

**MINUTES**

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, January 6, 2021  
Video Conference**

Laughlin, chair of the Technical Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:33 am. Joseph went through the Committee roster by agency for roll call. When the agency was called, the appointed Committee member or their proxy introduced themselves, the agency they were representing, and the location they were calling from, as instructed and as required by the amendments to the Open Meetings Act. Voting members were sent panelist invitations and had the ability to control their audio and video settings. Participants were notified that the meeting was being recorded on Zoom.

**I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Voting Members Present**

Sue Becker		Alpine Township
Kristin Bennett		City of Grand Rapids
Brad Boomstra		City of Kentwood
Tim Bradshaw ( <i>Vice Chair</i> )		Caledonia Twp.
Terry Brod		Cannon Township
Mike Burns		City of Lowell
Scott Connors		City of Walker
Dave Datema		Tallmadge Township
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Jim Ferro		Ada Township
Jeff Franklin		MDOT
Shay Gallagher		Village of Sparta
Tim Haagsma		Gaines Charter Township
Jerry Hale		Lowell Township
Wayne Harrall	<i>Proxy for Mike DeVries</i>	Kent County/ County of Kent
		Grand Rapids Township
Russ Henckel		City of Wyoming
Brian Hilbrands		Cascade Township
Nicole Hofert		City of Wyoming
James Kilborn	<i>Proxy for Jim Holtvluwer</i>	Ottawa County
		Ottawa County
Doug LaFave		City of East Grand Rapids
Brett Laughlin, <i>Chair</i>		Ottawa County Road Commission
Matt McConnon		Courtland Township
Robert Miller		City of Hudsonville
Clint Nemeth		GFIAA
Rick Solle		Plainfield Township
Charlie Sundblad		City of Grandville
Jeff Thornton		Village of Caledonia
Phil Vincent		City of Rockford
Steve Warren		Kent County Road Commission

Rod Weersing  
Kevin Wisselink

Georgetown Township  
ITP-The Rapid

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Janet Arcuicci  
Allison Balogh  
Brad Doane  
Andrea Faber  
Laurel Joseph  
Dennis Kent  
Tyler Kent  
Roger Marks  
Terry Martin  
Suzette Peplinski  
Tom Richer  
Rick Sprague  
Steve Waalkes  
Susan Weber  
George Yang  
Mike Zonyk

MDOT  
MDOT  
GVMC Staff  
GVMC Staff  
GVMC Staff  
MDOT  
MDOT  
c2ae Engineering  
Carrier and Gable  
MDOT  
MDOT  
KCRC  
Michigan Concrete Assn.  
FTA  
GVMC Staff  
GVMC Staff

**Voting Members Not Present**

Mike DeVries  
Adam Elenbaas  
Rachel Gokey  
Kevin Green  
Jim Holtvluwer  
Bill LaRose  
Tom Noreen  
Don Tillema  
Laurie VanHaitsma

Grand Rapids Township  
Allendale Township  
Village of Sand Lake  
Algoma Township  
Ottawa County  
Cedar Springs  
Nelson Township  
Byron Township  
Jamestown Township

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Laughlin entertained a motion to approve the November 4, 2020 Technical Committee minutes.

**MOTION by Haagsma, SUPPORT by DeVries, to approve the November 4, 2020 Technical Committee minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joseph explained the procedure for members of the public to offer public comment. They were to click the hand icon in Zoom to raise their hand, and after doing so, they would be unmuted to offer their comments verbally to the Committee.

Roger Marks, C2AE, raised his hand and commented that he was checking the system to make sure he could raise a hand and participate when needed. No other comments were offered from members of the public or the Technical Committee members.

**IV. TIP AMENDMENTS**

**Referring to Item IV: Attachment A**, Joseph introduced the TIP amendments that were being requested, which are as follows:

- MDOT requested the amendments/modifications to the TIP project list in the attached pending projects summary in the agenda, which included “abandoning” a regionwide pavement marking project and adding a project to the FY2021 Trunkline Road GPA, which has triggered a threshold amendment. MDOT also requested committee review of the S/TIP exempt project list. Many of the projects on this S/TIP exempt list have been reviewed by the Committees in the past.
- The City of Grand Rapids has received grants for two FY2022 safety projects and requested to add them to the TIP, which has triggered a threshold amendment for the FY2022 Local Traffic Operations and Safety GPA. Grand Rapids also requested to remove a FY2022 project from the TIP after initial design discussions have indicated the need to increase the scope for the project. They are requesting to add the federal budget associated with this removed project to an existing FY2022 TIP project, increasing that project’s federal budget.
- Staff, on behalf of the City of Lowell, requested to modify the scope and construction length of a statewide TAP funded project. This project is also moving from FY2021 to FY2023.

Dennis Kent provided additional information about MDOT’s TIP amendments/modifications. He added that a Construction Coordination meeting would take place in February in place of the regularly scheduled Technical Committee Meeting and that he would provide details about the construction schedule then.

