

**MINUTES**

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, November 16, 2022  
Rapid Central Station Conference Room  
250 Cesar E. Chavez Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

Naramore, Chair of the Policy Committee, called the November 16, 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
Tim Bradshaw		Caledonia Charter Township
Terry Brod		Cannon Township
Wayne Harrall	<i>Proxy for</i>	Grand Rapids Charter Township
	<i>Michael DeVries</i>	Grand Rapids Charter Township
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for</i>	MDOT
	<i>Mike Burns</i>	City of Lowell
Ken Krombeen		City of Grandville
Doug LaFave		City of East Grand Rapids
Jim Miedema	<i>Proxy for</i>	Ottawa County Road Commission
	<i>Laurie Van Haitsma</i>	Jamestown Charter Township
Josh Naramore, <i>Chair</i>		City of Grand Rapids
Clint Nemeth	<i>Proxy for</i>	GRFIA
	<i>Casey Ries</i>	GRFIA
Darrel Schmalzel		City of Walker
Terry Schweitzer		City of Kentwood
Rick Sprague	<i>Proxy for</i>	KCRC
	<i>Steve Warren</i>	KCRC
Cameron Van Wyngarden, <i>Vice Chair</i>		Plainfield Charter Township
Luke Walters	<i>Proxy for</i>	MDOT
	<i>Jeff Franklin</i>	
Kevin Wisselink		The Rapid

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Clover Brown	GVMC
Andrea Faber	GVMC
Mara Gericke	GVMC
Christina Ignasiak	FHWA
Laurel Joseph	GVMC
Tyler Kent	MDOT
Peter Kimball	GVMC
Tim Schneider	MDOT
Andrew Sibold	FHWA
Susan Weber	FTA

**Voting Members Not Present**

Mike Burns  
 Michael DeVries  
 Adam Elenbaas  
 Karyn Ferrick  
 Jeff Franklin  
 Shay Gallagher  
 Kevin Green  
 Jerry Hale  
 Bryan Harrison  
 Jim Holtvluwer  
 Melissa LaGrand  
 Greg Madura  
 Matt McConnon  
 Tom Noreen  
 Rob Postema  
 Casey Ries  
 Jonathan Seyferth  
 Dan Strikwerda  
 Julius Suchy  
 Ben Swayze  
 Don Tillema  
 Jeff Thornton  
 Laurie Van Haitsma  
 Steve Warren  
 Rod Weersing  
 Mike Womack  
 Member Waiting Appointment

City of Lowell  
 Grand Rapids Charter Township  
 Allendale Charter Township  
 City of Grand Rapids  
 MDOT  
 Village of Sparta  
 Algoma Township  
 Lowell Charter Township  
 Caledonia Charter Township  
 Ottawa County  
 Kent County  
 Alpine Township  
 Courtland Township  
 Nelson Township  
 City of Wyoming  
 GRFIA  
 Gaines Charter Township  
 City of Hudsonville  
 Ada Township  
 Cascade Charter Township  
 Byron Township  
 Village of Caledonia  
 Jamestown Charter Township  
 Kent County Road Commission  
 Georgetown Charter Township  
 City of Cedar Springs  
 City of Rockford

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by LaFave, to approve the September 21, 2022 Policy Committee Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**IV. TIP AMENDMENTS**

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

**MDOT**

MDOT is requesting approval for a GPA threshold change for their I-96 CPM project where money was added to match final estimates. This has triggered a GPA amendment for Trunkline Roads. Also, they are requesting to move their Leonard Street Traffic Safety signing project to the obligation date of 2023.

D. Kent provided details on the CPM project on I-96 from Whitneyville Avenue to the Kent/Ionia County Line. D. Kent also highlighted an ongoing traffic safety project for sign repairs and sign upgrades on Leonard St NE.

