

**MINUTES**

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, September 20, 2023  
Kent County Road Commission Board Room  
1900 4 Mile Road NW, Walker, MI 49544**

Van Wyngarden, Vice Chair of the Policy Committee, called the September 20, 2023, meeting to order at 9:31 am. Those present introduced themselves to the Committee.

**I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Voting Members Present**

Thad Beard		City of Rockford
Jerry Byrne		Kent County Road Commission
Scott Conners	<i>Proxy for Darrel Schmalzel</i>	City of Walker
		City of Walker
Dennis Durham		City of Grandville
Karyn Ferrick		City of Grand Rapids
Francisco Garcia		Ottawa County Road Commission
Lisa Golder		City of Kentwood
Wayne Harrall	<i>Proxy for Mike DeVries</i>	Grand Rapids Charter Township
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for Mike Burns</i>	MDOT
		City of Lowell
Doug LaFave		City of East Grand Rapids
Greg Madura		Alpine Township
Josh Naramore, <i>Chair</i>		City of Grand Rapids
Kris Pachla		Kent County
Casey Ries		GRFIA
Liz Schelling	<i>Proxy for Kevin Wisselink</i>	The Rapid
		The Rapid
Terry Schweitzer		City of Kentwood
Rick Sprague	<i>Proxy for Terry Brod</i>	Kent County Road Commission
		Cannon Township
Justin Stadt		Georgetown Charter Township
Dan Strikwerda		City of Hudsonville
Luke Walters	<i>Proxy for Jeff Franklin</i>	MDOT
		MDOT
Rod Weersing		Gaines Charter Township
Cameron Van Wyngarden, <i>Vice Chair</i>		Plainfield Charter Township

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Scott Alsgaard	Hope Network
Clover Brown	GVMC
Andrea Faber	GVMC
Mara Gericke	GVMC
Laurel Joseph	GVMC
Tyler Kent	MDOT
George Yang	GVMC

Mike Zonyk

GVMC

**Voting Members Not Present**

- Mark Bennett
- Terry Brod
- Mike Burns
- Michael DeVries
- Adam Elenbaas
- Jeff Franklin
- Kevin Green
- Jerry Hale
- Bryan Harrison
- Matt McConnon
- Tom Noreen
- Rob Postema
- Darrel Schmalzel
- Dean Smith
- Julius Suchy
- Jeff Thornton
- Don Tillema
- Steve Warren
- Blaine Wing
- Kevin Wisselink
- Member Awaiting Appointment
- Member Awaiting Appointment
- Member Awaiting Appointment
- Member Awaiting Appointment

- Tallmadge Charter Township
- Cannon Township
- City of Lowell
- Grand Rapids Charter Township
- Allendale Charter Township
- MDOT
- Algoma Township
- Lowell Charter Township
- Caledonia Charter Township
- Courtland Township
- Nelson Township
- City of Wyoming
- City of Walker
- Jamestown Charter Township
- Ada Township
- Village of Caledonia
- Byron Township
- Kent County Road Commission
- Village of Sparta
- The Rapid
- Cascade Charter Township
- City of Cedar Springs
- Ottawa County
- Village of Sand Lake

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Referring to Item II: Attachment A**, Van Wyngarden entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the May 17th, 2023, Policy Committee meeting and the July 19th, 2023, combined Technical and Policy Committee meeting.

**MOTION by Madura, SUPPORT by LaFave, to approve the Policy Committee minutes dated May 17, 2023, and the combined Technical and Policy Committee minutes dated July 19, 2023. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**IV. TIP AMENDMENTS**

**Referring to Item IV: Attachment A**, Zonyk 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 budget increases, delays/removals, and funding source changes as outlined in the agenda package. They are also adding bridge

rehabilitation and CPM funds which triggers a GPA amendment for Trunkline Bridge.

