

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, May 3, 2023
Rapid Central Station Conference Room
250 Cesar E. Chavez Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

Bradshaw, Chair of the Technical Committee, called the May 3, 2023, Technical Committee meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Those present introduced themselves to the Committee.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Tim Bradshaw (<i>Chair</i>)		Caledonia Charter Township
Sue Becker		Alpine Township
Kristin Bennett		City of Grand Rapids
Mark Bennett		Tallmadge Charter Township
Terry Brod		Cannon Township
Scott Conners	<i>Proxy for Mike Devries</i>	City of Walker
		Grand Rapids Charter Township
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Shay Gallagher		City of Kentwood
Russ Henckel		City of Wyoming
Brian Hilbrands	<i>Proxy for John Said</i>	Cascade Charter Township
	<i>Proxy for Mike Burns</i>	Ada Township
Dennis Kent		MDOT
		City of Lowell
Doug LaFave		City of East Grand Rapids
Brett Laughlin		Ottawa County Road Commission
Clint Nemeth		Gerald R. Ford Intl. Airport
Jeff Oonk	<i>Proxy for Nicole Hofert</i>	City of Wyoming
	<i>Proxy for Jim Kirkwood</i>	City of Wyoming
Terry Schweitzer	<i>Proxy for Tim Haagsma</i>	City of Kentwood
		City of Kentwood
Rick Sprague		Kent County Road Commission
		Gaines Charter Township
Justin Stadt		Georgetown Charter Township
Charlie Sundblad		City of Grandville
Luke Walters		MDOT
Kevin Wisselink		ITP - The Rapid
Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present		
Romeo Ferrer		GVMC Staff
Mara Gericke		GVMC Staff
Dru Hajec		GVMC Staff
Nick Jasinski		MDOT
Laurel Joseph		GVMC Staff
Peter Kimball		GVMC Staff
George Yang		GVMC Staff
Mike Zonyk		GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Mike Burns
Mike DeVries
Adam Elenbaas
Kevin Green
Tim Haagsma
Jerry Hale
Nicole Hofert
Wayne Harrall
Jim Holtvluwer
Jim Kirkwood
Bill LaRose
Matt McConnon
Robert Miller
Tom Noreen
John Said
Dean Smith
Rick Solle
Jeff Thornton
Don Tillema
Phil Vincent
Steve Warren
Blaine Wing
Member Awaiting Appointment

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Referring to Item II: Attachment A, D. Kent noted corrections (bolded below) to the March 1, 2023 Technical Committee minutes in the VII. Other Business section under MDOT updates:

- 2nd Paragraph: "...funding was approved by the state legislature to help **with improvements, in addition to** basic maintenance for the project."
- 3rd Paragraph: "...there is a **Local** Advisory Committee meeting on March 24 for the US-131 **Planning and** Environmental Linkages (**PEL**) study."

MOTION by K. Bennett, SUPPORT by Laughlin, to approve the December 7, 2022, Technical and Policy Committee Minutes as presented and the March 1, 2023 Technical Committee minutes as corrected. 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 package. They are as follows:

MDOT:

- Fruit Ridge Rd Over I-196 Bridge Replacement Project: This project was previously suspended; however, the CON phase is being reactivated to allow for future state grant funding. This project will likely be regionally significant, which would require an MTP update in the future.
- Traffic Safety – Regionwide Trunkline Routes Project: Being abandoned due to added costs.
- M-6 / Holstege Wetland Mitigation Site Project: Addition of culverts and PE phase has caused a budget increase.
- US-131 from 100th St to north of 76th St Reconstruction Project: Reduced the length from 108th St due to budget shortfalls to match available funds.
- Leonard St NE Traffic Safety Project: PE phase has been delayed to future S/TIP cycle.

D. Kent noted that in addition to the length change, the US-131 project is also a cost increase and reported on the S/TIP Exempt List:

US-131 from M-11 north to Pearl St Joint Repairs Project: MDOT is coordinating project work with work being done on the Plaster Creek Bridge south of Burton St to be done at the same time as they will both result in lane closures. There is no formal change at this point; however, there may be in the future.

The remainder of the projects on the list are primarily awarding changes and minor increases.

