

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
JOINT TECHNICAL/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 18, 2023
Rapid Central Station Conference Room
250 Cesar E. Chavez Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

Naramore, Chair of the Policy Committee, called the January 18, 2023, joint Technical/Policy Committee meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Those present introduced themselves to the Committee.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Kristin Bennett		City of Grand Rapids
Tim Bradshaw		Caledonia Charter Township
Terry Brod		Cannon Township
Scott Conners		City of Walker
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Dennis Durham		City of Grandville
Karyn Ferrick		City of Grand Rapids
Francisco Garcia		OCRC
Tim Haagsma		Gaines Charter Township
Wayne Harrall	<i>Proxy for Mike DeVries</i>	Kent County
Russ Henckel		Grand Rapids Charter Township
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for Mike Burns</i>	City of Wyoming
Doug LaFave		MDOT
Brett Laughlin		City of Lowell
Greg Madura		City of East Grand Rapids
Josh Naramore, <i>Chair</i>		OCRC
Jeff Oonk	<i>Proxy for Nicole Hofert</i>	Alpine Township
Kris Pachla		City of Grand Rapids
Casey Ries		City of Wyoming
Terry Schweitzer		City of Wyoming
Dean Smith		Kent County
Rick Sprague		GRFIA
Julius Suchy		City of Kentwood
Charlie Sundblad		Jamestown Charter Township
Ben Swayze		KCRC
Jeff Thornton		Ada Township
Cameron Van Wyngarden		City of Grandville
Luke Walters	<i>Proxy for Jeff Franklin</i>	Cascade Charter Township
Kevin Wisselink		Village of Caledonia
		Plainfield Charter Township
		MDOT
		MDOT
		The Rapid

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Clover Brown
Brad Boomstra
Andrea Faber
Mara Gericke
Bruce Johnson
Laurel Joseph
Tyler Kent
Peter Kimball
Terry Martin
Todd Roesler
Jason Ulanowicz
George Yang
Mike Zonyk

GVMC
City of Kentwood
GVMC
GVMC
Public – Spring Lake
GVMC
MDOT
GVMC
Carrier and Gable
Public – Grand Rapids Township
Hope Network
GVMC
GVMC

Voting Members Not Present

Sue Becker
Mark Bennett
Mike Burns
Michael DeVries
Adam Elenbaas
Jeff Franklin
Kevin Green
Jerry Hale
Bryan Harrison
Brian Hilbrands
Nicole Hofert
Jim Holtvluwer
Jim Kirkwood
Bill LaRose
Matt McConnon
Robert Miller
Clint Nemeth
Tom Noreen
Rob Postema
John Said
Darrel Schmalzel
Dan Strikwerda
Rick Solle
Don Tillema
Laurie Van Haitsma
Phil Vincent
Steve Warren
Rod Weersing
Mike Womack
Blaine Wing
Member Awaiting Appointment
Member Awaiting Appointment
Member Awaiting Appointment
Member Awaiting Appointment

Alpine Township
Tallmadge Charter Township
City of Lowell
Grand Rapids Charter Township
Allendale Charter Township
MDOT
Algoma Township
Lowell Charter Township
Caledonia Charter Township
Cascade Charter Township
City of Wyoming
Ottawa County
City of Kentwood
City of Cedar Springs
Courtland Township
City of Hudsonville
GRFIA
Nelson Township
City of Wyoming
Ada Township
City of Walker
City of Hudsonville
Plainfield Charter Township
Byron Township
Jamestown Charter Township
City of Rockford
Kent County Road Commission
Georgetown Charter Township
City of Cedar Springs
Village of Sparta
Gaines Charter Township
City of Rockford
City of Wyoming
Village of Sand Lake

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action will be deferred until the Technical and Policy Committees meet individually.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Todd Roesler from Grand Rapids Township made a comment. He is a 21-year resident of the area and moved here from California. Roesler stated that he loves the Grand Rapids area and what people are doing here. He had questions for the Committee regarding the connectivity of the counties, townships, and state regarding the urban planning of infrastructure. Roesler referenced MDOT and asked how the state roads are managed. He asked if there is a plan to fix the S - curve and asked if bonding out the cost was an option. His second question was regarding infrastructure in the state roads. He asked if local governments are working to put pressure on the state to figure out how to improve water, sewer, electric, and gas. Roesler stated that storm water and retention ponds are failing, and the sewer systems are continuing to flood which drain into the rivers and creeks. He stated that the state needs to be involved in the infrastructure planning for 30-50 years into the future, and that the grants need to be used usefully. He referenced the Knapp and Leffingwell intersection and asked why, with the growth of Knapp's Corner, widening the easement for a right turn lane was not thought of.

IV. TIP AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS

Referring to Item IV: Attachment A, Zonyk introduced the amendments/modifications to the FY2023-2026 TIP that were described in the agenda package. They are as follows:

MDOT

Dennis introduced the S/TIP exempt list projects for MDOT, which he stated are mostly smaller scale projects. He noted that there is delayed construction on the carpool lot project in Hudsonville and small bridge repairs on M-11 have been added. Also, there has been a cost increase for an I-96 resurfacing project, and a US-131 project for warranty administration has been added.

