

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, March 6, 2024
Rapid Central Station Conference Room
250 Cesar E. Chavez Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

Rick Sprague, Vice Chair of the Technical Committee, called the March 6, 2024, 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
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Zachary Fields		Allendale Charter Township
Wayne Harrall	<i>Proxy for Mike DeVries</i>	Kent County
		Grand Rapids Charter Township
Brian Hilbrands		Gerald R. Ford Intl. Airport
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for Mike Burns</i>	MDOT
		City of Lowell
Jim Kirkwood		City of Kentwood
Doug LaFave		City of East Grand Rapids
Jeff Oonk	<i>Proxy for Russ Henckel</i>	City of Wyoming
		City of Wyoming
Liz Schelling		ITP - The Rapid
Rick Solle		Plainfield Charter Township
Rick Sprague (vice chair)	<i>Proxy for Tim Haagsma</i>	Kent County Road Commission
		Gaines Charter Township
Justin Stadt		Georgetown Charter Township
Charlie Sundblad		City of Grandville
Luke Walters		MDOT

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Scott Alsgaard	Hope Network
Clover Brown	GVMC Staff
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Mara Gericke	GVMC Staff
Robert Johnson	GVMC Staff
Laurel Joseph	GVMC Staff
Peter Kimball	GVMC Staff
Tyler Kent	MDOT
Terry Martin	Carrier and Gable
George Yang	GVMC
Mike Zonyk	GVMC
Blake Wright	MDOT

Voting Members Not Present

Tim Bradshaw
Terry Brod
Mike Burns
Scott Conners (chair)
Robert Miller
Mike DeVries
Shay Gallagher
Kevin Green
Tim Haagsma
Jerry Hale
Russ Henckel
Nicole Hofert
Bill LaRose
Brett Laughlin
Matt McConnon
Tom Noreen
John Said
Dean Smith
Jade Smith
Jeff Thornton
Don Tillema
Phil Vincent
Bill Hunter
Member Awaiting Appointment

Caledonia Charter Township
Cannon Township
City of Lowell
City of Walker
City of Hudsonville
Grand Rapids Charter Township
City of Kentwood
Algoma Township
Gaines Charter Township
Lowell Charter Township
City of Wyoming
City of Wyoming
City of Cedar Springs
Ottawa County Road Commission
Courtland Township
Nelson Township
Ada Township
Jamestown Charter Township
Cascade Charter Township
Village of Caledonia
Byron Township
City of Rockford
Village of Sparta
Village of Sand Lake

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Referring to Item II: Attachment A, Sprague entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the November 1, 2023, Technical Committee meeting and the January 24, 2024, combined Technical/Policy Committee meeting. Harrall noted a correction to the attendance list from the for the technical committee meeting on November 1, 2023.

MOTION by Harrall, SUPPORT by LaFave, to approve the November 1, 2023, Technical Committee minutes and the January 24, 2024, combined Technical/Policy Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

IV. TIP AMENDMENTS

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

- MDOT requested approval for changes in added phases, year, and costs as identified in the agenda packet. The added CON phase is for Phragmite control (aerial by drone). Moving the PE phase for Leonard Street to FY26. The added ROW phases for M-37 SB and US-131 are contributing to the need for a GPA threshold amendment for Trunkline Traffic Operations and Safety, along with moving their M-37 project to FY24 for Signal Modernization.
- D. Kent also provided some updates on projects on the S/TIP Exempt List.
- OCRC has been awarded bridge funds for Adams Street over Kampen-Struk Drain and needs to be added to the TIP. This has triggered a GPA amendment for Local Bridge.
- KCRC requested to swap the \$276,808 in CMAQ funds in their FY2024 84th and Cherry Valley CMAQ project with The Rapid for the equivalent amount of CMAQ funding in FY2026 to facilitate moving the project year to align with MDOT’s M-37 project.

MOTION by K. Bennett, SUPPORT by Harrall, to approve the TIP amendments/modifications as recommended by MDOT, the OCRC, and the KCRC. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. 2050 DRAFT METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP)

Referring to Item V: Attachment A, Faber stated that staff has completed the first draft of the 2050 MTP and is asking for the Committee’s approval to bring the document to the public for comment. Faber reviewed the milestones that have been completed up to this point and thanked Walters for his robust review of the document. Faber also clarified that after the public comment period concludes, GVMC staff will bring the document back to the Technical and Policy Committees in May to request approval. After that point, it will go to the GVMC Board for final approval.

Joseph added that staff plans to host two public engagement open houses and a virtual public meeting during the comment period.

MOTION by Becker, SUPPORT by M. Bennett to approve bringing the 2050 MTP forward to the public for comment. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. KENT COUNTY EMERGENCY VEHICLE PREEMPTION STATUS INFORMATION:

Terry Martin from Carrier & Gable provided an update to the Committee regarding the use of vehicle preemption technology in the region.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

- Asset Management Vehicle Map Application

Zonyk presented the recently developed pavement data condition application, which provides users with PASER data, and the data and images collected by GVMC's pavement data collection vehicle.

MDOT Updates

- D. Kent noted that the M-37 environmental assessment is still in process. This project will get into the real-estate phase later in the calendar year.
- The US-131 planning and environmental linkages study is being completed, and they are moving into the next phase to assess environmental and traffic impacts of the remaining alternatives on US-131 near the Cherry, Wealthy and MLK area.
- T. Kent mentioned projects that will impact travel along US-131 this construction season, including directional closures. MDOT will host a virtual public meeting at the end of March regarding a project that will close US-131 at Plaster Creek in April/May.

Roundtable/Staff Updates

- Gericke asked for feedback from the Committee regarding preferred safety messaging as GVMC updates safety materials and develops a safety display. The Committee discussed placing an emphasis on advertising around times with more alcohol use like St. Patrick's Day and spring break. Motorcycle safety and hands-free driving were also mentioned.
- Kimball informed the Committee that this year's traffic count locations will be sent out soon.
- Joesph provided an update on the Regional Safety Action Plan.
- K. Bennett noted that Grand Rapids is working with the Dutch Cycling Embassy and representatives are coming to visit Grand Rapids.
- Walters noted that the local bridge call for projects for 2027 is open until April 1st, and that the local safety call for projects for 2026 is open until May 1st.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

Sprague adjourned the March 6, 2024, Technical Committee meeting at 10:15 a.m.