

**Grand Valley Metro Council  
Executive Committee Meeting**

Thursday, May 20, 2010  
12:00 pm

Grand Valley Metro Council  
678 Front Ave. NW, Suite 200  
Grand Rapids, MI

**MEETING NOTES**

**Present**

Daryl Delabbio  
Cindy Fox  
George Heartwell  
Don Hilton, Sr.  
Cy Moore  
Rob VerHeulen

Kent County  
Cascade Township  
City of Grand Rapids  
Gaines Township  
Council Treasurer  
City of Walker

**Absent**

Jim Buck  
Rick Root  
Alan Vanderberg

City of Grandville  
City of Kentwood  
Ottawa County

**Other**

Andy Bowman  
Leon Branderhorst  
Abed Itani  
Gayle McCrath  
Don Stypula

Grand Valley Metro Council  
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**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 pm by Vice Chair Don Hilton.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION – Approval of GVMC Executive Committee Minutes of April 2010. MOVE – Fox. SUPPORT - Moore. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **3. Transportation / MPO**

#### **a. FY2008-2011 TIP Amendments for Kent County Road Commission**

Staff was recently informed by the Kent County Road Commission (KCRC) their desire to delete an FY2010 STP-Urban project. With this in mind the following amendments are being requested:

- ⇒ Delete an FY2010 STP-Urban project, Belmont Avenue, Jupiter Avenue to Post Drive at a Federal of \$899,000.
- ⇒ Move forward an STP-Rural project, Lincoln Lake Avenue, 3 Mile Road to 5 Mile Road from FY2008-2011 TIP (Specifically FY2011) to FY2010 with a Federal cost of \$506,088 and change the funding to STP-Urban.
- ⇒ Move a project from the Illustrative list, 17 Mile Road, US-131 to West Street to FY2010 with a Federal STP-Urban cost of \$392,912. For more details, please see attached.

**MOTION – To Approve the Above Requested TIP Amendments for the Kent County Road Commission. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **b. FY2008-2011 TIP Amendments for MDOT**

MDOT has requested a 2008-2011 TIP amendment for the following items:

- ⇒ M-21 – Grand River to Bennett Street in Ada Twp. Maintaining Traffic and related improvements for Grand River Bridge Replacement project (JN 79083 in approved TIP) for \$3,503,000.
- ⇒ Various area-wide projects. Trunkline Road CPM-GPA for \$7,540,000.
- ⇒ Various area-wide projects. Trunkline Highway Safety – GPA \$5,890,000.
- ⇒ Various area-wide projects. Local Rail Safety – GPA \$13,000.

**MOTION – To Approve the Above Requested FY 2008-2011 TIP Amendments for MDOT. MOVE – VerHeulen. SUPPORT – Fox. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **c. Amendment to the GVMC 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan**

As part of the development of the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) an Amendment to the current 2035 Long Range Transportation is required. The LRTP and TIP must be in compliance in order for the new 2011-2014 TIP to be approved in July, 2010. Therefore some adjustments must be made to the project listings in the 2035 LRTP regardless of the fact that the 2035 LRTP is currently undergoing its own update. The list of changes to the LRTP Project List is attached for your review. The LRTP project changes that constitute this amendment require an Air Quality Conformity Analysis to be conducted, the results of which are posted on the gvmc.org website. Details of the

L RTP Amendment project changes are also available on the website. The public involvement process for an amendment includes an ad in the Grand Rapids Press on April 24<sup>th</sup> inviting public comment on the amendment/air quality analysis; posting the amendment information on our website; inviting public comment at the pre-existing TIP public meeting on **March 18** as well as at the Policy Committee meeting on **March 19**; and mailing notice to the GVMC Public Involvement/Consultation list. The public involvement period is May 3-June 1, 2010.

**MOTION – To Approve the Requested Amendment to the GVMC 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **4. Update on Michigan Transportation Commission Audit of GVMC**

Don Stypula updated the committee on the Michigan Transportation Commission audit. Abed Itani met with the MDOT planning staff and they support GVMC and advising us on how to approach MDOT. They support us on the Blueprint expenses which will now be allowed and amount to approx. \$250,000. Andy Bowman, Abed Itani, and Jay Hoekstra are assembling all the documents needed. A letter of response will then be drafted. We have also met with our current auditor, Peter Haefner. Don has spoken to Rich Bowma at Warner Norcross, who understands our situation. We will bring in Rich and Peter to review our documentation, packet and language. Our response has to be filed by June 27. They will then have 60 days to respond.

#### **5. Legislative Advocacy**

Don Stypula reviewed the letter and packet to be sent out to legislative candidates. It will be sent out as soon as possible and request a response back by June 11.

Cindy Fox said we should include the option of responding back electronically. It will be much quicker & easier, both for the candidate and staff.

Rob VerHeulen added we should ask for brief answers.

#### **6. Debrief of May 11 Goal Setting Meeting**

Don Stypula discussed and handed out a summary of comments from the May 11, strategy meeting.

Items included, but not limited to,

- ⇒ Communications plan
- ⇒ Sub regional approach
- ⇒ Expanded GVMC role including providing or contracting services
- ⇒ Building partnerships
- ⇒ Economic Development
- ⇒ Survey of who is doing what

⇒ Tangible and relevant planning services

Don reported he will put together an action plan which will take these into consideration.

Rob VerHeulen had a question regarding self sustainability of activities such as LGROW. We have to stop just talking about making it self-sustainable, and make it so. If we don't do more with less we could lose members and increase dissatisfaction with those who remain.

Daryl Delabbio stated we couldn't do all the work needed to "reinvent" GVMC in just three hours. There is way too much information. We should do a written survey including questions such as why are you members of the Metro Council and what services do you use besides transportation. Through this, the Executive Committee can delve in the mission, vision and action plan.

Rob VerHeulen said there is a role for Metro Council in sharing information and creating a sub-regional forum. i.e. Medical marijuana and urban chicken issues.

Don Stypula asked what if we researched issues and worked with the planners of all member communities to create a sample ordinance.

Rob VerHeulen stated that would be relevant and tangible and would enhance value.

Daryl Delabbio said this is where a survey would come in. We need a small group to steer. You can't do that with 50 people in a room.

Rob VerHeulen stated it could even be a subcommittee of the Executive Committee. There needs to be a lot of time for a work session.

Don Hilton added that in the section titled "Lew's comments" the comments don't have any meat on the bones.

Don Stypula said he will send out the compilation to the full Council and will make reference to it in the follow-up electronic survey. We need to identify three items.

Daryl Delabbio said the survey should go to each member community not each member in addition to the At-large members. It shouldn't be limited to the items on this list. Each community should be followed up with.

**7. Next Meeting – June 17, 2010**

**8. Adjournment – 1:30 p.m.**