

**MINUTES**

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMMING STUDY GROUP  
Wednesday, April 13, 2022  
The Rapid Central Station Conference Room  
250 Grandville Ave SW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504**

**I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Conners, Subcommittee Chair, called the April 13, 2022 Combined Nonmotorized/TPSG meeting to order at 9:00am. Those present introduced themselves to the Subcommittee.

**TPSG Voting Members Present**

Kristin Bennett		City of Grand Rapids
Scott Conners ( <i>Chair</i> )		City of Walker
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Tyler Kent		MDOT
Jim Kirkwood		City of Kentwood
Russ Henckel		City of Wyoming
Nicole Hofert		City of Wyoming
Doug LaFave		City of East Grand Rapids
Jeff Oonk		City of Wyoming
Terry Schweitzer		City of Kentwood
Rick Sprague	<i>Proxy for Mike Devries</i>	Kent County Road Commission
Charlie Sundblad		Grand Rapids Township
Kevin Wisselink		City of Grandville
		ITP - The Rapid

**Nonmotorized Members Present**

Sue Becker		Alpine Township
Tim Bradshaw		Caledonia Charter Township
Tim Haagsma		Gaines Township
Travis Mabry		City of Wyoming
Brian Mulligan		Kent County Parks
Stephanie Ogren		Grand Rapids Public Museum
Scott Post	<i>Proxy for</i>	City of East Grand Rapids
Dale Robinson		Grand Rapids Public Museum

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Brad Doane	GVMC Staff
Laurel Joseph	GVMC Staff
George Yang	GVMC Staff
Mike Zonyk	GVMC Staff

**TPSG Voting Members Not Present**

Mike Burns	City of Lowell
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Charter Township
Adam Elenbaas	Allendale Township

Shay Gallagher  
Art Green  
Wayne Harrall  
Dennis Kent  
Bill LaRose  
Brett Laughlin  
Robert Miller  
Clint Nemeth  
Liz Schelling  
Dan Strikwerda  
Jeff Thornton  
Phil Vincent  
Luke Walters  
Steve Warren  
Member Awaiting Appointment

Village of Sparta  
MDOT - GRTSC  
Kent County  
MDOT- Grand Region  
City of Cedar Springs  
Ottawa County Road Commission  
City of Hudsonville  
GFIAA  
ITP – The Rapid  
City of Hudsonville  
Village of Caledonia  
City of Rockford  
MDOT  
Kent County Road Commission  
Village of Sand Lake

**Nonmotorized Members Not Present**

Alex Arends  
Dave Bee  
Brian Bigorowski  
Terry Brod  
Mike Burns  
Dan Delooff  
Kim Dixon  
Adam Elenbaas  
Bill Fischer  
Dale Fitz  
Jay Fowler  
  
Madison Jacoby  
Ken Krombeen  
Matt McConnon  
Nick Monoyios  
Brian Mulligan  
Jill Myer  
Sandra Otey  
Joe Pung  
Greg Ransford  
Rebecca Rembrandt  
John Said  
Darrel Schmalzel  
Rick Solle  
Jay Steffen  
Laurie VanHaitsma  
Phil Vincent  
Rod Weersing

Allendale Township  
WMRPC  
City of East Grand Rapids  
Cannon Township  
City of Lowell  
KC Parks  
City of Grand Rapids  
Allendale Township  
Plainfield Township  
City of Grand Rapids  
Greater Grand Rapids  
Bicycle Coalition  
Algoma Township  
City of Grandville  
Courtland Township  
ITP – The Rapid  
KC Parks  
KC Parks  
Cascade Township  
City of Kentwood  
Tallmadge Township  
City of Wyoming  
Ada Township  
City of Walker  
Plainfield Township  
City of Grand Rapids  
Jamestown Township  
City of Rockford  
Georgetown Township

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Referring to Item II: Attachment A,** Connors entertained a motion to approve the March 8, 2022, TPSG Subcommittee meeting minutes.

**MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Lafave, to approve the March 8, 2022  
TPSG Subcommittee meeting minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED  
UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dale Robertson of the Grand Rapids Public Museum stepped forward for a comment. Robertson, President & CEO of the museum, provided a background of the museum and its relation to education in Grand Rapids. Robertson continued, saying the museum is expanding and part of the expansion is removing the barrier between the carousel and the museum and would like to allow full access from the carousel to the riverwalk. Robertson said they hope to have support for the River Edges West trail project between the Grand River and the museum.

**IV. ADJUSTMENTS TO DRAFT PROGRAM OF PROJECTS FOR FY2023-2026 TIP**

**Referring to Item IV: Attachment A,**

**2023**

**TAP**

Joseph updated members on 2023 TAP funding. There is \$732,644 in TAP funds for FY23. Joseph continued, saying any project programmed with these funds needs to be ready to go to get obligated. They are working on a scenario where large MPO TAP funding allocations streamline their process to select projects.

Rick Devries proposed Grand Rapids' Collindale Nonmotorized Pathway (Project #1557) Lake Michigan Dr to Burritt St totaling \$577,664. Kristin Bennett presented their Beacons project (Fulton/Alten, Cesar Chavez/Beacon, Bridge/Garfield, Eastern/Logan, Leonard/Davis) totaling \$359,216.

Doug Lafave presented East Grand Rapids' Plymouth Ave/Cascade Rd/E Beltline sidewalk project (Project #2108) involving East Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Township, and Kent County Road Commission with an estimated cost of \$1,103,255 to be obligated in any year. Scott Post Said it's a big project to try to get obligated in 2023, so a later year would be fantastic. Joseph said projects like this typically have 70/30 Federal/Local funding.

Discussion ensued.

Bennett stated the Grand Rapids Beacons project could be pushed back to 2023. Conners summarized the current requests as Grand Rapids' Collindale nonmotorized pathway, Grand Rapids' Various Beacons project, and East Grand Rapids' sidewalk project. Totaling roughly \$1.2 million of \$1.4 million available. Joseph agreed, saying that is their allocation and MDOT would want the amount

available adjusted down to \$1.3 million. Based on the expected budget MDOT gave Joseph, she informed members there is \$588,000 to deal with in 2023.

Joseph said she wondered if instead of trying to push the East Grand Rapids project into 2023, they should utilize carryover and give them an extra year since it's such a big project. Joseph said they will add the leftover carryover to 2024 from 2022 and 2023 to the East Grand Rapids project. Connors said if there's any extra it should be added to the East Grand Rapids project. Haagsma asked what the total of the East Grand Rapids project is. Joseph said it will use the leftover from 2022 (\$607,000) and 2023 (\$130,000).

Members recommended obligating Grand Rapids' Collindale Nonmotorized Pathway and Multiple Beacons projects for TAP funds in 2023 as well as East Grand Rapids' Plymouth Ave/Cascade Rd/E Beltline sidewalk project for 2024.

Connors entertained a motion to approve FY2023 and FY2024 TAP funds.

**MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Hofert to approve the FY2023 and 2024 TAP Adjustments as discussed to the Draft Program of Projects. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **2025**

### ***TAP and CRP***

Joseph updated members on the 2025 TAP and CRP funding. Connors asked members to propose eligible projects.

Tyler Kent presented MDOT's M-44/E Beltline over I-96 bridge project (Project #2145), explaining the opportunity for trail connections to the project. Kent asked for \$1 million for the project in 2025. The total cost stands at \$2 million.

Kent presented MDOT's US-131 pedestrian tunnels project (Project #2146) to be obligated in 2025 and 2027. Kent asked for \$1,059,357 from a combination of TAP and CRP funds.

Terry Schweitzer presented Kentwood's Forest Hill Ave over I-96 bridge connectivity project (Project #2040). Schweitzer stated it will be a \$3 million project and they're possibly looking at 2026 for funding. Kent said the project is tentatively programmed for 2028 for MDOT but money can still be used to obligate. Kent said, should there be any type of grant that comes forward for that project, you might want to leave some wiggle room to use a match. The other option is to use it as first priority for the next TIP cycle.

