

**MINUTES**

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, March 16, 2022  
Rapid Central Station Conference Room  
250 Grandville Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

Naramore, Chair of the Policy Committee, called the March 16, 2022 meeting to order at 9:40 am. Those present introduced themselves to the Committee.

**I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Voting Members Present**

Terry Brod  
Mike Burns  
Jeff Franklin  
Doug LaFave  
Melissa LaGrand  
Greg Madura  
Josh Naramore, *Chair*  
Casey Ries  
Darrel Schmalzel  
Terry Schweitzer  
Rick Sprague

*Proxy for  
Mike DeVries*

Cameron Van Wyngarden, *Vice Chair*  
Steve Warren

*Proxy for  
Robert DeWard*

Kevin Wisselink

Cannon Township  
City of Lowell  
MDOT  
City of East Grand Rapids  
Kent County  
Alpine Township  
City of Grand Rapids  
GRFIA  
City of Walker  
City of Kentwood  
KCRC  
Grand Rapids Charter Township  
Plainfield Township  
Kent County Road Commission  
Gaines Charter Township  
The Rapid

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Brad Doane  
Andrea Faber  
Mara Gericke  
Laurel Joseph  
Tyler Kent  
George Yang  
Mike Zonyk

GVMC  
GVMC  
GVMC  
GVMC  
MDOT-Grand Region  
GVMC  
GVMC

**Voting Members Not Present**

Mark Bennett  
Dan Burrill  
Jamie Davies  
Michael DeVries  
Robert DeWard  
Adam Elenbaas  
Karyn Ferrick  
Shay Gallagher  
Kevin Green

Tallmadge Charter Township  
City of Wyoming  
City of Rockford  
Grand Rapids Charter Township  
Gaines Charter Township  
Allendale Township  
City of Grand Rapids  
Village of Sparta  
Algoma Township

Jerry Hale  
Bryan Harrison  
Jim Holtvluwer  
Ken Krombeen  
Matt McConnon  
Jim Miedema  
Tom Noreen  
Rob Postema  
Dan Strikwerda  
Julius Suchy  
Ben Swayze  
Don Tillema  
Jeff Thornton  
Laurie Van Haitsma  
Rod Weersing  
Mike Womack

Lowell Township  
Caledonia Charter Township  
Ottawa County  
City of Grandville  
Courtland Township  
OCRC  
Nelson Township  
City of Wyoming  
City of Hudsonville  
Ada Township  
Cascade Charter Township  
Byron Township  
Village of Caledonia  
Jamestown Township  
Georgetown Township  
City of Cedar Springs

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Referring to Item II: Attachments A and B, Naramore entertained the following motion:

**MOTION by LaGrand, SUPPORT by Wisselink, to approve the November 17, 2021 Policy Committee minutes and the January 19, 2022 combined Technical and Policy Committee minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments.

**IV. TIP AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS**

Referring to Item IV: Attachment A, Joseph introduced the amendments to the FY2020-2023 TIP that are described in the agenda packet. They are as follows:

- The City of Grand Rapids is requesting one amendment to the TIP. Joseph noted that the total cost on the City of Grand Rapids’ Cesar E. Chavez Ave. reconstruction project came in lower than expected by over 25%, which triggered an amendment. Additionally, TPSG recommended adding \$300,000 to the federal portion of the Robinson Rd project.
- Since the last meeting, an urgent budget change was processed through the regional policy in place that allows for the Technical and Policy Committee chairs and vice-chairs to approve amendments in addition to a week long website posting for public review. The cost change did not impact the federal funding amount.
- Joseph noted that the S/TIP Exempt list is included in the agenda packet, covering changes to projects that are not required to be in the TIP.

- MDOT is requesting amendments/modifications to the TIP, including the addition of five phases from the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding, and two abandoned phases that are being mostly absorbed into other projects. T. Kent reported on these proposed amendments, stating that the phases being added correspond with two US-131 bridge projects. The first, a bridge rehabilitation project, will take place on two bridges along US-131 NB / I-96 WB, one over US-131 SB and the other over West River Dr. The second bridge project being added is on Martin Luther King Jr. (Franklin St) over US-131 and includes a partial bridge replacement.

**MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by LaGrand to approve the TIP amendments requested by MDOT and the City of Grand Rapids. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. ADJUSTMENTS TO DRAFT PROGRAM OF PROJECTS FOR TIP 2023-2026**

**Referring to Item V: Attachment A,** Joseph presented the TPSG and Technical Committee recommendations for the updated draft program of projects for the FY2023-2026 TIP. Joseph noted that two TPSG meetings were held (March 2 and March 8) to discuss the allocation of this funding. Most STP funding sources were increased by 6-7 percent, which was absorbed into currently programmed, overprogrammed projects. NHPP funding was converted to STP-Flex-TMA funding which can be used throughout the entire MPO area rather than only Kent County. This funding source was also increased. CMAQ funding was again reduced. However, this funding loss can be supplemented by Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding. Everything that was eligible for CMAQ funding, aside from capacity projects, is eligible for this new funding source. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding was doubled, and a combined Nonmotorized / TPSG meeting will be held in April to allocate the remaining FY2025 and 2026 TAP and CRP funding.

Joseph presented an overview of the funding recommendations made at the TPSG meetings:

In 2023, funding was added to the City of Wyoming Gezon Pkwy project which will add an additional lane through the intersection for the improvement of traffic operations. Approximately \$300,000 in Flex-TMA funding was allocated to the City of Grand Rapids Robinson Rd project. With the EDC funding surplus being so minimal, it was recommended the funding be rolled into existing projects until there is enough to add a new project. This will be discussed at the April combined meeting. For CMAQ and CRP, the Committees recommended supplementing the reduced CMAQ with CRP funding. For 2025 and 2026, there is remaining CRP money that will be up for allocation discussion in April.

For FY2024-2026, the STP funding sources can be absorbed into existing projects to address overmatch. TPSG recommended moving the Argo Ave project to FY2025 and increasing the federal portion of the Crahen Valley project to \$1,474,985 to utilize the full amount of the FY2024 TAP allocation.

**MOTION by Warren, SUPPORT by LaFave to approve the adjustments to the FY2023-2026 Draft Program of Projects as recommended by the TPSG and Technical Committees. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. Airport Access Study Update**

**Referring to Item VI: Attachment A**, Joseph informed the Committee that the first Technical Advisory Committee meeting for the Airport Access Study was held and noted that the slides from the meeting are included in the agenda packet for review. The Committee is nearing the end of the existing conditions analysis phase and is working on identifying purpose and needs statements and documenting alternatives. Public engagement will take place through a story map survey. Joseph asked the Committee to share the survey to ensure broad feedback from the region. The consultant will present an update at the combined Technical and Policy Committee meeting in July.

Warren stated that it would be helpful to have the history of this project presented at the meeting, as it dates back to the 80's and 90's. Ries noted that while this study is titled the Airport Access Study, this is really a community lead / community wide project with the airport capture area expanding beyond a 60-mile radius. This pulls many people in to Cascade Township through many of the other MPO communities. The study focuses on transportation through a broader lens, looking at what modes of transportation are needed, how people get to the airport, and how it can be improved upon. T. Kent, MDOT, noted that this is a great partnership.

Discussion ensued.

**2. TDM Plan Update**

Joseph stated that the kickoff meeting for the TDM Plan was held. The plan is in the early stages and focused on data collection and existing conditions. Stakeholder interviews will be held to make sure employers are involved in the process. Naramore and Schweitzer presented an update and comments on the plan. The plan will be aligned with the ITP Transit Master Plan.

**3. FY2023 UPWP Overview**

Joseph gave an update on the development of the FY2023 UPWP. The document will be brought to the committee for approval in May. The Airport Access Study and TDM plans will carry over in to the FY2023 work program. With new Federal and State Planning Emphasis Areas, one being a resiliency emphasis area, staff is considering an internal Transportation Resiliency Study. In addition, there is now a 2.5% set-aside for nonmotorized planning which will

need to be incorporated. Joseph asked the Committee if there were any additional work items they would like to see in the program.

Naramore discussed a 2013 / 2014 Downtown Circulation Study that identified the impacts of various interchanges on the downtown Grand Rapids area. Since completion, much development has occurred. It was suggested that this plan could be updated to study what impacts these developments have had since the last plan update in FY2023 or FY2024.

T. Kent gave an update on the MDOT US-131 PEL study. Virtual public meetings are being held. Comments from public meetings will be discussed and incorporated by the Advisory Committee.

MDOT Construction Updates: 96 at M-6 will be beginning soon. There will be potential closures at the 36<sup>th</sup> St. interchange potentially. Bonded projects between Zeeland and Hudsonville will take place over two construction seasons referring to the MDOT I-196 48th Avenue to 32nd Avenue project.

Warren proposed the creation of guidance or professional assistance related to upcoming projects and funding availability, eligibility, and application strategy. Would be helpful to have a better understanding of what funding is available for upcoming projects and how to apply for that project. Discussion ensued about how to go about this.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Naramore adjourned the March 16, 2022 Policy Committee meeting at 10:25 a.m.