in another format, the fringe benefit multiplier may exceed 50% (not to exceed actual cost)</p> <p>_____ %</p>	

	<p>Multiply the hourly wage times the fringe benefit multiplier $\\$ _____ \times 1. _____ = \\$ _____$</p> <p>If stipulated by the requestor, add the hourly overtime wage increment (but do not include in the calculation of fringe benefit costs)</p> $\$ _____ + _____ = \$ _____$ <p>Divide the resulting hourly wage by four (4) to determine the charge per fifteen (15) minute increments</p> $\$ _____ / 4 = \$ _____$	
	<p>Number of 15 minute increments (partial time increments must be rounded down) multiplied by the permitted rate</p> $_____ \times \$ _____ = \$ _____$	\$ _____
3. Non-Paper Physical Media	<p>Actual and most reasonably economical cost of:</p> <p>Flash Drives $\\$ _____ \times$ number used $_____ = \\$ _____$</p> <p>Computer Disks $\\$ _____ \times$ number used $_____ = \\$ _____$</p> <p>Other Media $\\$ _____ \times$ number used $_____ = \\$ _____$</p>	\$ _____
4. Paper Copies	<p>Actual total incremental cost of duplication (not including labor) up to a maximum of 10 cents per page:</p> <p>Letter paper (8 1/2 " x 11")</p> <p>Number of sheets $_____ \times \\$0. _____ = \\$ _____$</p>	
	<p>Legal paper (8 1/2" x 14")</p> <p>Number of sheets $_____ \times \\$0. _____ = \\$ _____$</p> <p>Actual cost of other types of paper:</p> <p>Type of Paper _____ Number of sheets $_____ \times \\$ _____ = \\$ _____$</p> <p>Type of Paper : _____ Number of sheets $_____ \times \\$ _____ = \\$ _____$</p> <p>(NOTE: Must be double-sided if available and costs less.)</p>	
5. Labor Cost – Duplication Copying, and transferring records to non-paper	<p>Enter the hourly wage of lowest paid employee capable of performing the duplication, copying, or transferring digital records to non-paper physical media</p>	

physical media	<p>\$ _____ per hour</p> <p>Multiply the wage by the fringe benefit multiplier (maximum of 50% of the hourly wage); OR, if the requested information is available online and the requestor requests the documents to be provided in another format, the fringe benefit multiplier may exceed 50% (not to exceed actual cost)</p> <p>_____ %</p> <p>Multiply the hourly wage times the fringe benefit multiplier</p> <p>\$ _____ x 1. _____ = \$ _____</p> <p>If stipulated by the requestor, add the hourly overtime wage increment (but do not include in the calculation of fringe benefit costs)</p> <p>\$ _____ + _____ = \$ _____</p> <p>Divide the resulting hourly wage by _____ to determine the charge per _____ (_____) minute increment</p> <p>\$ _____ / 4 = \$ _____</p> <p>Note: May use any time increments for this category</p>	
	<p>Number of _____ minute increments (partial time increments must be rounded down) multiplied by the permitted rate</p> <p>_____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____</p>	\$ _____
6. Mailing	<p>Actual cost of mailing records in a reasonable and economical manner:</p> <p>Cost of mailing: \$ _____</p> <p>Cost of least expensive form of postal delivery confirmation: \$ _____</p> <p>Cost of expedited shipping or insurance only if specifically stipulated by the requestor:</p> <p>\$ _____</p>	\$ _____
	Subtotal	\$ _____
Waivers and Reductions	<p>Subtract any Fee Waiver or Reduction: \$20.00 for indigency or nonprofit organization as further described in the Public Body's procedures and guidelines.</p>	

	<p>Any amount determined by the Public Body due to the search and furnishing of the Public Record determined to be in the public interest . \$ _____</p> <p>The reduction amount due to the late response of the Public Body. 5% of fee x _____ days late = _____ % reduction (Maximum reduction is 50%)</p>	- \$ _____
Deposit	Subtract any good-faith deposit received: \$ _____	- \$ _____
	Total Due	\$ _____

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Date requested: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Phone number: _____ Please describe with specificity the document(s) you are requesting. If you are not sufficiently specific, we may not be able to identify the document(s) you request which may delay our response to your request:

You may pick up the report at the GVMC offices, 678 Front Ave. NW, Ste. 200, Grand Rapids, Michigan, or have it mailed to you after review and approval is complete. This can take up to five (5) working days to complete, or such later date as may be extended by law.

