

**MINUTES**

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
JOINT TECHNICAL/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, July 20, 2022  
Rapid Central Station Conference Room  
250 Grandville Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

Bradshaw, Chair of the Technical Committee, called the July 20, 2022 joint Technical/Policy Committee meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Those present introduced themselves to the Committee.

**I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Voting Members Present**

Sue Becker		Alpine Township
Kristin Bennett		City of Grand Rapids
Mark Bennett		Tallmadge Charter Township
Tim Bradshaw		Caledonia Charter Township
Terry Brod		Cannon Township
Scott Connors		City of Walker
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Wayne Harrall	<i>Proxy for Mike DeVries</i>	Kent County
		Grand Rapids Charter Township
Brian Hilbrands		Cascade Charter Township
Nicole Hofert		City of Wyoming
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for Mike Burns</i>	MDOT
		City of Lowell
Jack Klein	<i>Proxy for Brett Laughlin</i>	OCRC
		OCRC
Greg Madura		Alpine Township
Jim Miedema		OCRC
Clint Nemeth		GFIAA
Darrel Schmalzel		City of Walker
Terry Schweitzer		City of Kentwood
Rick Sprague	<i>Proxy for Tim Haagsma</i>	KCRC
		Gaines Charter Township
Luke Walters		MDOT
Rod Weersing		Georgetown Charter Township
Kevin Wisselink		The Rapid

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Clover Brown	GVMC
Andrea Faber	GVMC
Mara Gericke	GVMC
Laurel Joseph	GVMC
Tyler Kent	MDOT
Terry Martin	Carrier and Gable
Kalib Perry	MDOT
Jeromie Windsor	AECOM
George Yang	GVMC
Mike Zonyk	GVMC

**Voting Members Not Present**

Mike Burns  
Dan Burrill  
Jamie Davies  
Michael DeVries  
Adam Elenbaas  
Karyn Ferrick  
Jeff Franklin  
Shay Gallagher  
Kevin Green  
Tim Haagsma  
Jerry Hale  
Bryan Harrison  
Russ Henckel  
Jim Holtvluwer  
Jim Kirkwood  
Ken Krombeen  
Doug LaFave  
Melissa LaGrand  
Bill LaRose  
Brett Laughlin  
Matt McConnon  
Robert Miller  
Josh Naramore  
Tom Noreen  
Rob Postema  
Casey Ries  
John Said  
Jonathan Seyferth  
Rick Solle  
Dan Strikwerda  
Julius Suchy  
Charlie Sundblad  
Ben Swayze  
Jeff Thornton  
Don Tillema  
Laurie Van Haitsma  
Cameron Van Wyngarden  
Phil Vincent  
Steve Warren  
Mike Womack

City of Lowell  
City of Wyoming  
City of Rockford  
Grand Rapids Charter Township  
Allendale Charter Township  
City of Grand Rapids  
MDOT  
Village of Sparta  
Algoma Township  
Gaines Charter Township  
Lowell Charter Township  
Caledonia Charter Township  
City of Wyoming  
Ottawa County  
City of Kentwood  
City of Grandville  
City of East Grand Rapids  
Kent County  
City of Cedar Springs  
OCRC  
Courtland Township  
City of Hudsonville  
City of Grand Rapids  
Nelson Township  
City of Wyoming  
GRFIA  
Ada Township  
Gaines Charter Township  
Plainfield Charter Township  
City of Hudsonville  
Ada Township  
City of Grandville  
Cascade Charter Township  
Village of Caledonia  
Byron Township  
Jamestown Charter Township  
Plainfield Charter Township  
City of Rockford  
Kent County Road Commission  
City of Cedar Springs

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments.

**IV. TIP AMENDMENTS**

**Referring to Item IV: Attachment A**, Joseph presented the TIP Amendments to the FY2020-2023 and FY2023-2026 TIPs:

### **City of Kentwood**

The City of Kentwood is requesting to abandon their FY2022 CMAQ project (East Paris Ave at 28<sup>th</sup> St). The work was rolled into a corresponding STP-Urban project.

### **GVMC**

To utilize the surplus CMAQ funds left from the abandoned Kentwood project, GVMC is proposing to program the FY2023 Clean Air Action (CAA) funding in FY2022. The associated work will still be completed in FY2023, but the funds will be obligated in FY2022. If approved, staff will abandon the CAA project in FY2023 when the new TIP is approved. This will open up \$131,654 in FY2023 CMAQ funds for the Committee to program at a future date.

### **City of Walker**

The City of Walker is requesting to suspend/abandon their FY2023 STP-Urban project (Alpine Ave from Ann St to Hillside Dr) in order to utilize those federal funds in their Bristol Ave (Under Railroad Bridge) project, which has increased significantly in cost since the original estimate. The Bristol Ave cost increase will also require an amendment.

### **MDOT**

MDOT is requesting the addition of a small traffic safety project to FY2022 (I-196 from Fuller Ave to I-96). This was originally programmed as a S/TIP line item, which is why it requires an amendment. It has since been shifted into the Trunkline Traffic Operations and Safety GPA. MDOT is also requesting Committee review of the S/TIP exempt project list.

