

**MINUTES**

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, March 1, 2023  
Rapid Central Station Conference Room  
250 Cesar E. Chavez Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

Conners, Vice Chair of the Technical Committee, called the March 1, 2023, Technical Committee meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Those present introduced themselves to the Committee.

**I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Sue Becker		Alpine Township
Kristin Bennett		City of Grand Rapids
Mark Bennett		Tallmadge Charter Township
Terry Brod		Cannon Township
Scott Conners		City of Walker
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Tim Haagsma		Gaines Charter Township
Wayne Harrall		Kent County
Russ Henckel		City of Wyoming
Brian Hilbrands	<i>Proxy for John Said</i>	Cascade Charter Township
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for Mike Burns</i>	Ada Township
Jim Kirkwood		MDOT
Brett Laughlin		City of Lowell
Robert Miller		City of Kentwood
Casey Ries	<i>Proxy for Clint Nemeth</i>	Ottawa County Road Commission
Rick Sprague	<i>Proxy for Steve Warren</i>	City of Hudsonville
Charlie Sundblad		Gerald R. Ford Intl. Airport
Jeff Thornton		Gerald R. Ford Intl. Airport
Steve Waalkes	<i>Proxy for Mike Devries</i>	Kent County Road Commission
Luke Walters		Kent County Road Commission
Kevin Wisselink		City of Grandville
		Village of Caledonia
		Grand Rapids Charter Township
		Grand Rapids Charter Township
		MDOT
		ITP - The Rapid
<b>Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present</b>		
Scott Alsgaard		Hope Network
Clover Brown		GVMC Staff
Andrea Faber		GVMC Staff
Mara Gericke		GVMC Staff
Laurel Joseph		GVMC Staff
Peter Kimball		GVMC Staff
Terry Martin		Carrier and Gable
Tim Mroz		The Right Place

Jason Ulanowicz  
George Yang  
Mike Zonyk

Hope Network  
GVMC Staff  
GVMC Staff

**Voting Members Not Present**

Tim Bradshaw (*Chair*)  
Mike Burns  
Mike DeVries  
Adam Elenbaas  
Kevin Green  
Jerry Hale  
Nicole Hofert  
Jim Holtvluwer  
Doug LaFave  
Bill LaRose  
Matt McConnon  
Clint Nemeth  
Tom Noreen  
John Said  
Dean Smith  
Rick Solle  
Charlie Sundblad  
Don Tillema  
Phil Vincent  
Steve Warren  
Rod Weersing  
Blaine Wing  
Member Awaiting Appointment

Caledonia Charter Township  
City of Lowell  
Grand Rapids Charter Township  
Allendale Charter Township  
Algoma Township  
Lowell Charter Township  
City of Wyoming  
Ottawa County  
City of East Grand Rapids  
City of Cedar Springs  
Courtland Township  
Gerald R. Ford Intl. Airport  
Nelson Township  
Ada Township  
Jamestown Charter Township  
Plainfield Charter Township  
City of Grandville  
Byron Township  
City of Rockford  
Kent County Road Commission  
Georgetown Charter Township  
Village of Sparta  
Village of Sand Lake

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

D. Kent suggested a spelling correction to the November 2, 2022 Technical Committee Minutes.

Referring to Item II: Attachment A, Connors entertained the following motions:

**MOTION by K. Bennett, SUPPORT by Haagsma, to approve the November 2, 2022 Technical Committee Minutes as corrected. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MOTION by Thornton, SUPPORT by M. Bennett, to approve the January 18, 2023 Joint Technical/Policy Committee Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**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**

MDOT is requesting approval for six S/TIP line items and two GPA threshold changes. The line item amendments are due to scope changes, added phases, and changes in fiscal year. The M-6/92nd St project is a Wetland Mitigation site ownership transfer to Byron Township and is treated as a new project needing approval. The two GPA thresholds include the Trunkline Bridge GPA project for I-96 which has had an increase in PE funds requiring a GPA amendment, and the Trunkline Road GPA, which is due to cost increases on Capital Preventative Maintenance Road projects.

D. Kent explained an additional project phase that was programmed the day after the agenda went out. The reconstruction project on US-131 from South Kent Line to 76<sup>th</sup> Street is already in the TIP but needs the right of way for drainage work. MDOT is creating a right of way phase for \$500,000 out of funding that is already in this project.

For the S/TIP exempt list, D. Kent noted that most projects on the list are low impact and consist of phases that are moving from one year to another. D. Kent added that the I-96 at M-6 project is moving up from FY 2028 to FY 2024, which is a ramp reconstruction project.

Walters added that he has updated the M-37 project in JobNet to make it a regionally significant project. This project will be moved to the TIP in the future because it is a significant project for the area. D. Kent added that MDOT will continue to provide updates on the project as the environmental assessment continues. Joseph confirmed with Walters that the formal addition of the M-37 project to the TIP can be handled at a Policy Committee meeting.

**KCRC and OCRC**

KCRC and OCRC have been awarded Bridge funds for Crahen Ave. and 12th Ave. bridge rehabilitation projects, triggering a GPA threshold change for Local Bridge.

**City of Grand Rapids**

Grand Rapids has been awarded Earmark Funds and added Local NonParticipating funds for their Cesar E Chavez Ave. reconstruction project resulting in two S/TIP line item amendments needing approval. Joseph added that after the packet went out, there was a change request for this job put in by MDOT to increase part of the budget. Joseph will talk with R. DeVries to make sure the budget increase amount

is correct for the Policy Committee meeting. Joseph noted the federal budget amount is not changing, just the local side.

