

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMMING STUDY GROUP  
Tuesday March 2, 2021  
Video Conference**

Brett Laughlin, Chair of the TPSG Subcommittee, had audio issues and was unable to run the meeting.

Terry Schweitzer nominated Wayne Harrall as Temporary Chair of the TPSG Subcommittee.

**MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Conners, to appoint Wayne Harrall as Temporary Chair of the TPSG Subcommittee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Harrall, Temporary Chair of the TPSG Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and the organization they represented.

**I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Voting Members Present**

Michelle Baker	<i>Proxy for Clint Nemeth</i>	GFIAA
Kristin Bennett		City of Grand Rapids
Brad Boomstra		City of Kentwood
Tim Bradshaw (Vice Chair)		City of Kentwood
Scott Conners		City of Walker
Mike DeVries		Grand Rapids Charter Township
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Shay Gallagher		Village of Sparta
Wayne Harrall (Temporary Chair)		County of Kent
Russ Henckel		City of Wyoming
Nicole Hofert		City of Wyoming
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for Mike Burns</i>	MDOT
Jim Kirkwood		City of Lowell
Brett Laughlin (Chair)		City of Kentwood
Nick Monoyios		Ottawa County Road Commission
Jon Moxey		GFIAA
Terry Schweitzer		Village of Caledonia
Rick Sprague		City of Kentwood
Dan Strikwerda		Kent County Road Commission
Charlie Sundblad		City of Hudsonville
Jeff Thornton		City of Grandville
Kevin Wisselink		Village of Caledonia
Steve Warren		The Rapid
		Kent County Road Commission

APPROVED

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Janet Arcuicci  
Bradley Doane  
Andrea Faber  
Art Green  
Laurel Joseph  
Susan Rozema  
John Weiss  
George Yang  
Mike Zonyk

MDOT  
GVMC Staff  
GVMC Staff  
MDOT  
GVMC Staff  
MDOT  
GVMC Staff  
GVMC Staff  
GVMC Staff

**Voting Members Not Present**

Mike Burns  
Adam Elenbaas  
Jeff Franklin  
Rachel Gokey  
Tim Haagsma  
Steve Hartman  
Joan Konyndyk  
Doug LaFave  
Bill LaRose  
Travis Mabry  
Robert Miller  
Clint Nemeth  
Jeff Oonk  
Steve Peterson  
Liz Schelling  
Max Smith  
Phil Vincent  
Mike Womack

City of Lowell  
Allendale Township  
MDOT  
Village of Sand Lake  
Kent County Road Commission  
Hope Network West Michigan  
Hope Network West Michigan  
East Grand Rapids  
City of Cedar Springs  
City of Walker  
City of Hudsonville  
GFIAA  
City of Wyoming  
Cascade Charter Township  
ITP – The Rapid  
Hope Network West Michigan  
City of Rockford  
City of Cedar Springs

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Bradshaw said on page 2, the second to last paragraph says, “Harrall suggested that Kentwood gets \$80,000, and Kentwood gets \$33,000.” The first “Kentwood” should be “Kent County Road Commission.” Staff noted the change.

Mike DeVries entertained a motion to approve the March 4, 2020 TPSG minutes.

**MOTION by Mike Devries, SUPPORT by Conners, to approve the March 6, 2020 TPSG Subcommittee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**II. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**III. FY2020 STP-URBAN AND STATE EDC ADDITIONAL FUNDS**

APPROVED

**Please refer to Item IV:** Joseph explained there are STP-Urban funds that need to be obligated in FY2021 from a City of Grandville project that cannot obligate this year. The City of Grandville is requesting these funds are used by other members in hopes to get HIP funding for their project in a future year.

- FY 2021 STP-Urban: \$218,881 (from City of Grandville project)

Joseph presented members with a list of eligible projects that have not yet been obligated. Discussion ensued.

Connors pointed out there are two agencies that have projects that aren't matched, he recommended splitting them up between the two biggest agencies, Kent County Road Commission, and the City of Grand Rapids. Harrall elaborated, explaining Connors was referring to the KCRC Whitneyville Ave project and a project of choice for Grand Rapids. Connors confirmed.

Laughlin asked Joseph if the Caledonia job on the proposed list was the same as the Caledonia job on the current TIP list, and if both jobs had different limits. Joseph explained the TIP job was a proposal for HIP funding, but included a longer segment of road, and Caledonia is requesting funding to get back to their original limit ask and expense.

