

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMMING STUDY GROUP
Wednesday March 17, 2021
Video Conference**

Laughlin called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Kristin Bennett		City of Grand Rapids
Brad Boomstra		City of Kentwood
Scott Connors		City of Walker
Mike DeVries		Grand Rapids Charter Township
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Shay Gallagher		Village of Sparta
Tim Haagsma		Gaines Township
Wayne Harrall		County of Kent
Russ Henckel		City of Wyoming
Nicole Hofert		City of Wyoming
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for Mike Burns</i>	MDOT
Doug LaFave		City of Lowell
Brett Laughlin (Chair)		East Grand Rapids
Jon Moxey		Ottawa County Road Commission
Clint Nemeth		Village of Caledonia
Terry Schweitzer		GFIAA
Rick Sprague		City of Kentwood
Dan Strikwerda		Kent County Road Commission
Charlie Sundblad		City of Hudsonville
Jeff Thornton		City of Grandville
Kevin Wisselink		Village of Caledonia
Steve Warren		The Rapid
		Kent County Road Commission

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Janet Arcuicci	MDOT
Bradley Doane	GVMC Staff
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Art Green	MDOT
Laurel Joseph	GVMC Staff
Tyler Kent	MDOT
George Yang	GVMC Staff
Mike Zonyk	GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Tim Bradshaw (Vice Chair)
 Mike Burns
 Adam Elenbaas
 Jeff Franklin
 Rachel Gokey
 Steve Hartman
 Jim Kirkwood
 Joan Konyndyk
 Bill LaRose
 Travis Mabry
 Robert Miller
 Jeff Oonk
 Steve Peterson
 Liz Schelling
 Max Smith
 Phil Vincent
 Mike Womack

Caledonia Township
 City of Lowell
 Allendale Township
 MDOT
 Village of Sand Lake
 Hope Network West Michigan
 City of Kentwood
 Hope Network West Michigan
 City of Cedar Springs
 City of Walker
 City of Hudsonville
 City of Wyoming
 Cascade Charter Township
 ITP – The Rapid
 Hope Network West Michigan
 City of Rockford
 City of Cedar Springs

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Joseph stated some comments made in the last paragraph of page 5 were originally attributed to Rick DeVries and have since been corrected to Mike DeVries.

Dennis Kent requested his comments made at the top of page six were corrected to show he provided members with a cost estimate during the meeting.

Janet Arcuicci noted that she was in attendance of the last meeting and requested the attendees list reflected that.

Laughlin entertained a motion to approve the March 2, 2021 TPSG minutes as amended.

MOTION by Mike Devries, SUPPORT by Harrall, to approve the March 2, 2021 TPSG Subcommittee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

II. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

III. FY2020/2021 HIP FUNDS

Please refer to Item IV: Joseph explained, the Subcommittee’s task with discussing and making a recommendation regarding additional available FY2020 and FY2021 funds in the Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) funding categories – continuing the conversation from the March 3rd meeting. The amounts of additional federal funds are listed below.

- FY 2020 HIP General: \$502,729 (must be obligated by 9/30/23, typical 80/20 or 81.85/18.15 required split)
- FY 2021 HIP General: \$540,111 (must be obligated by 9/30/24, typical 80/20 or 81.85/18.15 required split)
- FY 2021 HIP COVID Relief: \$3,693,347 (must be obligated by 9/30/24 – earlier obligation has been recommended, 100% federal – no local match required)

Mike DeVries asked if funds that were put back into the budget from a project that was not able to get done were reallocated to the Grandville 2022 project. Joseph said there was discussion of whether those funds should be allocated but it was left open as part of the whole package to be decided on today. DeVries said he hoped those funds would be reallocated to the municipalities.

Rick DeVries suggested the Grandville Ave project be reduced by \$181,000. Joseph noted the comment.

Bennett asked about the budget and funding for the Ottawa County Road Commission project. Joseph explained the STP funding needs to have local match associated with it, so if \$500,000 is added to that project, then the local match cannot be met. Joseph then provided two viable funding options for the project.

Laughlin said he thought the Covid money could be used for local match. Joseph said she would have to look into it.

Moxey said Caledonia has reworked their request and they are dropping it to \$149,000, which would get them to an 80/20 split on half of their Kinsey St project. Thornton followed, saying the Caledonia Farmers Elevator group has expressed a desire to get this project underway.

