

**MINUTES**

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, March 2, 2022  
Rapid Central Station Conference Room  
250 Grandville Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

Bradshaw, Chair of the Technical Committee, called the March 2, 2022 meeting to order at 9:40 am. 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 Township
Tim Bradshaw ( <i>Chair</i> )		Caledonia Charter Township
Terry Brod		Cannon Township
Scott Conners ( <i>Vice Chair</i> )		City of Walker
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Tim Haagsma		Gaines Charter Township
Wayne Harrall	<i>Proxy for Mike DeVries</i>	Kent County
		Grand Rapids Charter Township
Russ Henckel		City of Wyoming
Brian Hilbrands		Cascade Charter Township
Nicole Hofert		City of Wyoming
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for Mike Burns</i>	MDOT
		City of Lowell
Jim Kirkwood		City of Kentwood
Doug LaFave		City of East Grand Rapids
Brett Laughlin		Ottawa County Road Commission
Dan Strikwerda	<i>Proxy for Robert Miller</i>	City of Hudsonville
Charlie Sundblad		City of Grandville
Steve Warren		Kent County Road Commission
Luke Walters		MDOT
Rod Weersing		Georgetown Township
Kevin Wisselink		ITP - The Rapid

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Mara Gericke	GVMC Staff
Laurel Joseph	GVMC Staff
Tyler Kent	MDOT
Jeff Oonk	City of Wyoming
Rick Sprague	Kent County Road Commission
George Yang	GVMC Staff
Mike Zonyk	GVMC Staff

**Voting Members Not Present**

Mike Burns  
Mike DeVries  
Adam Elenbaas  
Shay Gallagher  
Kevin Green  
Jerry Hale  
Jim Holtvluwer  
Bill LaRose  
Matt McConnon  
Robert Miller  
Clint Nemeth  
Tom Noreen  
John Said  
Rick Solle  
Jeff Thornton  
Don Tillema  
Laurie Van Haitsma  
Phil Vincent

City of Lowell  
Grand Rapids Charter Township  
Allendale Township  
Village of Sparta  
Algoma Township  
Lowell Township  
Ottawa County  
City of Cedar Springs  
Courtland Township  
City of Hudsonville  
Gerald R. Ford Intl. Airport  
Nelson Township  
Ada Township  
Plainfield Charter Township  
Village of Caledonia  
Byron Township  
Jamestown Township  
City of Rockford

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**MOTION by Harrall, SUPPORT by LaFave, to approve the November 3, 2021 Technical 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**

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

- MDOT is requesting amendments/modifications to the TIP, including the addition of five phases resulting from the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding, and two abandoned phases that are being mostly absorbed into other projects. D. 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.

- 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. Since the last Technical Committee 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 website posting.
- Joseph noted that the S/TIP Exempt list is included in the agenda packet. D. Kent stated that MDOT is working with the West Michigan Trails and Greenways Coalition group to study pedestrian underpasses along with the US-131 rehabilitation project. Kent suggested discussing this topic with the Nonmotorized Committee.

**MOTION by Haagsma, SUPPORT by Wisselink to recommend approval of the TIP amendments requested by MDOT and the City of Grand Rapids. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**Referring to Item V: Attachment A,** Joseph presented the funding decisions made at the March 2, 2022 TPSG Subcommittee meeting. Updated revenue targets for FY2023-2026 based on the new Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) have been received. With that, STP-Urban funding has been increased by approximately 7% each year, EDC, Flex-TMA, and TAP funding was increased, and NHPP funding was converted to a new flex category that can be used throughout the MPO area. CMAQ funding was decreased, with the majority of the reduction occurring in areas of the state that are in air quality attainment. However, most CMAQ eligible projects remain eligible for funding through the new Carbon Reduction Program (CRP). Joseph stated that an additional Subcommittee meeting will be held in the afternoon on March 8, 2022 to continue work on programming these funding changes. A meeting with the Nonmotorized Committee will be held to discuss TAP funding.

Joseph presented the following recommendations that were decided upon at the March 2, 2022 TPSG Subcommittee meeting:

**FY2023**

**STP-Urban**

The TPSG Subcommittee recommends maxing out the participating existing STP-Urban federal share. Leaving \$366,551 unprogrammed, it was recommended that the City of Wyoming receive these funds for the expansion of their Gezon Pkwy project which will add an additional lane through the intersection for the improvement of traffic operations.

