

MINUTES

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TECHNICAL/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, July 21, 2021
Walker Community Park
700 Cummings Ave NW
Walker, 49534

Schweitzer, Policy Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:33 am

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**Voting Members Present**

Sue Becker		Alpine Township
Brad Boomstra	<i>Proxy for</i>	City of Kentwood
	<i>Jim Kirkwood</i>	City of Kentwood
Tim Bradshaw		Caledonia Twp.
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Karyn Ferrick		City of Grand Rapids
Mark Bannett		City of Grand Rapids
Nicole Hofert		City of Wyoming
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for</i>	MDOT
	<i>Mike Burns</i>	City of Lowell
Tyler Kent	<i>Proxy for</i>	MDOT
	<i>Jeff Franklin</i>	MDOT
James Kilborn		Ottawa County
Greg Madura		Alpine Township
Jim Miedema		OCRC
Josh Naramore		City of Grand Rapids
Darrel Schmalzel		City of Walker
Terry Schweitzer (<i>Chair</i>)		City of Kentwood
Rick Sprague	<i>Proxy for</i>	KCRC
	<i>Tim Haagsma</i>	Gaines Township
Charlie Sundblad		City of Grandville
Steve Warren		KCRC
Kevin Wisselink		ITP-The Rapid
Russ Henckel		City of Wyoming
Casey Ries		GFIAA
Scott Connors		City of Walker
Wayne Harrall	<i>Proxy for</i>	Kent County
	<i>Mike DeVries</i>	Grand Rapids Township

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Bradley Doane	GVMC Staff
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Laurel Joseph	GVMC Staff
George Yang	GVMC Staff
Mike Zonyk	GVMC Staff
Aman Pannu	GVMC Staff
Katherine Parker	MDOT

Voting Members Not Present

Clint Nemeth	GFIAA
Ken Krombeen	City of Grandville
Jack Klein	OCRC
Melissa LaGrand	Kent County
Nick Monoyios	ITP-The Rapid
Jeff Franklin	MDOT
Shay Gallagher	Village of Sparta
Jerry Hale	Lowell Township
Brian Hilbrands	Cascade Charter Township
Don Mayle	MDOT
Terry Brod	Cannon Township
Dave Datema	Tallmadge Township
Rod Weersing	Georgetown Township
Ben Swayze	Cascade Charter Township
Cameron Van Wyngarden	Plainfield Township
Phil Vincent	City of Rockford
Julius Suchy	Ada Township
Dan Strikwerda	City of Hudsonville
Mike Burns	City of Lowell
Dan Burrill	City of Wyoming
Jamie Davies	City of Rockford
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Robert DeWard	Gaines Charter Township
Adam Elenbaas	Allendale Township
Jim Ferro	Ada Township
Rachel Gokey	Village of Sand Lake
Kevin Green	Algoma Township
Tim Haagsma	Gaines Charter Township
Bryan Harrison	Caledonia Charter Township
Jim Holtvluwer	Ottawa County
Doug LaFave	City of East Grand Rapids
Bill Larose	Cedar Springs
Brett Laughlin	OCRC
Don Mayle	MDOT
Matt McConnon	Courtland Township
Robert Miller	City of Hudsonville
Tom Noreen	Nelson Township
Rob Postema	City of Wyoming
Rick Solle	Plainfield Township

Jeff Thornton
Don Tillema
Laurie VanHaitsma
Mike Womack
Kristin Bennett

Village of Caledonia
Byron Township
Jamestown Township
City of Cedar Springs
City of Grand Rapids

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action was deferred until Committees have separate meetings in September 2021

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. TIP AMENDMENTS

Referring to Item IV: Attachment A, Joseph described the following TIP amendments/modifications to the Committees:

- MDOT is requesting the amendments/modifications to the TIP project list in the attached pending projects summary. These include two projects that were originally programmed in the FY 2020-2023 TIP, but that have been moved out to later years. MDOT is also requesting committee review of the S/TIP exempt project list, which has been modified to only show the project list that have undergone changes since the last Committee meeting. D Kent highlighted projects in the meeting including the major widening of I-196 (WB) from M-11 east to I-196 BS and a cost increase on a bonding project at I-196 over on Grand River Market that was not listed. Kent also added that the M-11 project at 28th street from I-196 to 131 was able to secure stable non-motorized funding. (Please see attachments).
- Caledonia is requesting an amendment of their FY2021 Kinsey Ave Project, which has decreased in cost by over 25% with the latest engineer's estimate (please see pending projects/GPAs report).

Joseph explained that any cost change over 25% needs to be amended.

- Staff, on behalf of the City of Kentwood, is requesting an amendment to the FY2022 TIP, adding the Burton Street project that was approved by committees in May. This addition has triggered a GPA threshold amendment for FY2022 Local Road GPA (please see pending projects/GPAs report).
- Wyoming has received their conditional commitment for the Plaster Creek Trail project, and therefore staff, on their behalf, is requesting an amendment to add it to the TIP. This addition has triggered a GPA threshold amendment to the FY2022 Local Livability and Sustainability GPA (please see pending projects/GPAs report).
- Staff, on behalf of ITP-The Rapid, is requesting to pass the portion of the Transit Master Plan planning project that was approved by Committees for HIP-Covid Relief funding to FY2023.