D. Kent also mentioned a S/TIP Exempt project on old M-45 in Tallmadge.

#### City of Grand Rapids

Grand Rapids is requesting to add two Transportation Alternatives projects to the TIP for FY2023. One is for the addition of sidewalk/sidepath along Collindale Ave and the other is for adding flashing beacons at 6 intersections throughout the city. These were previously programmed during the TIP development process, but now that they've gone through MGS, they're officially being added to the TIP. This has triggered a GPA threshold amendment.

#### ITP-The Rapid

Staff, on behalf of ITP, is requesting approval of the Transit Operating GPA threshold increase for 2023. A project was moved from Transit Capital to Transit Operating as a technical correction and it triggered an amendment.

#### Kent County Road Commission

Kent County Road Commission has been awarded Local Bridge money for their 18 Mile project over the Rogue River. This has triggered a GPA threshold amendment and needs committee approval. They have also purchased Cass County CRC Flex Funds and are adding that to their Northland Drive project. 100th St had \$592 added in federal fund allocation and a total cost change which was administrative. Finally, KCRC is suspending their 28-th St project between Kraft Avenue and Cascade Road that was set to use Montcalm CRC money. Those funds are no longer available.

**MOTION by Schmalzel, SUPPORT by Harrall, to approve the TIP amendments requested by MDOT, the City of Grand Rapids, The Rapid, and the Kent County Road Commission. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **V. MTP AMENDMENT**

**Referring to Item V: Attachment A,** Faber introduced the MTP amendment that was described in the agenda packet. It is as follows:

MDOT is requesting to amend the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to accommodate a grant from the Michigan Legislature for a boulevard on M-37 from south of 92nd Street to north of 76th Street in Caledonia Township. This project is currently on the illustrative list in the MTP and includes connected road and bridge preservation, non-motorized, and operational and safety improvements.

Faber added that GVMC has received five public comments regarding the M-37 project. Faber also presented a public comment to the Committee that MDOT has received regarding the M-37 project.

D. Kent added that the M-37 project is currently in the TIP as a preservation project. D. Kent suggested that the public comments be formally acknowledged during the upcoming environmental assessment. D. Kent also noted that MDOT is tentatively planning to have a public meeting for the project in January 2023.

Bradshaw noted that Caledonia Township is in support of the project and appreciates the meetings they have had with MDOT.

Schweitzer inquired if there is a non-motorized component to the M-37 project. D. Kent noted that there is currently a trail along a portion of the project corridor. D. Kent added that during the alternative evaluation process, MDOT will be looking into modifications for the project to accommodate the non-motorized component.

**MOTION by Bradshaw, SUPPORT by Bennett, to approve amending the 2045 MTP to add MDOT's M-37 project from south of 92<sup>nd</sup> Street to north of 76<sup>th</sup> St. in Caledonia Township. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **VI. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE BYLAWS UPDATE**

**Referring to Item VI: Attachment A,** Joseph presented the Committee bylaws discussion and proposed bylaw changes.

Joseph noted that at the September 21, 2022 Policy Committee meeting, the Committee approved the addition of members/votes for Georgetown Township and Kentwood, but deferred other changes until further review could be done.

Joseph stated that the proposed bylaw changes have been reviewed by GVMC Executive Director, John Weiss. Joseph noted that based on changes that are proposed, Weiss does not believe GVMC needs a formal legal review. Joseph provided the Committee with a tracked changes copy of the bylaws, as well as a clean copy.

Joseph explained a few of the significant changes made to the bylaws, which include quorum requirements, attendance, proxy vs alternate, proxy designations, limits on proxies, advisory committees, and ad hoc committees. Discussion ensued.

**MOTION by Van Wyngarden, SUPPORT by Schmalzel, to approve the proposed bylaws changes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **VII. 2023 SAFETY TARGETS**

**Referring to Item VII: Attachment A,** Joseph presented the state's safety targets for 2023 and provided GVMC data for comparison and discussion. Joseph

explained that GVMC has also established a regional safety goal to decrease all five performance measures.