_____ Will pick up _____ Please mail

You will be charged the allowable fees and costs under F.O.I.A. or you need to show documentation showing that you, the requester, are receiving public assistance or other facts showing inability to pay due to indigence. You agree to pay such fees and costs prior to the release of the documents.

If I did not pay the fees and costs prior to the release of the documents, I, the requestor, agree to pay all allowable fees and any collection fees for my failure to pay the allowable fees and costs under FOIA within 30 days after the documents are ready or sent to me.

Signature

*****Department use only*****

No. of pages _____ Pick up cost _____ Mail cost _____



GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

ADA TOWNSHIP • ALGOMA TOWNSHIP • ALLENDALE TOWNSHIP • ALPINE TOWNSHIP • BELDING • BYRON TOWNSHIP • CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP • CANNON TOWNSHIP • CASCADE TOWNSHIP • CEDAR SPRINGS
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**Resolution in Support of
A West Michigan Non-Motorized Trail**

WHEREAS, in 2014 a citizens group representing residents, trail advocates, non-profits and local units of government from Kalamazoo, Allegan and Kent Counties came together to pursue the development of a non-motorized trail to connect the major population centers of West Michigan, Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids, and communities between;

WHEREAS, A connected regional system of non-motorized facilities will help to increase mobility choices, relieve traffic congestion, reduce air pollution and fuel consumption, promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles and improve quality of life;

WHEREAS, Kalamazoo County has over 140 miles of on-road and over 50 miles of off-road improved facilities, Allegan and Barry Counties have over 170 miles of paved shoulders of bike lanes, and Kent County a network of over 150 miles off-road improved facilities, as a gap exists between these networks;

WHEREAS, non-motorized trails have been proven to have positive impacts on tourism and economic development;

WHEREAS, creation of a non-motorized regional trail requires cooperation, coordination, and partnership across municipal and county boundaries;

WHEREAS, a Sturgis to Wayland non-motorized route was identified as a regional priority corridor in the *2011 Southwest Michigan Non-Motorized Plan*;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council hereby endorses the efforts of the aforementioned group to seek charitable gifts to complete the visioning and planning of a non-motorized trail to connect Kalamazoo, Allegan, and Kent Counties to benefit the economy, health and fitness of citizens, recreation opportunities, tourism opportunities, the quality of life, education, and the environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council appreciates and recognizes the efforts of the stakeholders and the generosity and donations provided by citizens, businesses, and foundations that have made the development of the concept of a West Michigan Regional Trail possible for the enjoyment of all regional citizens and visitors.

John W. Weiss, Executive Director

Date



Canal under the museum? Grand Rapids river project idea has precedent

Garret Ellison | gellison@mlive.com By Garret Ellison | gellison@mlive.com

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on May 01, 2015 at 5:30 PM, updated May 01, 2015 at 7:04 PM

GRAND RAPIDS, MI — They say history tends to repeat itself.

Preliminary river restoration design concepts shown to the watershed symposium audience at the Downtown Market include a possible canal that would run under the Grand Rapids Public Museum's Van Andel Museum Center at 272 Pearl Street NW.

Should the canal be constructed - and nobody is saying for sure it will be - it would partly follow the path of the **West Side power canal** that ran through the museum site along the western Grand River bank from 1866 to 1955.

The canal, which ran from Seventh Street to the present day Blue Bridge, was built to provide water to West Side factories. It was eventually covered for parking.