The Rapid

The Rapid is requesting approval for project changes in FY2023 and FY2024, including funding changes and the addition of one 5,337 project in each year. These changes have triggered GPA threshold amendments for the FY2023 and FY2024 Transit Capital GPAs and the FY2024 Transit Operating GPA.

Wisselink noted that The Rapid does not receive their federal 2023 funds until the end of the year. He stated that most of the projects in the TIP are standard, and the one larger project is facility improvements to the administrative building.

Georgetown Seniors

Georgetown Seniors was awarded funds in FY2023 for the purchase of a van. Adding it has contributed to the GPA threshold amendment that is required for the FY2023 Transit Capital GPA.

City of Grand Rapids

The City of Grand Rapids has been awarded three new FY2024 safety projects which are triggering two amendments, one line-item addition and a threshold amendment for the FY2024 Local Traffic Safety and Operations GPA.

K. Bennett noted that the Hall Street project is an audit and therefore is a smaller project. Four signals are being added on E Fulton Street, from Jefferson to the Lake and Union intersection and to College and Lafayette as well.

MOTION by Laughlin, SUPPORT by Harrall, to approve the TIP amendments/modifications as recommended by MDOT, The Rapid, Georgetown Seniors, and the City of Grand Rapids. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. 2050 MTP DRAFT VISION STATEMENT, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES PREVIEW

Referring to Item V: Attachment A, Faber introduced the discussion on the draft vision statement, goals, and objectives for the 2050 MTP before final approval is requested in March.

Faber noted that the MTP Steering Committee met on January 4 to review the vision statement, goals, and objectives from the 2045 MTP. At this meeting, the Committee suggested several updates and Staff made additional revisions. Staff is requesting feedback by Friday, January 20, and anticipates bringing the final draft of the vision statement, goals and objectives to the Tech and Policy Committees for action at their March meetings.

Harrall mentioned he thought there was good discussion at the MTP Steering Committee meeting, and it was well attended and productive.

T. Kent thanked GVMC Staff for their work on the 2050 MTP development.

Joseph thanked the MTP Steering Committee for their feedback and noted she appreciates their perspectives.

Faber summarized the MTP and TIP processes for the Committee to bring new Committee members up to speed.

Bennett asked if electric vehicles will be a point of conversation in the plan. Faber noted there are objectives that relate to new and emerging technologies in the MTP,

as well as a chapter on new and emerging technologies in the 2045 MTP that is expected to be carried over to the 2050 MTP. Faber noted Staff will also be conducting a financial analysis to look at the amount of funding the region is expected to receive, and Staff will look at how to spend those funds. The MTP Steering Committee will meet one more time to discuss a financial strategy.

Joseph noted the latest date to submit feedback on the vision statement, goals, and objectives is Friday, February 10.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- Complete Streets Survey

Kimball reminded the Committees that the complete streets analysis survey has been sent out on behalf of GVMC staff.

- Airport Access Study Update

Joseph announced the Airport Access Study consulting team has gone through a detailed analysis and have received feedback from the Technical Advisory Committee. There will be a Virtual Public Meeting on January 19 to receive feedback on preferred projects and options for further study. Joseph noted there will also be an in-person public open house at the Kentwood KDL community room. Another open house will be held in mid to late February, most likely in Cascade Township. The project team will then take the feedback from the virtual public meeting, open houses, and the survey and bring it to the Technical Advisory Committee for finalization of the recommendations. Joseph expects the report to be brought to the Committees in the spring and it will be brought to the GVMC Board as an informational item at their June meeting.

- Regional TDM Plan Update – Community Workshop

Joseph provided an update on the Regional TDM plan and announced GVMC is seeking feedback through a Community Workshop next Monday, January 23, at Rapid Central Station. There is also an online feedback tool as an option. Joseph stated the TDM Plan Update will be wrapping up in the fall of 2023.

- Naramore asked if there were any updates on the Safe Streets for All grant. Joseph stated there had not been any updates yet.
- D. Kent provided clarification on the M-37 project in Caledonia. He announced the open house for this project has been rescheduled for February 1, 2023. D. Kent asked when the annual construction meeting will be. Joseph answered that this will tentatively be done on the upcoming Policy Committee meeting date.

- D. Kent addressed Roesler's public comment. He noted that some of the items discussed are statewide issues that are not limited to MDOT, and he will take Roesler's information to address his specific questions later.
- Van Wyngarden addressed Roesler's public comment. He stated that state and local collaboration is important and that is what these Committees strive for. He noted the Michigan Infrastructure Council (MIC) is working on coordinating these efforts as well.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Naramore adjourned the January 18, 2023, joint Technical/Policy Committee meeting at 10:03 a.m.