Moxey said he wasn't sure if 24.50% was the correct Local Share percentage for the Caledonia project. Joseph explained the percentage is from what is currently listed in the TIP, so if the project's total cost has changed and is not currently reflected in the TIP, then that percentage may differ. Moxey said the amount shown is for essentially half the project that was originally requested. Harrall asked Moxey if Caledonia was in good shape to obligate their project for FY2021. Moxey said yes, they're looking at starting construction this fall or next spring. Harrall asked if Caledonia was submitting the expanded project that was submitted for HIP funding or the reduced length project. Moxey said it was essentially half of what was outlined in the HIP description. Harrall said KCRC could take about \$50,000 for the Whitneyville Ave project to make the project closer to an 80/20 split.

Joseph stated all recommendations are slated to go through final approval in April. Rick DeVries asked if that would hold up obligation on a project if dollars were added. Joseph said yes. Rick DeVries said, in that case, they should assign it to the Lake Eastbrook Blvd project if there are extra dollars. Joseph noted DeVries' comments.

Joseph asked for clarification that the Subcommittee is recommending getting the Whitneyville Ave project up to 24.5% local match and the rest to go to the Grand Rapids Lake Eastbrook Blvd project. Connors said that recommendation would result in \$37,760 additional dollars going to the Whitneyville project and \$181,121 going to the Lake Eastbrook project, putting Kent County at 24.5% local share, consistent with everybody else, and Grand Rapids well under that amount.

Moxey said the \$375,000 for the Caledonia project was incorrect and the total participating amount is looking more like \$450,000 for the project. Joseph asked Moxey to send his estimate to herself and Mike Zonyk. Harrall asked if that estimate would still be within 25%. Moxey said no, it's closer to 40% for half the project.

APPROVED

Schweitzer asked, regarding the HIP money, if they would be eligible to be spent on projects like the Caledonia Kinsey project. Joseph said yes.

**MOTION by Conners, SUPPORT by Laughlin to approve reallocation of funds from the City of Grandville's Wilson Ave project to KCRC's Whitneyville Ave and City of Grand Rapids' Lake Eastbrook projects.**

**Please refer to Item IV:** Joseph explained the three different pots of funding available:

- FY 2020 HIP General: \$502,729 (must be obligated by 9/30/23, typical 80/20 or 81.85/18.15 required split)
- FY 2021 HIP General: \$540,111 (must be obligated by 9/30/24, typical 80/20 or 81.85/18.15 required split)
- FY 2021 HIP COVID Relief: \$3,693,347 (must be obligated by 9/30/24, 100 federal – no local match required)

Harrall asked if the COVID funding has no local match required. Joseph said yes.

Moxey presented the Village of Caledonia's Kinsey Street Improvement project.

Harrall asked Moxey if Caledonia is including the entire corridor including the FY 2021 project previously discussed. Moxey said no but they'd like to combine both as one project.

Rick DeVries presented the City of Grand Rapids' Division Ave, Grandville Ave, and Hall St projects.

Harrall asked DeVries if Grand Rapids had the ability to add more to the projects. Rick DeVries said watermain and sewer weren't eligible, if their Federal budget ask was around \$1.4 million, they could do a normal grant project with an 80/20 split between Grandville and Hall.

Sundblad presented the City of Grandville's Wilson Ave project.

Strikwerda presented the City of Hudsonville's 40th Ave: Grant to Van Buren, 40th Ave: M-121 to Grant, and 40th Ave: Van Buren to N city limit projects.

Harrall asked if Hudsonville had a priority of the three projects. Strikwerda said the portion from Grant to Van Buren due to the shape it's in.

Harrall presented the Kent County Road Commission's Leffingwell Ave, Northland Dr, and 68th St projects.

Boomstra presented the City of Kentwood's two Burton St projects.

Harrall asked if Kentwood's priority was the bigger of the two projects. Boomstra said the opposite, their priority is the Forest Hill/Patterson project. Bennett asked if the intent of the Forest Hill/Patterson project was to take away all or some of the shoulder space. Boomstra said some of it, they're looking to take away 10 feet to leave some shoulder. Bennett encouraged Kentwood to expand to 12 feet to make the section more bike friendly. Boomstra acknowledged the suggestion.

APPROVED

Bennett asked if there was any assumption of signal change costs. Boomstra said yes, and they do expect some intersection work.

Laughlin presented Ottawa County Road Commission's Fillmore St/Cottonwood Dr project.

Harrall asked if OCRC were to add \$500,000 to the project, what would that put them at? Laughlin replied \$1.3 million, totaling \$1.8 million.

