

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, September 7th, 2022
Walker City Hall
4243 Remembrance Road NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534**

Bradshaw, Chair of the Technical Committee, called the September 7th, 2022, meeting to order at 9:30 am. Those present introduced themselves to the Committee.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Sue Becker
Kristin Bennett
Mark Bennett
Tim Bradshaw (*Chair*)
Scott Conners (*Vice Chair*)
Rick DeVries
Shay Gallagher
Russ Henckel
Dennis Kent

*Proxy for
Mike Burns*

Jim Kirkwood
Brett Laughlin
Clint Nemeth
Jeff Oonk

*Proxy for
Nicole Hofert
Proxy for
Steve Warren
Mike DeVries*

Rick Sprague

Charlie Sundblad
Luke Walters
Rod Weersing
Kevin Wisselink

Alpine Township
City of Grand Rapids
Tallmadge Charter Township
Caledonia Charter Township
City of Walker
City of Grand Rapids
Village of Sparta
City of Wyoming
MDOT
City of Lowell
City of Kentwood
Ottawa County Road Commission
Gerald R. Ford Intl. Airport
City of Wyoming
City of Wyoming
Kent County Road Commission
Kent County
Grand Rapids Charter Township
City of Grandville
MDOT
Georgetown Charter Township
ITP - The Rapid

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Clover Brown
Debbi Coleman
Andrea Faber
Mara Gericke
Tyler Kent
Terry Martin
Jason J. Ulanowicz
George Yang
Mike Zonyk

GVMC Staff
Hope Network
GVMC Staff
GVMC Staff
MDOT
Carrier and Gable
Hope Network
GVMC Staff
GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Terry Brod

Cannon Township

Mike Burns
Mike DeVries
Adam Elenbaas
Kevin Green
Tim Haagsma
Jerry Hale
Wayne Harrall
Brian Hilbrands
Nicole Hofert
Jim Holtvluwer
Doug LaFave
Bill LaRose
Matt McConnon
Robert Miller
Tom Noreen
John Said
Terry Schweitzer
Rick Solle
Jeff Thornton
Don Tillema
Laurie Van Haitsma
Phil Vincent
Steve Warren

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

MOTION by Wisselink, SUPPORT by Weersing, to approve the May 4, 2022 Technical Committee Minutes and the July 20, 2022 Combined Technical and Policy Committee Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Coleman introduced Jason Ulanowicz, the new Executive Director of Transportation at Hope Network.

IV. TIP AMENDMENTS

Referring to Item IV: Attachment A, Zonyk introduced the amendments to the FY2020-2023/2023-2026 TIP(s) that were described in the agenda package. They are as follows:

MDOT:

Zonyk 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.

Zonyk 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%

Ottawa County Road Commission

Zonyk explained that the Leonard St project noted in the agenda packet was an error and should be disregarded. OCRC is requesting that the FY2023 18th / 20th Ave from M-21 to Bauer mill and fill project be removed from the TIP as it was approved for the Federal Buyout Program. Walters noted that the project does not have to be removed immediately, but will at some point in the future. Action on this item will be delayed until more information on the buyout program is received.

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 Laughlin, SUPPORT by Conners to approve the TIP amendments requested by MDOT, the City of Grand Rapids, and the City of Kentwood, with action being deferred to a future meeting on the Ottawa County Road Commission amendment. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. COMMITTEE BYLAWS

Referring to Item V: Attachment A, Faber presented the Committee bylaws discussion and proposed bylaw changes. Faber 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>)

Faber noted that the bylaws were reviewed at the July 20th, 2022 combined Technical and Policy Committee meeting. Faber presented a discussion regarding a note in Article III – Committee Membership that states:

“Membership on the GVMC Policy Advisory Committee shall be composed of duly elected or appointed representatives of the legally constituted political units or publicly owned transportation providers contained within the Metropolitan Area Boundary (MAB), provided that none of the representatives of political units of government may be employees of the Michigan Department of Transportation, Grand Rapids Area Transit Authority Interurban Transit Partnership, Kent County Road Commission or Ottawa County Road Commission.”

At present, MDOT is listed as an alternate for the City of Lowell. Discussion ensued and it was discussed whether or not this language should be amended, as it could be possible for one of those entities to represent multiple political units of government as alternates, thus limiting the number of political units of government attending meetings and, ultimately, voting on action items. Faber noted that any further discussion will be brought to Policy, who will ultimately decide and vote on these changes. Bradshaw asked if GVMC has an attorney who would be able to review this clause, and Faber noted that she would follow up on that.

Faber continued through the document, listing proposed changes, and asked if anybody had any suggestions for new Advisory Committee Members. D. Kent suggested that The Right Place be invited to the Committee.

Faber presented a discussion regarding Article V – Subcommittees. At the July meeting, it was discussed that the Nonmotorized Committee be added as an official Subcommittee. However, it is staff's interpretation that this article is referring to Subcommittees of the Technical and Policy Committees, not topic-area committees in general. The Nonmotorized Committee has representation from outside GVMC membership like other topic-based committees existing and upcoming (Freight, Safety, etc.). It is staff's position that these committees can operate independently in their advisory/working group forms without needing to be listed individually in these bylaws.

K. Bennett recommended that these committees are defined in the bylaws.

R. Sprague noted that often times the smaller, further away townships prefer to use the road commissions as proxies and handle business on their behalf. With that, and with quorum increasing, it could be an issue moving forward. D. Kent

suggested that the designated member is a non-MDOT or road commission member, with MDOT and the road commissions serving as alternates. S. Conners recommended that official proxies are required to be designated ahead of the meeting. Faber noted that this will be updated moving forward and if a member would like to add a proxy, to send an email and they will be added to the GVMC records.

MOTION by Wisselink, SUPPORT by Sprague to recommend approval of all draft changes made to the GVMC Bylaws, aside from the change regarding Article III 3.1, which will be brought to the Policy Committee for discussion and decision, and to address topic-specific subcommittees in the Bylaws. 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 is open and emails have been sent to each member jurisdiction with additional information. 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. Faber let the Committee know that GVMC has promotional items available to use. 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. In addition to the survey, there is a kids poster contest taking place.

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

Faber reminded the committee that the Phase 2: Airport Access Study survey is open until September 9th, 2022, and asked the Committee to take and share the survey.

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.

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 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

T. 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

Zonyk updated the Committee on the status of PASER data collection, noting that collection is wrapping up for the year, with two days of ratings left. In the coming months, the jurisdictions will be provided with the collected data.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Weersing, SUPPORT by D. Kent, to adjourn the September 7th, 2022 Technical Committee meeting at 10:16 am. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.