D. Kent highlighted some of the projects listed in the S/TIP exempt project list including right of way phases for signals at M-11 and Leonard, and US-131 and Post Dr. He added that the Plaster Creek bridge south of Burton St. on US-131 will need substantial repairs next year. There will also be a joint project on US-131 from 28<sup>th</sup> Street to Pearl St. that will require the full closure of US-131 for a couple of weeks in each direction. One project that was added to the S/TIP exempt list was the US-131 at Wealthy St. study which will show up on the S/TIP exempt list with 100% state funding.

### KCRC

KCRC is requesting to add Rural Exchange funds purchased from Mecosta County for their 100th St. Patterson Ave to Kraft Ave reconstruction project. This is triggering an amendment due to the cost increase.

There were three additional administrative modifications noted resulting from using funds previously allocated to other projects that Harrall provided additional details on, including:

- Broadmoor Intersections: Remove 76th St intersection and replace with 84th St intersection.
- Remove 60th St: Broadmoor Ave to Thornapple River Dr FY2025 resurfacing project and replace with Patterson Ave resurfacing north and south of 36th St.
- Remove Plainfield Bridge No 12: Packer Dr over the Rogue River and replace with Plainfield Bridge No. 25: West River Dr over the Rogue River.

### GVMC

The FY2023 Clean Air Action Program project was duplicated and is being removed as a technical correction. Joseph added that at the end of last FY22 GVMC used surplus CMAQ funding for the FY23 Clean Air Action program so as not to lose the funding. However, there was already a Clean Air Action job programmed with FY23 funds, so the job needs to be abandoned.

### City of Walker

The City of Walker has seen a significant cost increase for their 2024 Kinney Ave project. There will not be additional STP grant funding added, but the increase in local funds will trigger a TIP amendment.

**MOTION by Naramore, SUPPORT by Harrall, to approve the TIP amendments requested by MDOT, KCRC, GVMC, and the City of Walker. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. FY2024 PROGRAMMING UPDATES**

**Referring to Item V: Attachment A**, Joseph presented an update to the FY2024 Funding Allocations and Programming.

Joseph noted that GVMC received updated revenue targets for FY2024. TPSG met on August 14, 2023 to develop a list of recommended changes to the FY2024 TIP list to align with these new targets and remain fiscally constrained. There was over half a million dollars of net positive change. These recommendations were then taken to the Technical Committee on September 6, 2023.

The recommendations, by funding source, are as follows:

STP-Flex-Kent County

- Impacts one City of Walker project: Kinney Ave Reconstruction
  - o TPSG recommends lowering the federal amount for this funding source by \$67,000 to align with the new target.

Carbon Reduction Program

- Only one project programmed with this funding source is not currently programmed with maximum federal participation – City of Walker’s roundabout project at Center Drive NW
  - o TPSG recommends increasing the federal amount by \$66,000 to align with the new target and also almost balance the amount lost on Walker’s Kinney Ave project.

STP-Rural-Kent County

- Impacts one KCRC project (100th Street Reconstruction)
  - o TPSG recommends lowering the federal amount for this funding source by \$34,000 to align with the new target and supplementing the loss with STP-TMA funds.

STP-Flex-TMA and STP-TMA

- TPSG recommends allocating \$228,000 to The Rapid to supplement the COVID Relief funding that was taken back by Congress after the Debt Ceiling Deal.
  - o When the word came down that unobligated COVID Relief funding was going to be rescinded as part of Congress’ debt ceiling deal this summer, it was indicated that the applicable funds that had been allocated to transit projects would not be clawed back. However, that turned out to not be the case, and without additional funding, The Rapid’s project would be \$285,000 short while the planning process has already begun.
  - o MDOT Office of Passenger Transportation has agreed to provide the 20%

match required.

- TPSG recommends the remainder of the surplus STP-Flex-TMA funds (\$22,000) be combined with the remainder of the surplus STP-TMA funds to bring STP-TMA projects closer to maximum federal participation as most of the projects with this funding source were programmed with more than the required amount of local match.

Joseph added that these numbers are still estimates and the final allocation numbers should be available in October, so there may be additional changes that need to be made, but they should be administrative.

Naramore wanted to confirm that The Rapid funding is for the Transit Master Plan, which Joseph confirmed.