**MOTION by Harrall, SUPPORT by Walters, to approve the TIP amendments/modifications as recommended by MDOT, KCRC, OCRC, and the City of Grand Rapids. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**Referring to Item V: Attachment A,** Faber introduced the discussion on the draft vision statement, goals, and objectives for the 2050 MTP.

Faber noted that GVMC staff met with the MTP Steering Committee in January, and presented the vision statement, goals, and objectives from the 2045 MTP as a starting point for discussion, along with the results of the recent public survey. Staff used recommendations from the meeting, along with the 10 Federal Planning Factors and the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs), to further update the vision statement, goals, and objectives for the 2050 MTP. GVMC sought additional feedback on the revised vision statement, goals, and objectives from the MTP Steering Committee and presented them for discussion at the combined Technical and Policy Committee meeting in January. One change was requested, which Faber noted is in red on page two in the agenda packet.

**MOTION by Thornton, SUPPORT by Haagsma, to approve the 2050 MTP vision statement, goals, and objectives as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**VI. SOCIO-ECONOMIC (SE) DATA APPROVAL**

**Referring to Item VI: Attachment A,** Zonyk presented a summary of results from the SE data meetings held from November 22, 2022 - January 23, 2023, with jurisdictions that needed to allocate household and employment growth for the 2050 MTP.

Zonyk noted that MDOT provides the MPO with employment and household data at the community level that needs to be dispersed to our Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ's) so the GVMC transportation model can process these changes to determine potential deficiencies. Zonyk presented a handout which summarizes the findings by county for households and employment, which were within 1% of the state forecast. Zonyk also presented a map application displaying the results by TAZ and jurisdiction. Zonyk thanked the jurisdictions for meeting with GVMC to allocate the growth and noted that Committee approval is needed to move forward with model development for the 2050 MTP.

**MOTION by Waalkes, SUPPORT by Kirkwood, to approve the socio-economic data for the 2050 MTP. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

- MDOT Updates

D. Kent noted that there was good turnout for the M-37 public open house. MDOT is working with consultants to get the formal environmental assessment underway. They also have meetings scheduled with FHWA to formally initiate the environmental assessment.

D. Kent also noted that the Fruitridge 1-96 project funding was approved by the state legislature to help with improvements, in addition to basic maintenance for the project. MDOT is meeting with the City of Walker tomorrow to discuss how the process will work, but they should be able to complete most of what was originally planned with the grant money. The general target for construction to begin for this project is FY 2025.

D. Kent noted that there is a Local Advisory Committee meeting on March 24 for the US-131 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study. They will meet with the City of Grand Rapids, MDOT, DGRI, and Kent County. D. Kent noted that for this project, MDOT is trying to transition out of the PEL and into the \$10,000,000 earmark from a few years ago. They are trying to move toward a preferred alternative, focusing on the Wealthy St. interchange area.

- Harrall asked the group about the application process for the federal funding opportunity from Senator Peters. Ries explained that the Transportation Committee of the Senate provides information to the Senator's offices, which is then reflected to the applicants. So, it is the responsibility of the Senator's office to make the submittals on behalf of the community. Ries stated the application last year asked for high level project information such as the project cost, general schedule, and scope. Ries also suggested to focus on the impact of the social economic value, sustainability efforts of the project, etc. when writing the submittals. Ries noted that it took about 8-10 months to hear a response back about the funding.

R. DeVries noted that the City of Grand Rapids has examples of previous applications as well that he could share with Harrall.

Ries asked if Senators Peter's office has designated a new lead of transportation. Joseph stated that she is not sure. Joseph offered letters of support for these applications if needed as well.

- Kimball announced that the 2022 traffic counts are almost complete. There will be a kickoff meeting next week, but Kimball is also available for one-on-one meetings if needed. The kickoff meeting will provide jurisdictions with their traffic counts and provide a general overview. There will also be a call for materials that jurisdictions might need.

- Joseph gave an update on the Airport Access Study. Over 100 people attended the open house in Cascade and there was good engagement there. Joseph noted that this phase of engagement is now over, and a summary is being compiled. The draft final report of the phase 3 engagement will be included with the packet in May. Joseph noted the main secondary access point is proposed from the 36<sup>th</sup> Street interchange on I-96. Other proposals include intersection improvements at 44<sup>th</sup>/Patterson and 60<sup>th</sup>/Broadmoor, freight improvements on Thornapple Ave, and bike and pedestrian improvements. There was also high public support for a downtown shuttle or transit service from the airport. Joseph thanked the committee for their support and assistance with the study.
- Joseph announced that GVMC was approved for the Safe Streets for All grant. Staff will be developing a regional safety action plan which will cover all of the GVMC jurisdictions. At the end of the process, there will be a list of safety projects and strategies that each community can then apply for implementation funds to help fund those projects. Joseph stated that based on the federal timeline, she expects this to end up in the FY 2024 work program. Staff will work on forming the safety committee and steering committee this year for pre-work on the process.

K. Bennet asked for budget clarifications for the SS4A grant. Joseph stated the budget is \$300,000; however, she will potentially propose to the Policy Committee to add the \$150,000 in STP funding in the work program to supplement the funding.

- Conners suggested a group outing for everyone to get to know each other better. Discussion ensued.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Conners adjourned the March 1, 2023, Technical Committee meeting at 9:57 a.m.