Joseph explained that safety is the only performance measure that needs to be updated annually. Since the federal targets are based on data and trends, those targets are not as aspirational as GVMC would like. Joseph stated it is staff's recommendation that GVMC continues to support state safety targets while also continuing to work toward regional goals to improve upon GVMC's baseline condition for all safety performance measures.

Joseph noted that GVMC staff has applied for the Safe Streets for All safety action plan grant for the region. This planning document would require aspirational goals of attaining zero deaths.

Joseph announced GVMC is working to get the safety committee together to do regional safety planning and policy work as a working group. Joseph also noted GVMC staff is working on converting the Michigan traffic crash facts document to an interactive story map.

Schweitzer noted that at the November 2, 2022 Technical Committee meeting, the Committee recommended to support state safety targets while continuing to work towards regional safety improvement goals.

**MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Harrall, to adopt the state safety targets for FY2023. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **VIII. FEDERAL CERTIFICATION REVIEW PRESENTATION**

Sibold, Ignasiak, and Weber provided a summary of the findings of GVMC's 2022 Federal Certification Review. The summary report can be found [here](#).

Sibold presented the Certification Review, which found the conduct of the metropolitan transportation planning process in the Grand Rapids urbanized area to meet federal planning requirements. Sibold stated that GVMC had zero corrective actions, seven recommendations, and seven commendations.

Weber thanked GVMC and partners for their work.

Joseph thanked GVMC's federal, state, and transit partners for their collaboration efforts. Joseph stated that GVMC has already implemented some of the federal review recommendations and is in the process of working on the others.

Wisselink thanked the Federal Highway Administration and GVMC for their coordination during the Federal Certification Review process.

Schweitzer and Naramore also thanked GVMC staff, The Rapid, and the Federal Highway Administration for their work.

**IX. FREEWAY SAFETY SERVICE PATROL PRESENTATION**

Schneider provided a presentation on MDOT's new Freeway Safety Service Patrol program. The service has been advertised through social media, news outlets, and the MDOT website.

**X. UPDATED FY2023 FUNDING ALLOCATIONS**

**Referring to Item X: Attachment A**, Joseph provided details on the updated FY2023 funding allocations for the GVMC region. Joseph shared that in addition to finalizing the funding amounts for the typical funding types, these allocations include additional funding available to be spent in FY2023 from GVMC's carryover balances as a way for MDOT to pay back the locals for utilizing more than 75% of FY2022 August redistribution.

Joseph provided the Committee with the updated allocations with notations indicating the net change from the originally programmed amounts.

Walters added a correction to the TMA amount. Joseph will make the appropriate change on the spreadsheet. Discussion ensued.

Joseph added that at their November meeting, the Technical Committee recommended TPSG meet in November to recommend programming changes for review and action by the Technical and Policy Committees at a combined December 2022 meeting. Joseph noted that TPSG will be meeting on Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022. The Committee decided on a combined Technical and Policy Committee meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in order to take action on potential programming for these allocations.

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

- Joseph announced that GVMC has hired a new full-time Transportation Planner, Peter Kimball.
- 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan public survey (More information: [www.gvmc.org/mtp](http://www.gvmc.org/mtp))

Faber noted that the MTP survey has closed and GVMC received 1,100 responses, which is over 300 more responses than the previous MTP survey GVMC conducted. Faber thanked the Committee for sharing the survey. Faber also noted that GVMC is waiting on a few paper copies of the survey to be returned from Senior Neighbors. The drawing for the \$1,000 beautification grant will be held next Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Faber also shared that the MTP steering committee has determined winners for the student poster contest and those winners have been notified.

- Airport Access Study: TAC Meeting #3

Joseph noted that the third Technical Advisory Committee meeting for the Airport Access Study has happened. Joseph shared if anyone would like GVMC to brief their committees, commissions, or councils on the study to reach out.

- Transportation Demand Management Plan: TAC Meeting #1 and #2

Joseph provided the Committee with summaries from the first two Transportation Demand Management TAC Meetings.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Naramore adjourned the November 16, 2022, Policy Committee meeting at 10:46 a.m.