

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL  
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**September 12, 2007**

**8:30 a.m.**

Kent County Building  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**MINUTES**

**1. Call To Order**

**ROLL CALL**

Present:

Haris Alibasic	City of Grand Rapids
Chuck Bloom	Cannon Township
Marta Brechting	Alpine Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Jim Fetzer	ITP / The Rapid
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Bill Holland	Georgetown Township
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Andy Johnston	Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Elias Lumpkins	City of Grand Rapids
Bob May	City of Hastings
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Jon Rice	Kent County Road Commission
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Keith Vanbeek	City of Kentwood
Peter Varga	ITP / The Rapid

**2. Call to Order**

Chair Rick Root called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

**3. Approval of Minutes from August, 2007**

**MOTION – To Approve the August 2007 GVMC Legislative Committee Minutes. MOVE – Holland. SUPPORT – May. MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. State Budget Discussion**

Don Stypula reported there is nothing new on the state budget. Negotiations are still underway.

**5. Transportation**

Don Stypula welcomed the group and discussed the deteriorating shape of transportation funding.

Abed Itani reviewed the various types of transportation funding and their projections for the upcoming years. Reduced revenues are expected in every form of transportation funding for the foreseeable future. The rising cost of transportation projects are also seriously eroding the buying power of what funding is available.

It needs to be addressed at both the state and federal level.

Abed Itani reviewed previous attempts to increase funding through gas tax, etc. which failed.

Don Stypula explained he is looking for everyone's ideas which can be crafted into a GVMC position. He doesn't expect any movement until 2009 as 2008 is an election year.

Discussion ensued regarding the situation and possible fixes.

It was determined a smaller study group would meet to bring back to the full committee recommendations. Participants would include representatives from the various transportation organizations as well as the Chamber of Commerce; Kent, Ottawa, and Barry Counties; and the City of Grand Rapids.

Don Stypula will coordinate this meeting and bring back their recommendations to the next Legislative committee meeting.

**6. Adjourn – 10:00 a.m.**