Connors presented the City of Walker's Bristol RR Bridge project.

Harrall asked if Walker was trying to physically widen the bridge. Connors said they're proposing a combination of large culverts. Schweitzer asked if the level of tracks will stay where they are. Connors said yes, preliminarily, and they'd bring the road down a couple of feet for more clearance. Bradshaw asked if there was any concern from a historical perspective to altering the bridge. Connors said Walker was not aware of any and they'd like to preserve the character of the bridge.

Joseph presented the Regional TDM Strategy and Transit Master Plan projects.

Monoyios added it has been over 10 years since the region's last TMP and an update would benefit the entire region. Monoyios continued, saying as they prepare the scope of work, there will be an exhaustive task force put together which will be composed of member jurisdictions of GVMC. Wisselink said this project is more of a regional planning effort and they're looking to start in the summer of 2022.

Schweitzer asked if the TMP would include the West Michigan Express corridor project discussed in the previous Tech/Policy Committee meeting. Monoyios said that's a great idea and it's worth discussion. Monoyios went on to say he felt the output from the TDM strategy would be a great beneficial influence for how we develop the TMP as well. Wisselink asked if they wanted projects folded into the same effort. Joseph said the budgets were not combined, however there was a general consensus at February's combined Tech/Policy meeting that the West Michigan Express and bus-only lanes projects could all be part of a broader transit master plan. Strikwerda expressed support for the idea.

Weiss asked Joseph to talk about enhancing work and holding dues. Joseph explained the upcoming GVMC Work Program and staff's efforts to allocate all funds. Discussion ensued.

Warren presented the M-37 Added Capacity and Fruit Ridge Interchange projects for consideration.

Bradshaw said his understanding is the bond money the state is receiving will cover most, if not all, of the M-37 project. Dennis Kent said it is technically not a bond funded project, it is a backfill project. Kent went on to explain additional dollars added to the project would be for added capacity.

Harrall asked, related to capacity on M-37, of Kent's opinion if any showstoppers were to be added. Kent said the preliminary engineering phase has looked into environmental issues, for a 5-lane option, there appears to be no showstoppers. Kent added the Fruit Ridge project is a categorical exclusion. Harrall asked if Fruit Ridge was currently programmed. Kent said there is some work programmed for the project.

APPROVED

Mike DeVries said he felt the \$250,000 requested for the Planning Study benefits everyone in the region. DeVries asked Joseph what the total amount of funding is for COVID relief. Joseph said \$3.7 million. DeVries expressed a desire to get more funding for the region.

Warren explained funding on a previous 100th St project. Warren suggested \$1 million allocated to the M-37 or Fruit Ridge projects to entice an increase in State funding. Weiss asked Warren if he had enough information to talk about potential project costs in detail. Kent provided additional details about the project cost estimates.

Schweitzer said the memo indicates, at the latest, money must be obligated by September 2024. Schweitzer asked if money could be applied to the M-37 project in time. Kent said yes. Green explained the project has been successful in its operations template and preliminary work has already been done to know there are strong indications to know capacity improvement is warranted. Weiss said the difficulty is going to be a clear and direct strategy of MDOT leadership that the region is going to maintain our existing system. Weiss continued, regional jurisdictions will likely have to pay for a lot of an expanded capacity M-37 project, citing a doubt MDOT will want to expand the system. Weiss asked Kent and Green how the Subcommittee could get the M-37 Added Capacity project started financially. Kent said there is not a specific amount, it's more of a good-faith financial effort from non-MDOT sources.

Connors asked Joseph what the deadline is for completing this discussion on HIP funding. Joseph said it doesn't need to be completed today but she'd like to make a decision about what Grandville can do with their project now that they've given up their STP funding.

Harrall asked if there was any other project on the list intended to happen sooner than 2022. Joseph said just the Kinsey St project in Caledonia. Harrall asked Moxey if he had the entire section ready for GI submittal. Moxey said they're under design on the half section. To fully fund the entire project, they'd need roughly another \$120,000.

Connors said Grandville has always been good with the group about not overreaching and taking on reasonable efforts, and he can't see where Grandville gets left out. Harrall agreed.

Joseph asked the Subcommittee how they wanted to handle the position of TPSG Chair. Connors nominated Brett Laughlin to continue his position as Chair. Laughlin accepted.

**Meeting tabled until March 17, 2021 at 9:30 am.**

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

Harrall adjourned the March 2, 2021 TPSG Subcommittee meeting at 2:54 pm.