

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, May 18, 2022
Rapid Central Station Conference Room
250 Grandville Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

Naramore, Chair of the Policy Committee, called the May 18, 2022 meeting to order at 9:33 am. Those present introduced themselves to the Committee.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Mark Bennett		Tallmadge Charter Township
Karyn Ferrick		City of Grand Rapids
Jeff Franklin		MDOT
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for Mike Burns</i>	MDOT
		City of Lowell
Doug LaFave		City of East Grand Rapids
Melissa LaGrand		Kent County
Greg Madura		Alpine Township
Jim Miedema	<i>Proxy For Laurie Van Haitsma</i>	OCRC
Josh Naramore, <i>Chair</i>		Jamestown Charter Township
Casey Ries		City of Grand Rapids
Jonathan Seyferth		GRFIA
Liz Schelling	<i>Proxy for Kevin Wisselink</i>	Gaines Charter Township
		The Rapid
Darrel Schmalzel		The Rapid
Terry Schweitzer		City of Walker
Rick Sprague	<i>Proxy for Steve Warren</i>	City of Kentwood
		KCRC
Dan Strikwerda		KCRC
Ben Swayze		City of Hudsonville
Cameron Van Wyngarden, <i>Vice Chair</i>		Cascade Charter Township
		Plainfield Charter Township

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Brad Doane	GVMC
Andrea Faber	GVMC
Mara Gericke	GVMC
Laurel Joseph	GVMC
Kalib Perry	MDOT
George Yang	GVMC
Mike Zonyk	GVMC

Voting Members Not Present

Terry Brod	Cannon Township
Mike Burns	City of Lowell
Jamie Davies	City of Rockford

Michael DeVries
Adam Elenbaas
Shay Gallagher
Kevin Green
Jerry Hale
Bryan Harrison
Jim Holtvluwer
Ken Krombeen
Matt McConnon
Tom Noreen
Rob Postema
Julius Suchy
Don Tillema
Jeff Thornton
Laurie Van Haitsma
Steve Warren
Rod Weersing
Kevin Wisselink
Mike Womack

Grand Rapids Charter Township
Allendale Charter Township
Village of Sparta
Algoma Township
Lowell Charter Township
Caledonia Charter Township
Ottawa County
City of Grandville
Courtland Township
Nelson Township
City of Wyoming
Ada Township
Byron Township
Village of Caledonia
Jamestown Charter Township
Kent County Road Commission
Georgetown Charter Township
The Rapid
City of Cedar Springs

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Referring to Item II: Attachment A, Naramore entertained the following motion:

MOTION by LaGrand, SUPPORT by LaFave, to approve the March 16, 2022 Policy Committee minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

In addition to general public comment, a public comment opportunity for the FY2023 UPWP was offered. However, no members of the public were in attendance at the meeting.

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:

Joseph noted that the MDOT amendments include phase additions, state to federal funding conversions, and one scope and cost increase to the I-196 bridge over Market Ave project. The numbers are still awaiting state approval.

D. Kent elaborated on the two actions being taken on the I-196 bridge project, noting the limit extension to incorporate a median crossover and cost increase for environmental mitigation, material costs, and staff shortages and delays. In addition, the fiscal years on two projects will be switched. These projects are the M-6 rehabilitation project and M-21 rehabilitation project. The M-21 project was moved from 2025 to 2023 for obligation and M-6 in to 2025, removing it from the current TIP and adding it to the FY2023-2026 TIP.

ITP - The Rapid:

Joseph announced that the final FY2022 apportionments were received. Four existing jobs required adjustments, and in addition, The Rapid qualifies for some additional funding. With this, three new projects were added. This has contributed to a GPA threshold increase for the FY2022 Transit Capital GPA.

Hope Network:

The budget for Hope Network’s FY2022 project increased, which triggered a GPA threshold amendment for the FY2022 Transit Capital GPA

Georgetown Seniors:

Georgetown Seniors was awarded a project in FY2022. Adding it triggered a GPA threshold amendment for the FY2022 Transit Capital GPA.

Grand Rapids:

The City of Grand Rapids added a project (Turner Ave NW: 4th to Ann bikeway project) to FY2023 as part of the development process for the FY2023-2026 TIP. Since FY2023 overlaps both TIPs, staff is requesting to amend it into the current TIP as well as include it as part of the action related to the FY2023-2026 TIP. In addition, three of the City of Grand Rapids TAP projects have been approved through MGS. GVMC is asking the Committee to approve adding these projects to the FY2023-2026 TIP. This triggered a Local Livability and Sustainability GPA threshold increase.

Kent County Road Commission:

Kent County Road Commission requested the addition of a project to FY2023 from the illustrative project list (100th St: East Paris to Patterson reconstruction project) as part of the development process for the FY2023-2026 TIP. Since FY2023 overlaps both TIPs, staff is requesting to amend it into the current TIP as well as include it as part of the action related to the FY2023-2026 TIP. In addition, they are requesting a job in the FY2023-2026 illustrative list be moved to the TIP project list that they will be funding with STP-Flex funds. The illustrative list has gone through the development and review process, and it is recommended this project be moved.

MOTION by LaGrand, SUPPORT by Schmalzel, to approve the TIP amendments requested by Georgetown Seniors, Grand Rapids, Hope Network, Kent County Road Commission, MDOT, and The Rapid, and to add the Kent County Road Commission project presented at the meeting to the FY2023-2026 TIP. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (FY2023-2026 TIP)

No public comment.

