

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

March 11, 2009

8:30 a.m.

GVMC Offices
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

MINUTES

1. Call To Order

Chair Rick Root called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Present:

Haris Alibasic	City of Grand Rapids
Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Jim LaPeer	Cannon Township
Bob May	City of Hastings
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Tubbs	City of Hastings
Keith Van Beek	Ottawa County

3. Approval of Minutes from February, 2009

MOTION – To Accept the Minutes of the February 2009, GVMC Legislative Committee meeting into record. MOVE – May. SUPPORT – Fox. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Federal Economic Stimulus Package

Don Stypula reported the state is to cut back on transportation projects. There is

disagreement between GVMC and MDOT on the correct allocation of funds to locals. Abed Itani is working with GVMC members and MDOT to reach an appropriate resolution.

Don Stypula stated the MPO will probably get the dollars it programmed for in local funding. There is disagreement on the process. MDOT will likely back off on a couple of its ITS units in eastern Ottawa County and in turn will invest in 28th Street between Division and Kalamazoo or the access road to the airport.

Rick Root asked how Senator Hardiman's committee will affect the equitable distribution of the resources that the state has control over.

Don Stypula stated the legislature has to obligate the funding through a supplemental budget. This has to be approved by both the Senate and House. Don has been in contact with Hardiman's office consistently and has asked him to take a look at the list before it is approved. Hardiman will work with MDOT director and others to ensure equity.

Rick Root asked if anyone else should talk with Bill Hardiman and if so, what they should say.

Don Stypula reported everyone should call Senator Hardiman's office and tell him you appreciate what he has done and ask him to keep an eye on what is going on.

Rick Root asked if the remaining 30% of funds seemed to be distributed politically.

Don Stypula stated that is a hypothesis. There was disagreement on Act 51 and Don asked through Joan Bower to make a request of the House Fiscal Agency transportation analyst to look at this issue. The analyst determined MDOT had a good argument on the allocation of the 30%. MDOT has to go through the MPO to spend the money.

Don Stypula stated he will review the remainder of the bill and get information to everyone. Andy Bowman traveled to SEMCOG and brought a lot of information back regarding submission of projects. Don will get this info out to everyone A.S.A.P. The MTA, MML and MAC are all gathering their list of projects. They are all being accumulated in Lansing. If you have a project and you want to get it on the list, forward it to Don and he will submit it on your behalf.

5. May Legislative Luncheon

Don Stypula asked the committee what activities they would like to do when they are in Lansing. If members want, we should contact your Senator and ask him to bring you into session on the floor. You are also encouraged to attend committee meetings.

Don stated everyone should call their legislators and make appointments with them for that day. Lunch will be 11:30 – 1:30.

Rick Root asked if a press conference would be set up with a specific message to get out.

Don Stypula stated yes there would.

Rick Root stated he doesn't know what the exact message will be by that time, however it seems natural to have a press conference to get the message out and so our people at home can see what's going on.

Bob May asked if GVMC should coordinate its message with the MTA, MML and MAC.

Don Stypula stated he would interface with the TV and newspapers by making a courtesy call about three weeks out to let them know what's going on. By then we should know what the topics will be.

Alex Ahrens asked who should attend.

Don Stypula stated everyone who wanted to from GVMC member organizations could attend.

Rick Root encouraged everyone to arrive early and stay late to visit their legislators' offices and meet their staffers. That should be a priority.

Keith VanBeek reported that last year's HJR III might be an issue by that time. We will need to watch that very carefully. We need to educate everyone on what this would actually do.

Don Hilton added the public is very ill advised on Proposal A. They are currently being protected by it, but they don't know it. The legislators should back off and the process will work itself out.

Haris Alibasic stated there are tons of similar bills out there that have been introduced which are bad for cities and townships.

Possible Topics

- Revenue Sharing
- HJR III
- Transportation Funding
- GVMC Priorities / Intergovernmental Cooperation

6. Legislative Advocacy

Transportation funding will be moving soon. It looks like they are going to eliminate the 19 cent tax per gallon and replace it with a wholesale tax and/or increase registration fees.

7. Other

The April Legislative Committee Meeting was changed to April 21st.

8. Adjourn – 10:00