

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, September 21, 2022
Rapid Central Station Conference Room
250 Grandville Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

Van Wyngarden, Vice Chair of the Policy Committee, unofficially called the September 21, 2022 meeting to order at 9:36 am. Those present introduced themselves to the Committee. Discussion regarding proxy votes ensued. Van Wyngarden officially called the meeting to order at 10:22am when quorum was confirmed.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Kristin Bennett	<i>Proxy for</i>	City of Grand Rapids
	<i>Josh Naramore</i>	City of Grand Rapids
Mark Bennett		Tallmadge Charter Township
Tim Bradshaw		Caledonia Charter Township
Scott Conners	<i>Proxy for</i>	City of Walker
	<i>Darrel Schmalzel</i>	City of Walker
Karyn Ferrick		City of Grand Rapids
Jeff Franklin		MDOT
Lisa Golder	<i>Proxy for</i>	City of Kentwood
	<i>Terry Schweitzer</i>	City of Kentwood
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
Doug LaFave		City of East Grand Rapids
Melissa LaGrand		Kent County
Greg Madura		Alpine Township
Rick Sprague	<i>Proxy for</i>	KCRC
	<i>Steve Warren</i>	KCRC
Cameron Van Wyngarden, <i>Vice Chair</i>		Plainfield Charter Township
Kevin Wisselink		The Rapid

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Clover Brown	GVMC
Andrea Faber	GVMC
Mara Gericke	GVMC
Art Green	MDOT
Laurel Joseph	GVMC
Jason Ulanowicz	Hope Network
George Yang	GVMC
Mike Zonyk	GVMC

Voting Members Not Present

Terry Brod	Cannon Township
------------	-----------------

Mike Burns
 Jamie Davies
 Michael DeVries
 Adam Elenbaas
 Shay Gallagher
 Kevin Green
 Jerry Hale
 Bryan Harrison
 Jim Holtvluwer
 Ken Krombeen
 Matt McConnon
 Jim Miedema
 Josh Naramore
 Tom Noreen
 Rob Postema
 Casey Ries
 Darrel Schmalzel
 Terry Schweitzer
 Jonathan Seyferth
 Dan Strikwerda
 Julius Suchy
 Ben Swayze
 Don Tillema
 Jeff Thornton
 Laurie Van Haitsma
 Steve Warren
 Rod Weersing
 Mike Womack

City of Lowell
 City of Rockford
 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
 Ottawa County Road Commission
 City of Grand Rapids
 Nelson Township
 City of Wyoming
 GRFIA
 City of Walker
 City of Kentwood
 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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Referring to Item II: Attachments A and B, Van Wyngarden entertained the following motion:

MOTION by LaGrand, SUPPORT by LaFave, to approve the May 18, 2022 Policy Committee minutes and the July 20, 2022 Technical and 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 FY2020-2023/2023-2026 TIP(s) that were described in the agenda package. They are as follows:

MDOT

Joseph explained that the MDOT Office of Passenger Transport is requesting to add the FY2023 MichiVan program to the TIP, which will utilize FY2022 funds. This has triggered a GPA amendment for the FY2022 Local Livability and Sustainability GPA.

Joseph noted that MDOT is also requesting Committee review of the S/TIP exempt project list.

D. Kent provided details on two S/TIP exempt projects. D. Kent highlighted a resurfacing project, I-96 between Cascade and M-11, that has increased in price but remains in a GPA.

D. Kent mentioned another resurfacing project with extended limits (M-45 between 68th Ave and Sand Creek). The limits originally ended at the Grand River. This project will be obligated in FY2022 and constructed in FY2023.

City of Grand Rapids

The City of Grand Rapids is requesting to move a reconstruction project, State St between Lafayette Ave and Madison Ave, from FY2022 to FY2023. Additionally, the City is requesting to fund a FY2023 Surface Transportation Program – Urban (STPU) project, Wealthy St from Ethel Avenue to East City Limits, with local funds and move the available Federal funding for that project to another FY2023 STPU project, Ball Ave from Leonard St to Knapp St. This is due to time constraints pertaining to water main replacement. It is requested that the Federal share of Wealthy St. be added to the Federal share of Ball Ave which would increase the Ball Ave Federal funding share to 71.7%

City of Kentwood

The City of Kentwood is asking to add \$131,654 in FY2023 CMAQ to their FY2023 52nd St rehabilitation project. This was recommended by the TPSG Subcommittee at the August 30th, 2022 meeting. This has been added to utilize additional funding on a shared use path. This will be added to the GPA but will not trigger a threshold amendment.