Schweitzer said another aspect for consideration should be monies for an MDOT project. Joseph explained what the ask was for the MDOT projects and the Subcommittee's funding options. Wisselink said, since they are taking on projects as part of the regional ask, they are looking for a number in the \$250,000 to \$300,000 range. Bennett followed, saying the projects were also submitted for PL funds. Joseph said the projects were part of the illustrative list and cannot currently fit in next year's work program, but with HIP Covid funds, it would not require additional match from communities.

Joseph said if the TDM study is something members would like to see go forward before the master plan, then they can always make an adjustment to get the study into 2022 rather than 2023. Bennett said, related to a TDM study, she felt there would be continued change in how people operate coming out of the pandemic regarding remote working and commuting.

Harrall asked Joseph if their target number for Federal money was \$4.7 million. Joseph said it is split among three different pots, but yes. Harrall said KCRC could reduce the ask for their M-37 project to \$1 million. Joseph said the one concern she had about the M-37 project using this funding was the timing, as it is not set to happen until 2024 & 2025, when the Covid monies are suggested to be spent before that. Connors said he likes the diversity of projects and does not feel the Covid money needs to be entirely spent in the first year. Adding, he is okay if monies for the projects are distributed over the next 2 to 3 years.

Rick DeVries said it sounds like the M-37 project will be the very last project to receive money, asking members if that's cause for concern. DeVries continued, saying they have a year or so to reevaluate if needed. Schweitzer asked Dennis Kent what the prospect is of having the M-37 project undertaken before 2024. Kent said moving the project before 2024 is a bigger discussion MDOT would have to have internally. Schweitzer said it would be desirable for the project to be moved from the end of the current timeframe.

Laughlin said another consideration is potentially another round of special funding coming to the region. Laughlin suggested allocating a portion of current funds to the M-37 project now, recognizing another round of funding may come into supplement that, adding the initial cost of the project gets lowered as well. Joseph said they would not be able to over-program in the TIP without causing fiscal constraint issues, but they could wait to program some of the TDM study to help. Schweitzer said that in the past they have looked at increasing the local share to come within budget. Joseph asked members how they feel about that option. Conners said it seems reasonable. Harrall said it would be about a 2% increase.

Warren asked about the Transit Master Plan, if any money from recent action by Congress would be able to assist in the TMP study. Wisselink said it would definitely help, and additional funding would get them back to their fiscal goal for the project.

Bennett asked Joseph what the change in the budget was for the TDM study. Joseph said it was decreased to \$100,000 for the ask. Bennett said she was concerned about the scope going down because it is a significant project. Joseph said the scope has not changed but they're trying to get them within budget.

Mike DeVries said he thought it was important to know the TDM study money comes from each municipality as part of their dues, and the project would benefit everyone. Harrall said if they did that, and they went to 25% match, he thought it would be close to balance. Harrall continued, saying he would like clarification as to whether they need to be ran through the MDOT local agency program system. Rick DeVries agreed, adding if the idea is to invest these dollars sooner, it significantly shortens the process. Joseph said she would look into it and follow up. Joseph continued, saying while they are on the topic of schedule, years should be put in for the projects that do not already have them.

Joseph asked Rick DeVries if they will be doing the Grandville project in 2022. DeVries said he believed they planned to get it obligated in 2022 and built in 2022 or spring of 2023.

Joseph asked Strikwerda about their 40th Ave project timeline. Strikwerda said 2022.

Harrall said 2022 for the Northland Dr project and 2024 for M-37.

Boomstra said Kentwood will plan on doing their Burton St project in 2022.

Conners said Walker will plan on 2023 for obligation on their Bristol RR Bridge project.

Wisselink said the bulk of the work for the TMP study will be carried out in 2023.

Moxey said, on behalf of Caledonia, they have already cut a lot of their project and 5% does not mean a whole lot for them, if they could keep it at 80/20 it would be appreciated.

Dennis Kent asked what the M-37 project was at, at this point. Joseph said \$500,000 budget ask with a recognition that it is an important regional project and prioritized for future funding. Harrall said if they make the 5% reduction it will go to \$475,000. Kent said that is fine given there will likely be more discussion. Kent added MDOT's investment in this project is approximately \$30 million. Joseph said the updated amounts will be sent to members later that day.

MOTION by Harrall, SUPPORT by Conners to reduce Federal Budget Ask by 5% to meet the \$4,736,187 target.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Joseph explained the allowance for virtual public meetings is up at the end of March. Adding there is a house bill to extend the allowance, but she is not certain whether they will qualify.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Harrall, Support by Strikwerda to adjourn the meeting at 10:17am.