**MOTION by Naramore, SUPPORT by Pachla, to approve the updated FY2024 funding allocations as recommended by TPSG and the Technical Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**VI. MDOT GROUP TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Referring to Item VI: Attachment A,** Joseph presented the MDOT Final Group Transit Asset Management Plan.

Joseph noted that GVMC has received MDOT’s final Group Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan for rural transit agencies. This Plan was developed according to federal requirements for performance-based planning and programming. MDOT asks MPO’s to acknowledge receipt of the Plan.

Naramore asked how many rural transit agencies in the GVMC boundary are impacted by this plan. Joseph answered that Hope Network does their own, and then there are four: Georgetown Seniors, Senior Neighbors, Kent County Community Action, and United Methodist Community House. Naramore asked if in the future these communities be listed in the packet to know who is being affected, to which Joseph answered yes.

**MOTION by Madura, SUPPORT by Sprague, to acknowledge the receipt of MDOT’s Group Transit Asset Management Plan. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**VII. 2020 ADJUSTED CENSUS URBAN AREA (ACUB) BOUNDARY**

**Referring to Item VII: Attachment A** Zonyk presented the draft changes to the Census Urban Area made at a June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 workshop held by MDOT.

Following the Census, the MPO, with assistance from MDOT, is tasked with updating the ACUB based on changes that have occurred since the previous

Census to account for housing and population growth. GVMC met with members to review these updates and make any necessary changes to the boundary. The changes were for information only, with the item previously brought to the Executive Committee on August 17, 2023 and the GVMC board on Thursday, September 7, 2023.

Sparta and Allendale were added as small urban areas due to the growth of urban clusters. This will impact the process by which these areas receive federal funding, but overall, the funding amounts for the TIP do not change as the result of this. However, this does change the percentage distribution for urban and rural funds for Act-51 funding.

The current ACUB will remain in place until 2025 FHWA approval.

The only action needed on this item is a signature from Schelling as the ITP representative so that it can be brought forward to MDOT, who will then complete the process and send it to FHWA.

Naramore asked what the total additional area was that was added. Zonyk said he will do that calculation, but it was not very much. Naramore also asked if this impacts these new areas' ability to use the rural funding. Joseph answered that it impacts where the STP rural fundings can be spent, but it does not impact where the urban funds can be spent. Harrall added that if it's a border project, either funding source could be used.

Joseph added that the hope was to bring this through the Technical and Policy Committees and then the GVMC Board, but due to the Board's meeting schedule it needed to go directly to them to make sure it got approved for MDOT's timeline.

**VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

PASER

Zonyk announced that PASER collection for the year is complete, and he will be getting reports out to jurisdictions and updating the annual report.

TDM Plan Update

Joseph updated the Committee on the status of the Transportation Demand Management Plan. The draft Plan is out for review and feedback can be submitted until September 27. The next phase will be implementation in collaboration with the Technical and Policy Committees, as well as a TDM work group, to discuss regional strategies for increasing travel options and decreasing demand on the roadway system.

Safety Action Plan Update

Joseph noted that the RFP has been posted, with proposals due on September 22, 2023. The GVMC Safety Committee will be the group guiding the planning process. There will be a tight timeline on this process to give everyone enough time to apply for implementation funds.

Harrall asked if the RFP requires the document to be completed by September 30, 2024, which Joseph confirmed it does.

#### Steve Warren's Retirement

Harrall announced that Steve Warren will be retiring at the end of this month. He also announced that effective October 1, Jerry Bryne will be the new KCRC Managing Director and the Policy Committee representative for KCRC.

Warren was thanked for his regional perspective, foresight, and guidance throughout the years, as well as his active participation in GVMC's Committees and programs.

#### MDOT

D. Kent noted that a public meeting for the M-37 project has been scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup> in Caledonia Charter Township. Work on the interchange access change requests for the Fruitridge project are ongoing. MDOT met with representative Scholten's staff to discuss M-11 and Wilson Ave.

### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Van Wyngarden adjourned the September 20, 2023, Policy Committee meeting at 10:09 a.m.