MOTION by Madura, SUPPORT by Harrall, to approve the TIP amendments requested by MDOT, the City of Grand Rapids, and the City of Kentwood. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- V. **COMMITTEE BYLAWS**—Referring to Item V: Attachment A, Joseph presented the Committee bylaws discussion and proposed bylaw changes. Joseph presented the bylaws page by page, noting the changes that have been proposed (these proposed changes can be found in the agenda packet located here: <https://www.gvmc.org/committee-minutes-agendas>)

Joseph noted that with the release of the Census population numbers, Georgetown Township and the City of Kentwood will now be allowed two votes on the GVMC Technical and Policy Committees due to their populations exceeding 50,000.

In addition, the topics of quorum requirements, attendance, proxy vs alternate, proxy designations, limits on proxies, and ad hoc committees were discussed.

The Committee recommended staff make additional changes to the updated bylaws draft for their review at the next meeting, deferring action on all the changes but the number of votes for Kentwood and Georgetown Township.

MOTION by Harrall, SUPPORT by K. Bennett, to update the membership roster requirements based on the census adjustments for Georgetown Township and the City of Kentwood. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

1. 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan public survey and student drawing contest – GVMC
(More information: www.gvmc.org/mtp)

Faber noted that the MTP survey and kids poster contest are both open and emails have been sent to each member jurisdiction with additional information. Faber let the Committee know that GVMC has promotional items available to use and asked the Committee to take and share the survey in any way that they can. Each community within the MPO area is competing for a \$1,000 beautification grant. The 5 communities with the highest participation rates will be entered in a drawing to win the grant, with one of the 5 randomly selected as the winner. There is an online dashboard that is updated weekly to display the participation rates in each community, as well as display who is currently in the top 5. Faber also noted the MTP Steering Committee will be reconvened.

2. Airport Access Study: Phase Two Update - GVMC
(More information: www.gvmc.org/airport-access-study)

Joseph noted that the Phase 2: Airport Access Study is now closed. There were about 6,700 responses, with 2,000 responses from the MPO region. Survey results from the airport employees and the public will be compared to determine if there are notable differences.

3. Nonmotorized Count Map – GVMC
(View the map: <https://bit.ly/3B1zezX>)

Gericke presented the GVMC Nonmotorized Count map, which highlights count data from 2021 and 2022, including locations suggested by MPO members, FY2023 TAP locations, and locations counted manually in 2021. The counter is infrared based and takes 24-hour counts for one week at each location. Joseph added that if communities have count data, it could possibly be added to this map as well.

4. Reconnecting Communities Nonmotorized Planning Grant for US-131 – MDOT

D. Kent let the Committee know that MDOT submitted an application for the Reconnecting Communities Nonmotorized Planning Grant for US-131. There is a major rehabilitation project currently planned for FY2026 and FY2027 which will consist of one direction per year between Pearl St and Richmond St. This includes analyzing existing crossings and pedestrian tunnels. Beforehand, there will be a study conducted to determine demand on either side of the freeway to better identify pedestrian and nonmotorized improvements. MDOT has received letters of support from across the planning area.

5. M-37 in Caledonia Township status update – MDOT

This project is subject of a State earmark from Representative Alberts and is a widening project that is being pursued as an environmental assessment. MDOT is working with environmental and the Federal Highway Administration, which will add some time to the process. An agreement has been put in place to allow MDOT to go up to 70% in design during the assessment, which typically stops at 30%. This will jumpstart the Preliminary Engineering phase. They will be starting the real estate process ahead of Environmental Assessment and working on public involvement before the end of the calendar year. At present, draft purpose and needs have been created.

6. US-131 PEL Study update – MDOT

D. Kent noted that this includes the S-curve segment of US-131 which borders Wyoming and runs through Grand Rapids. MDOT met with the Local Advisory Committee earlier in the summer and is now working on operational analysis and scenario modeling. Consultants are working on cost estimates and phasing strategies. The third round of public involvement will likely take place next year. D. Kent noted that MDOT has been holding stakeholder/neighborhood group meetings.

7. Other

- D. Kent noted that the construction update meeting will be happening sometime in late October.
- Joseph noted the Safe Streets for All grant request has been submitted and she has received notification that it was received.
- Joseph announced that GVMC has hired their summer Transportation Intern, Clover Brown, full-time. She is now an Assistant Transportation Planner.

APPROVED

APPROVED
ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Van Wyngarden adjourned the September 21, 2022, Policy Committee meeting at 11:00 a.m.