"Putting a canal back in not only goes back to Grand Rapids history, but it would give the water a place to go" during floods, said Dale Robertson, museum president.

Robertson spoke to the audience at the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds spring forum on Friday, May 1.

An undated photo of the West Side Power Canal that ran from Seventh Street south to the present day site of the Blue Bridge.
Courtesy | Grand Rapids Public Museum

The museum is using a grant from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust to develop a comprehensive watershed exhibit that would showcase the unique place the museum — built on the former Voigt Milling Co. site — occupies within the Grand River floodplain, he said.

The exhibit would fold into the \$30 million **Grand Rapids Whitewater** river restoration project that hopes to restore the rapids to the river downtown and spark a series of public and private redevelopments along its banks.

Robertson showed renderings of the museum featuring a canal cut underneath and a new riverwalk extended around the carousel to the east in one, and an island built under the pedestrian walkway-flanked carousel in the other.

Diagrams show nearby public access points near the Blue Bridge and Grand Valley State University's Eberhard

Center for recreational activities like water skiing and paddle boarding. Land-based recreation around the museum could include a soccer park, nature observation stations, and picnic and sunbathing areas.

"We want to be as physically and cognitively assessable to the broadest part of the population as we can," said Robertson.

Sandbag were deployed but the April 2013 flood crest never reached the museum, he said. The city later paid \$5,000 to repair a flood-broken sidewalk through the property.

*Garret Ellison covers business, government and environment for MLive/The Grand Rapids Press. Email him at **gellison@mlive.com** or follow on **Twitter** & **Instagram***

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Grand River restoration: 5 sites eyed for major change downtown

Garret Ellison | gellison@mlive.com By Garret Ellison | gellison@mlive.com

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on May 01, 2015 at 3:05 PM, updated May 02, 2015 at 12:14 AM

GRAND RAPIDS, MI — One of the "most interesting and exciting" parts of the ambitious and expensive downtown **Grand River rapids restoration project** is planned for the West Side.

A redeveloped Fish Ladder Park "could be a destination for people who want to see what's happening with the river," said Jim Smalligan, an engineer working on the project who spoke at the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds annual spring forum, held at the Downtown Market on Friday, May 1.

The engineer with Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber engineer shared updated renderings of five public development sites along the Grand River between Sweet Street NW and Market Avenue SW that project managers hope will help increase public access to a waterway that's marked for major change.

"Hopefully next year" he said citizens will see actual site work on the \$30 million Grand Rapids Whitewater campaign, which is currently in the **fundraising and permitting process**.

Related: Full coverage of the Grand River restoration project

The river restoration team is working in conjunction with city planners who are developing a new master plan for downtown and the river called **GR Forward**.

"The beginning is underway right now," said Smalligan. Project managers hope the planned public improvements will spark private commercial developments around the changing downtown riverside.

"We need to get those public-private partnerships in place," he said.

Preliminary renderings show public trails, fishing ledges, boat launches and other improvements designed to facilitate recreational activities like water skiing, paddle boarding, kayaking, rafting, tubing, fishing, ice skating and more.

Smalligan cautioned that final riverfront designs depend on GR Forward decisions.

Sites marked for public development include:

City land southwest of the S-Curve: The current public works complex at 201 Market Ave SW is where

planners envision a "large-scale programmable open space" with trails and improvements that marry public access with ecological habitat designed to naturally manage flooding. The area could include new housing and other businesses that would "visually extend" downtown south along the river.

East bank property north of I-196: Six properties between I-196 and Sixth Street Bridge Park the city **wants to purchase from Kent County for \$10 million**. The area would "establish a prominent gateway" to the North Monroe district and "create an active edge" along the river through walkways, trails and terraced access.

Property north of the I-196/US 131 interchange: The area around Fish Ladder Park on the West Side would overlook "the most exciting part of the rapids" with trails and a "large scale demonstration of stormwater technology" through a pumping station.