### **The Rapid**

Joseph stated that The Rapid has received an earmark project for FY2022 to purchase 4-6 replacement under 30 ft electric buses and charging stations/Infrastructure costs, which will trigger a GPA threshold increase amendment for the FY2022 Transit Capital GPA.

**MOTION by Madura, SUPPORT by Bennett to approve the TIP amendments requested by the City of Kentwood, City of Walker, GVMC, MDOT, and The Rapid. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **V. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE BYLAWS.**

**Referring to Item V: Attachment A**, Joseph introduced a discussion regarding a

review and potential update to the Committee bylaws. With the release of the Census population numbers, Georgetown Township and the City of Kentwood will now be allowed two votes on the GVMC Technical and Policy Committees due to their populations exceeding 50,000. To make that change, the bylaws must be amended. With that, Joseph proposed that it may be a convenient time to review the bylaws, with final decisions on any amendments taking place at the next Policy Committee meeting.

Discussion ensued on the topics of quorum requirements, attendance, officer terms, and proxy designations. Joseph recommended that the quorum requirement is changed to one over half of the member organizations and requested that the Committee members designate a proxy when unable to attend meetings to ensure that quorum is met. The Committee agreed, and it will be brought to the next Policy Committee meeting for finalization.

In addition, the bylaws list Chair terms as a one-year term, but have been operating on two-year terms. Joseph asked the Committee whether they would like to change the Chair term limits to two years to align with this. The Committee agreed, and it will be brought to the next Policy Committee meeting for finalization.

Additional suggestions from the Committee were as follows:

- Member communities update their proxies on a yearly basis
- TPSG vote allowances are reviewed and amended if needed
- The Vice Chair for the Technical Committee be the TPSG Subcommittee Chair
- Prior to each TIP development cycle, the Committees will determine the TPSG representative for Kent and Ottawa Counties
- Language referring to a "Secretary" is removed and replaced by "GVMC Staff"
- Language referring to the "TIP Committee" is replaced with "TPSG Subcommittee"
- Any additional ad-hoc Committees are added as Subcommittees, if necessary
- Update language to reflect the current structure of ad-hoc Committees, which typically function for longer than a year

Joseph noted that a new copy of these notes and bylaws will be brought to the September Committee meetings for review.

## **VI. AIRPORT ACCESS STUDY UPDATE**

Joseph introduced Jeromie Windsor from the consulting group AECOM who is leading the Airport Access Study. Windsor presented an overview of the study, including the study area, schedule, and findings to date. At present, the team is

about halfway through the schedule, working on identifying conceptual alternatives and gearing up for Phase 2 of public engagement.

In the Spring of 2022, Phase 1 of public engagement began and a survey was launched with over 7,000 responses received. The airport added a survey link to the landing page for the airport wifi, which contributed to the high number of survey responses. Windsor presented the results of the survey. Once Phase 1 was completed, purpose and needs statements were created and work began on determining conceptual alternatives. This information can be found here: [Airport Access Study — Grand Valley Metro Council \(gvmc.org\)](https://www.gvmc.org/airport-access-study)

Phase 2 of public engagement will focus on developing practical alternatives and another survey to receive feedback on these alternatives. A story map will be launched in July and run through August. It will be hosted on the GVMC website, in addition to paper flyers, mailing lists and social media, and announced at future meetings. The study team will look into meeting with airport staff to ensure their feedback with the second round of public engagement.

## **VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grants Discussion**

Joseph presented the SS4A Grant information to the Committee. Of the two grant funding options available, the Action Plan Grant is most applicable to the MPO, as the current regional Safety Plan (2018) does not meet all of the federal Action Plan requirements.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee concurred that they are interested in pursuing an Action Plan Grant as a region, with GVMC taking the lead on the grant application process.

If the grant is to be awarded to the MPO, it would then be determined whether this plan be completed in-house or through a consultant. In the coming months, a Safety Committee will be formed, which will serve as the guiding Committee on plan development. Joseph noted that applications are due September 15<sup>th</sup>, with grants awarded in winter of FY2023.

### **Federal Aid Buyout Program and Regionally Significant Projects Discussion**

Joseph presented to the Committee information on the Federal Aid Buyout Program. In this first round of buyout, three MPO TIP projects were submitted by local jurisdictions. If awarded these projects would be removed from the TIP. Joseph asked the Committees whether they would like to designate projects that participate in this program as regionally significant to keep them in the TIP or if they are comfortable with them coming out. Discussion ensued.

R. DeVries suggested that the MPO is added to any correspondence between the jurisdictions and MDOT to help with the tracking of progress on these projects. Joseph suggested that a general update be added to the agenda for updates regarding these projects.

#### **MDOT M-37 Discussion**

D. Kent updated the Committees on the MDOT M-37 project in Caledonia, which has been delayed for additional environmental assessment. MDOT is working through some options that may allow them to move in to project design alongside environmental assessment. More information will be provided in the future as it becomes available.

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Bradshaw adjourned the July 20, 2022 joint Technical / Policy Committee meeting at 10:49 a.m.