Travis Mabry called attention to Walker's Fruit Ridge over I-96 bridge project. Mabry suggested having a further talk with MDOT about grant allocation types, seeing as there are so many projects that are addressing pinch points over interstates.

Mabry presented Walker's Kinney Ave rotary/sidewalk construction project (Project #2144) between Leonard and Lake Michigan Dr. Mabry said it is currently at 50% match, they are asking for \$175,000 to put them at 70/30. Mabry said they'd like to build the project in 2024 and get reimbursed in 2025.

Sue Becker presented Alpine Township/KCRC's Fruit Ridge Ave sidewalk project. (Project #1676)

Joseph acknowledged the museum's proposal for the River Edges West project. (Project #1561)

Rick Devries presented Grand Rapids' Lakeside Avenue Sidewalk project (Project #1567). Bennett presented Grand Rapids' set of after-street projects: Fuller Ave from Adams Park Apartments to Boston, Fuller NE of Northlawn, Wealthy & Straight, Cesar Chavez from Grandville Ave to Cordelia St, West Leonard & Fremont, and Ann St & Lafayette. Bennett said all projects will be constructed in 2023, 2024, and 2025. Bennett presented a second combination of street projects: 1st/2nd St NW Separated Bicycle Facilities, Mount Vernon Ave NW Separated Bicycle Facilities, and Turner Ave Separated Bicycle Facilities. (Project #1501, 1514, and 1523 respectively) Joseph asked what their ask would be for the second set of projects. Bennett said they would take all the CRP funds, but they could also scale the project.

Nicole Hofert presented Wyoming's Trails and Paths (Phase II) projects consisting of their Grace Christian University to Grand Rapids Plaster Creek Trail section (Project #2115) and their Jenkins St to Grace Christian University section (Project #2116) both at a 70/30 split.

Discussion ensued.

Members recommended using the 2025 funding for the Fruit Ridge Ave project in Alpine Township project for \$140,000 in Federal, Kinney Ave project in Walker for \$175,000, M-44/E Beltline over I-96 Bridge project for \$180,000 in TAP, and Grace Christian University to Grand Rapids Plaster Creek Trail section in Wyoming for \$680,000 in CRP funding.

**MOTION by Haagsma, SUPPORT by Kirkwood to approve the FY2025 Adjustments as discussed to the Draft Program of Projects. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**2026**

***TAP and CRP***

Joseph updated members on the 2026 TAP and CRP funding. Joseph asked members for 2026 proposals.

Henckel requested funding for Wyoming's Jenkins St to Grace Christian University section of their Trails and Paths (Phase II) project (Project #2116) for the remainder of CRP funding.

Bennett proposed Grand Rapids' 1st/2nd St NW Separated Bicycle Facilities, Mount Vernon Ave NW Separated Bicycle Facilities, and Turner Ave Separated Bicycle Facilities projects (Project #1501, 1514, and 1523 respectively) for the remainder of TAP funding.

Bennett also recommended pushing Grand Rapids' Breton Rd/Elliott St project (Project #1839) from 2026 to Illustrative as an option. Joseph said if they wanted to move the project out of its current place in the TIP, available TAP funds would be \$506,000 if they wanted to replace it with another project. Devries recommended replacing it with the Lakeside Avenue Sidewalk project (Project #1567) and two pieces of Turner Ave Project (4th St to Bridge St/Stocking Ave to 2nd St).

Members recommended using the remaining CRP funds for Wyoming's Jenkins St to Grace Christian University section of their Trails and Paths (Phase II) project and moving Grand Rapids' Breton Rd/Elliott St project to the illustrative list for 2027 and replacing it with the Lakeside Avenue Sidewalk project and two pieces of Turner Ave Bikeway project (4th St to Bridge St/Stocking Ave to 2nd St) for the remaining TAP funding.

**MOTION by Schweitzer with a notation for future consideration for the Breton/Elliott project for the next round of funding, SUPPORT by Haagsma to approve the FY2026 Adjustments as discussed to the Draft Program of Projects. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Conners, Subcommittee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.