The Monroe Fire Station property: The southwest corner of Leonard Street and Monroe Avenue portion of the project would include a wading area and a new sturgeon spawning habitat and create a connection to the existing riverside trail that extends north of Leonard to Riverside Park.

Undeveloped land north of Leonard: An "Adventure Park" planned south of the rail crossing by Sweet Street NW would "create an adventure landscape that allows for people to experience the ecology while participating in extreme and active program." Ideas listed on the renderings include a ropes course, skate park, rock climbing wall, outdoor class area and another fish ladder.

Related: Canal under the museum? There's precedent

The river restoration project benefits from inclusion in the Urban Waters Federal Partnership in 2013, a **designation** meant to facilitate state and federal permitting.

Elements like terraced bioswales and other nontraditional approaches to flood management are designed to dovetail with the ongoing floodwall certification process the city is undertaking with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Plans include removing the Sixth Street Dam and other low-head dams in the river and **relocating** the lamprey barrier upstream between Ann and Leonard Streets. Planners also have to preserve habitat for the endangered snuffbox mussel, which was **discovered** in the Grand River downtown in 2013.

Renderings indicate the river would be navigable from south of Market Street all the way through Kent and Ottawa counties to Lake Michigan.

In Ottawa County, Grand Rapids developer Dan Hibma, a partner in Land & Co., is **asking commissioners to fund a feasibility study** on dredging the river between Grand Rapids and western Allendale Township. Since the 1970s, the Grand between the Bass River Recreation Area and Grand Haven has been maintained as "commercially viable" by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Hibma and former state senator Cameron Brown want to see navigation hazards like pilings, shoals and other submerged obstacles removed from the Grand in order to facilitate private development catalyzed by a restored river downtown.

"This project would dovetail with the work being done to restore the river through Grand Rapids," Brown told Ottawa commissioners on April 27.

*Garret Ellison covers business, government and environment for MLive/The Grand Rapids Press. Email him at **gellison@mlive.com** or follow on **Twitter** & **Instagram***

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Metro Council endorses \$30M Grand River restoration project

Jim Harger | jharger@mlive.com By Jim Harger | jharger@mlive.com

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on May 08, 2015 at 2:12 PM, updated May 08, 2015 at 2:58 PM

GRAND RAPIDS, MI – The Grand Valley Metro Council has given its stamp of approval to Grand Rapids Whitewater, a plan that would **restore the Grand River's rapids** to their natural state in downtown Grand Rapids.

The Metro Council, which represents 36 communities in five counties, formally adopted a resolution of support for the \$30 million plan at its May 7 monthly meeting.

"This proposed project has the potential to have a positive impact on the entire **Grand River watershed**," said Executive Director John Weiss in a news release.

"It's important that our organization be engaged with the various groups associated with the project to ensure that our member communities are well informed as this vision moves closer to reality."

The Metro Council will also provide staff and research support to the **\$30 million river restoration** planning process under a grant from the Wege Foundation.

"The Grand River is an important waterway for our communities, and its ecological and economic vitality are critical to our overall regional prosperity," Weiss said. "We see this as an idea that could have a great impact on our residents for decades to come."

The campaign to restore the rapids to the Grand River began with the founders of the Grand Rapids Whitewater group more than six years ago.

Since then, local, state and national agencies have thrown their support behind the project, including the city of Grand Rapids, the State Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Environmental Quality, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"Our goal is to restore the rapids to the Grand River, creating a waterway that is ecologically healthy, is accessible to a variety of water activities, and brings new tourism and economic development to the region," said Chris Muller, co-founder of Grand Rapids Whitewater.

"We're pleased that the Grand Valley Metro Council has chosen to put its powerful voice behind our vision," Muller said in a news release.

*Jim Harger covers business for MLive/Grand Rapids Press. Email him at jharger@mlive.com or follow him on **Twitter** or **Facebook** or **Google+**.*

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