**STP-Flex-Kent Co.**

It was recommended that the remaining \$17,400 be absorbed into City of Wyoming Gezon Pkwy project.

**STP-Flex-TMA (Includes former NHPP funding)**

After maxing out the City of Wyoming former HNPP project, it was recommended that the City of Grand Rapids receive \$290,425 for their FY2023 Robinson Rd project.

**STP-Rural**

This funding can be absorbed into the Kent County Road Commission 100<sup>th</sup> St project without maxing out the federal portion.

**EDC**

This funding can be rolled over to a future year.

**CMAQ and New Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)**

CMAQ funding was lowered by \$580,559. It was recommended that the funding lost is supplemented with CRP funding, which leaves \$665,441 in CRP unprogrammed. It was recommended that the remaining funds are split between the Grand Rapids Turner Ave project to accommodate an expanded scope and the Kent County Road Commission's HSIP funded roundabout project at 84<sup>th</sup> St and Kalamazoo Ave. Both are programmed in FY2023.

**TAP**

The anticipated carryover from the new FY2022 allocation is \$605,300, with \$821,821 currently unprogrammed in FY2023. It was recommended that the Nonmotorized Committee convenes for additional discussion on this funding.

**2024****STP-Urban**

The Subcommittee recommended maxing out the \$724,000 in funding by adding it to currently programmed projects.

**STP-Flex-Kent Co.**

It was recommended that \$95,000 be absorbed into the currently programmed City of Walker project.

**STP-Flex -TMA (Includes former NHPP funding)**

Recommended approving the Kent County Road Commission proposal to utilize this funding to move West River Dr (resurface from Lamoreaux Dr to Pine Island Dr) from the illustrative list into the TIP. This project would utilize \$366,000 in FY2024 funds and advance construct with FY2025 funds.

**STP-Rural**

\$71,000 can be absorbed into the currently programmed Kent County Road Commission project without maxing out the federal share.

**Other**

The remaining funding recommendations will be discussed at a future meeting.

Bradshaw noted that he will abstain from a vote on this motion as he is assisting the City of Grand Rapids on the Turner Ave project through the consulting firm that he works for.

**MOTION by Haagsma, SUPPORT by K. Bennett to approve the FY2023 and FY2024 Adjustments as discussed to the Draft Program of Projects. MOTION CARRIED.**

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS****1. Airport Access Study Update**

Joseph stated that the first Technical Advisory Committee meeting for the Airport Access Study was held on February 18, 2022. Joseph noted that the slides from the meeting are included in the agenda packet for review. The consultant will provide a draft of the existing conditions report for GVMC Committees to review. The Committee is nearing the end of the existing conditions analysis phase and preparing for public engagement. Engagement will take place through a story map survey and will begin within a couple of weeks. Joseph asked the Committee to share the survey to ensure broad feedback from the region. Joseph opened the discussion for comments or questions. The estimated study completion date is December of 2022.

Warren suggested that the Committee be presented with background information on the project, such as why the MPO is involved, why it has been a long-standing priority, etc. It was suggested that the MPO collaborate and discuss region wide priorities and project funding and highlighted that the MPO plays an important role in advocating for the region. D. Kent followed up with a history of MPO project prioritization. It was recommended that a closer look is taken at eligibility for grant projects and that the MPO be strategic about which projects are submitted. Joseph

suggested that if the Committee is interested, additional informational materials could be presented at Committee meetings.

T. Kent provided an update on the MDOT US-131 PEL study. The current phase of the project is focused on identifying opportunities for improvements. They are currently on phase 2 of the survey, which will be active through April. MDOT would like to ensure that all have an opportunity to provide comment. More information will be presented on the study as it is available.

## 2. TDM Plan Update

Joseph stated that the kick-off meeting for the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) plan will be held the following week. K. Bennett asked about the timeline of the study. Joseph reported that the project must be completed by FY2023, but anticipates work will be completed before then in conjunction with The Rapid Transit Master Plan.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT

Bradshaw entertained a motion to adjourn the March 2, 2022, Technical Committee meeting.

**MOTION by Harrall, SUPPORT by Haagsma, to adjourn the March 2, 2022 Technical Committee meeting at 10:10 am. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**