Joseph highlighted a Van project that was added for Georgetown seniors that was not listed in the memorandum. This project also needs approval for the Transit Capital GPA for FY2022.

Schweitzer entertained a motion to approve the TIP amendments, as requested.

MOTION by Naramore, SUPPORT by Bradshaw, to approve the TIP amendments requested by MDOT, Caledonia, Staff (on behalf of Kentwood and The Rapid) and Wyoming, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

A. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN—

Referring to Item V: Attachment A, Faber stated that in May of 2021, Staff presented the revised draft PPP to the Technical and Policy Committees for consideration. At that time, both Committees recommended the document be brought to the public for the mandatory 45-day public comment period which began on Saturday, May 22, and ran through Friday, July 9, for a total public comment period of 49-days. Faber added that four comments were received by the GVMC staff during the public comment period (see Appendix F of the PPP) and noted that none of the comments resulted in changes to the content of the document. Staff made some minor editorial changes to the document which also did not significantly impact the document's content.

The public comment opportunity at today's meeting provides the public with one final opportunity to comment on the document before requesting committee approval of the PPP. No public comments were received, and the public comment period was closed.

B. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Schweitzer opened the floor for any final comments from the Committee. Schweitzer mentioned that the plan includes developing a Citizen Advisory Committee as an optional public outreach tool and noted that there is a lack of such committee for the Metro Council. Faber addressed challenges involving the formation of a Citizen Advisory Committee and gave an example of the Kalamazoo MPO and the challenges that they faced while forming and continuing to run their Citizen Advisory Committee. The biggest challenge for the Kalamazoo MPO was to find representation, since the advisory group was very small. Another challenge is to find people willing to comply with the time commitment and who are somewhat versed in transportation issues and needs. Having said that, this is something that can be looked at in more detail for the next MTP with committee support. Joseph agreed that, with committee support, developing a Citizen Advisory Committee is something we can pursue in the future for the next MTP.

MOTION by Naramore, SUPPORT by Madura, to approve the final draft of the Public Participation Plan. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. UPDATES FROM STAFF

- Joseph gave an update on the non-motorized counts that Pannu (GVMC intern) has been working on. She also mentioned an eco-counter that has been acquired recently and Doane will be working on it for non-motorized counts. Joseph also said that we are at the early stages for the development of the next Transportation Improvement Plan. A call for proposals can be anticipated to go out in early September and the TPSG meeting will occur in October. Doane will be reaching out to members to update and add contacts for the non-motorized sub-committee.
The request for proposal process for the airport access study, the TDM study, and the RFP process for the van purchase next year also began this month. Also, meetings have been scheduled for both the airport access and the TDM Study. For the TDM group, Joseph requested some additional representation from the review committee.
- Zonyk gave an update on the pavement condition on the Federal aid network and the local road network and presented a map to show the progress. A deficiency analysis is also underway for the TIP and the data collection process will start in August/September. Zonyk also requested feedback or questions regarding the deliverables that are provided by GVMC.
- Faber mentioned that a Freight Plan is underway. The purpose of this plan is to inventory the current state of our transportation system to determine challenges that may inhibit the effective movement of freight, propose solutions to these challenges, and to develop recommendations. A public and stakeholder survey has been sent out for feedback. Faber also mentioned that the document is a collaborative effort among GVMC staff.
Faber also gave an update on the Clean Air Action/Air Quality Awareness campaign and the advertisement campaign that is currently in process. The display is being hosted by various townships and other local events/festivals. A citizen awareness and compliance survey about the program is also at the planning stage. GVMC has also joined the Advance Program and hopes to expand the Clean Air Action program in the coming years through our participation.
Faber also announced that GVMC has begun a safety education and outreach program. We have a new web page and are currently developing a series of commercials. The first video is nearly complete. Yang showed the Committee current nonmotorized safety items that GVMC is giving away, which included bike lights, reflective wrist bands, and reflective belts. GVMC is planning to distribute these items this fall and encouraged our members to sign up as host locations for the public to pick up the items.

- Doane gave an update on the non-motorized facilities inventory and requested members to email him regarding the non-motorized sub-committee.

Other Updates

- D Kent updates the members on the State Long Range Transportation Plan. The project is nearing completion and the draft plan is going to transportation commission review and will be released for public comments for 30-40 days at the end of August. Staff will review the comments and the final plan will go to transportation commission in October which will result in stakeholder meeting opportunities. He also added that, they will be working with Joseph on other STIP development projects and a Planning and Environmental Linkage Study for US-131. There will be a more direct public involvement later this fall through a hybrid, in person and virtual model.
- T Kent gave an update on the Annual 5-Year Transportation Plan which will be approved by STC at the same meeting as the State Long-Range plan listed above and will be out for public comment period. He also mentioned that they have been working with GVMC and other stakeholders on the Airport Access Study and are excited to move forward with that and will appreciate more involvement.
- Warren provided an update on KCRC's progress on their new facility.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Schweitzer adjourned the July 21, 2021 Technical/Policy Committee meeting at 10:13am.