D. Kent reported on the Fruit Ridge Over I-196 Project, noting that no funding from the legislature has been received at this point.

City of Grand Rapids:

Zonyk reported that the Fuller Ave: Kalamazoo St to Adams St Reconstruction project was removed due to being added to the federal buyout program.

MOTION by Sprague, SUPPORT by LaFave, to approve the TIP amendments/modifications as recommended by MDOT and the City of Grand Rapids. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. **PAVEMENT, BRIDGE, AND RELIABILITY PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

Referring to Item V: Attachment A, Joseph presented the MDOT performance targets for the federal Pavement, Bridge, and Reliability Performance Measures. Unlike the safety performance targets, targets for these measures are not approved on a yearly basis.

The final rules for the Pavement, Bridge, and Reliability Performance Measure Targets became effective on May 20, 2017, with the bridge performance targets updated and approved by the Committees in 2020 based on a mid-performance period review and adjustment.

Because the first performance period has been completed, GVMC must set targets again, with the deadline for approval on June 14th, 2023. Joseph noted that GVMC has been involved in target coordination meetings and working groups throughout the development process and that the newsletters included in the meeting packet outline the data the state uses to set these targets.

GVMC staff recommends that the Technical Committee again recommend the support of the state targets for Pavement, Bridge, and Reliability Performance Measures for this reporting period. Joseph clarified that these targets only apply to interstate and non-interstate NHS roadways.

MOTION by Conners, SUPPORT by R. DeVries, to recommend supporting the state targets for the Pavement, Bridge, and Reliability Performance Measures for this reporting period. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. AIRPORT ACCESS STUDY FINAL REPORT

Referring to Item VI, Attachment A, Joseph presented the Airport Access Study Final Report. The study has been going on for over a year, with several rounds of engagement, surveys, and open houses taking place during that time. At this point, it has gone through multiple rounds of alternatives analysis with a large amount of feedback and input from the public and stakeholders, which was critical.

Joseph presented the preferred projects list that resulted from the study process. All listed projects require more study, engineering, design, environmental, etc. before they would be ready for implementation. Project details are included in the report.

While the document does not require formal approval, staff asked for recommendation of acceptance and acknowledgement of the study results for affirmation of regional support.

Joseph thanked all involved, including the Technical Advisory Committee, consultant team, and GVMC Technical Committee.

Schweizer noted that the study process was very good, highlighting the large amount of public input and that the recommendations coming forth support a positive direction to be taken by the area.

Bradshaw thanked GVMC, key stakeholders, and the consultant team for their efforts on behalf of the Technical Committee and noted that the study is important to our regional vision and as a guidance document stating what we should do next and why.

MOTION by Bradshaw, SUPPORT by M. Bennett to recommend acceptance of the results of the Airport Access Study Final Report. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

MDOT:

D. Kent noted that the US-131 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study is entering the third phase, which will include a public meeting at some point this summer. With that, they are working on a transition into the \$10 million earmark, focused on the Wealthy Street interchange area. Work is ongoing and focused on that transition.

M-37 Environmental Assessments in Caledonia: A letter of initiation request was sent to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). FHWA is directing the letter that would formally start the Environmental Assessment. MPO money is involved with that project. In the fall, MDOT will do a check of where they are at with impacts to determine any potential delays. The goal is to obligate the project in FY2024. MDOT will report back if there are any delays to note.

Fruit Ridge: MDOT is moving forward with design and project development activities. Construction funding is approved.

GVMC:

Joseph presented the Michigan Infrastructure Office's Technical Assistance Program, a program that will help provide technical assistance to applicable organizations applying for federal discretionary grants and need assistance writing grant proposals. If anybody wants to utilize this program, GVMC will help facilitate the process. At this point, there is no time limit on the program.

The funding is combined with the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council (MACC) and the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC), two other West Michigan MPO's. The total is up to \$640,000 for all three agencies, but if a grant is received that will utilize this funding for writing, there is an additional \$1.9 million in match available. This opportunity is not only for transportation grants, but may also apply to non-

APPROVED

APPROVED
ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A

Department of Transportation infrastructure grants associated with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Bradshaw adjourned the May 3, 2023, Technical Committee meeting at 9:58 a.m.