VI. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT FY2023-2026 TIP—Referring to Item VI:

Attachment A, Joseph thanked GVMC staff, the Policy Committee, and those who represent each jurisdiction on the Technical Committee and TPSG Subcommittee for their work on the FY2023-2026 TIP development process. The document meets all federal requirements and includes an expanded Environmental Justice analysis and new format. The program of projects supports the goals of the 2045 MTP, will aid in improving the regional transportation system, and is fiscally constrained.

Naramore asked about the public comment time period and Joseph reported that public comment is open until June 2nd, when the document will go to the GVMC board for approval. Faber reported that approximately 8 comments have been received. As for the public meeting, 5 members of the public attended in person. The meeting was held as an open house and included a virtual open house via Zoom, in which 7 people attended virtually.

Joseph asked the Committee to review and approve the Air Quality Conformity Resolution for the FY2023-2026 TIP, which was shown on the screen. The resolution states that the TIP has gone through the review process.

Joseph noted that a City of Hudsonville CMAQ project from FY2023 was accidentally moved to FY2022. This has been corrected and is reflected in the draft list online.

MOTION by Strikwerda, SUPPORT by Madura, to recommend approval of the draft FY2023-2026 TIP and the Air Quality Conformity Resolution. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VII. PROPOSED FY2023 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET—Referring to Item VII: Attachment A, Joseph presented the draft FY2023 Unified Planning Work Program. GVMC and The Rapid, in coordination with MDOT, will be taking on the included work items in FY2023. In addition, this document serves as the budget for the Transportation Department. In 2021, new federal planning emphasis areas were added which will be addressed throughout the work program. A set aside for Complete Streets work is required. The budget for that was pulled out and added to the long range nonmotorized planning task.

The Airport Access Study and TDM plan will continue into FY2023. Due to capacity reasons, GVMC staff will be conducting a Transportation Infrastructure Resiliency Plan in house rather than another consultant led study. In addition, the work program includes the 2050 MTP development. Staff will continue the regular yearly activities as well.

There will be an adjustment in dues due to updated 2020 Census data to account for shifts in growth. GVMC will be taking on 30% of the funding required for the FY2023 program.

LaGrand asked for more information on the Complete Streets portion of the FY2023 UPWP. Joseph explained that staff will be analyzing Complete Streets at the regionwide level. There will be a special emphasis placed on arterial roads due to speeds and safety issues unique to those roads. Joseph noted that GVMC would like to start a Safety Subcommittee to help guide this work.

Schelling noted that in FY2023, The Rapid has funding allocated toward short range planning to include recommendations that result from the Transit Master Plan and community perceptions / outreach dollars that are used to conduct surveys and determine where funding should be allocated. Joseph noted that HIP Covid funding for the Transit Master Plan is also in FY2023.

MOTION by Ferrick, SUPPORT by LaFave, to recommend approval of the FY2023 Unified Planning Work Program. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- VIII. AMENDMENT TO THE FY2022 UPWP— Referring to Item VIII: Attachment A,** Joseph presented an amendment to the FY2022 UPWP on behalf of The Rapid. The amendment includes adding budget and work activities for a Transit Technology Strategic Plan and Fleet Transition Plan, which will utilize 5307 funding. A draft amendment document has been posted on the GVMC website.

Schelling noted that the Transit Technology Strategic Plan will study technology needs moving forward. The Fleet Transition Plan will be updated to expand the scope. The funding will come through in FY2022. However, the work will be completed through FY2023.

A discussion about whether this work should be included in the FY2023 UPWP, in addition to the FY2022 UPWP, ensued. It was decided that the work will be included in both documents, as the document is meant to highlight all major work.

MOTION by LaGrand, SUPPORT by Madura, to recommend approval of the amendment to the FY2022 Unified Planning Work Program. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION by Franklin SUPPORT by LaFave, to add the Transit Technology Strategic Plan and the Fleet Transition Plan carryover work to the FY2023 Unified Planning Work Program. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

GVMC Federal Certification Review

Joseph reported that the GVMC Federal Certification Review will be occurring in June. GVMC, The Rapid, and MDOT will be going through the process virtually with

FHWA and FTA partners. There will be an opportunity for feedback from both the public and committee members. There is a questionnaire posted in both Spanish and English on GVMC social media and our website. Joseph asked for feedback and will be sending the questionnaire to the Committee.

Congressionally Directed Spending

Schweitzer asked about the timeline for the congressionally directed earmarks. Franklin noted that they have no information at this point. Ries stated that nothing has been published at this point. Action is now being taken by departments on funds that were committed last year.

Ries inquired about potential TIP amendments due to recent cost increases and noted the strain placed on community leaders and planners when projecting project costs and work. Joseph asked the Committee to bring any cost changes and estimates to GVMC staff as soon as they can in order to avoid delays.

Combined July Technical and Policy Committee Meeting

Joseph stated that in July there will be a combined Technical and Policy Committee meeting. The Airport Access Study consultant group is scheduled to give a presentation. Updates can be found at gvmc.org/airport-access-study.

Federal Buyout Program

The state has approved a federal buyout program for federal funds. Locals will be able to sell their federal funding to the state for 90 cents on the dollar. The Committee will need to decide whether they would like to keep the projects that go through that process in the TIP. GVMC is working with MTPA and MDOT for specific guidance on this program.

Clean Air / Clean Water Educational Display

Faber thanked the Committee for signing up to host the GVMC Clean Air / Clean Water display at their locations throughout the summer and into the fall. It has been updated to include clean water information as a partnership between the Transportation and Environmental programs. In addition, staff will be attending 9 community events, in which free Clean Air Action and safety materials and information will be distributed.

New Asset Management Vehicle

Joseph announced that GVMC has received their new asset management vehicle.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Naramore adjourned the May 18, 2022, Policy Committee meeting at 10:16 a.m.