Bennett provided an explanation of the City of Grand Rapids’ safety projects, and DeVries noted that the City of Grand Rapids’ Division Avenue from Fulton to Michigan Street project has turned into a reconstruction project. The resulting cost increase will cause a delay, which was why the City was requesting the STPU grant for the project to go toward their Collindale project. Discussion ensued.

Burns provided additional information about the City of Lowell’s project, noting that the scope changed because the plans for the project weren’t approved by the railroad.

Joseph added that further attachments in the agenda packet included GPA threshold increases and the S/TIP exempt project list for Committee consideration and approval.

Dennis Kent noted that on the I-96 major rehab project, they would be adding bridge work on the M-6 ramp. It’s not on the S/TIP exempt list yet, but it’s an administrative modification, and the cost is \$120,000 to replace the railing.

**MOTION by Brod, SUPPORT by Harrall, to approve the TIP amendments requested by MDOT, the City of Grand Rapids, GVMC Staff and the City of Lowell, as requested. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY by roll call vote.**

**V. ADJUSTED NHS BRIDGE CONDITION TARGETS**

**Referring to Item V: Attachment A,** Joseph explained that, in accordance with federal performance measure requirements, MDOT established Bridge Condition targets in 2018, which the Technical and Policy Committees elected to support. We have now reached the mid-point of the performance period, which allows for adjustment of the 4-year targets. Based on updated data, MDOT has elected to adjust their 4-Year Bridge Performance Targets, which are listed below.

- Percentage of NHS bridges classified as in “Good” condition
- Percentage of NHS bridges classified as “Poor” condition

Factors that led to MDOT adjusting their 4-year targets include four large-deck-area bridges deteriorating faster than expected and changes in the inventory of NHS bridges, which the adjusted targets account for. A table summarizing the old and new targets and data is below.

Bridge Performance Measures					
Performance Measure	2018 Measured (Statewide)	Original 4-Year State Target	2020 Measured (Statewide)	2020 Measured (GVMC area)	Updated 4-Year State Target
Percentage of NHS bridges classified as in “Good” condition	33%	27%	26%	38%	23%
Percentage of NHS bridges classified as “Poor” condition	10%	7%	6%	4%	8%

MPOs have until March 31, 2021 to take action on these updated targets and can continue to support State targets or develop MPO targets. This item is being brought to the Committee today so that there is ample time for discussion before the deadline.

Staff has participated in target coordination meetings and working groups throughout the development process of all the State targets that have been presented to the Committee and believe the State’s methodology for target development to be reasonable. For this reason, and because MDOT selects the recipients of local bridge funds in addition to allocating state bridge funds, staff is recommending that the Technical Committee recommend support of the state targets for the updated Bridge Performance Measures at this time. The generally better condition of NHS bridges in the GVMC area and the work that continues to be done by MDOT and our local agencies to improve NHS bridges in our region can support statewide target achievement.

Harrall asked for clarification on the justification for raising the target on poor bridge condition percentage and if there were ramifications for MDOT on how NHS funds are delegated if the targets aren’t met. For instance, would funds need to be transferred from road to bridge projects in the future? Joseph provided likely presumptions on how

MDOT arrived at the new percentage. Dennis Kent replied that there are funding implications for missing targets, but it is dependent on funding level. Joseph stated that she believed the state is already spending funding in performance measure areas that they would have to spend if targets weren't met. Dennis Kent stated that he would check on this further before the next meeting. Discussion ensued.

Laughlin entertained a motion to support MDOT's adjusted bridge condition targets.

**MOTION by Warren, Support by Conners, to recommend to the Policy Committee support of MDOT's adjusted bridge condition targets. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY by roll call vote.**

#### **VI. ITS UPDATE**

Tyler Kent introduced this item to the Committee, noting that at the last MPO Certification, FHWA brought up additional opportunities for efficient collaboration between agencies on ITS initiatives. Peplinski shared a presentation with the Committee and introduced herself, Balogh, and Richer, who would be presenting on MDOT's recent ITS activities. Topics discussed included ITS Architecture Update, covered by Peplinski; WMTOC Update, covered by Balogh; and 5 Year Plan Projects, covered by Richer.

Joseph thanked the presenters for the update and noted that she was looking forward to this group discussing ITS needs in the region and bringing the ITS subcommittee back together. Tyler Kent echoed that sentiment and encouraged the redevelopment of a subcommittee to discuss ways to collaborate ITS activities going forward. Peplinski stated that the time requirement would be two or three meetings per year.

#### **VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Joseph announced that there would be a construction coordination meeting in February in place of the regularly scheduled Technical Committee meeting. Local agencies should bring their current list of projects to the meeting to update the construction coordination application map. She will forward the invite from Teams. Joseph also mentioned that the TPSG Subcommittee would be meeting in February, likely on the time/date of the regularly scheduled Policy Committee meeting, to program additional HIP funding. Kent added details about the February construction coordination meeting.

Tyler Kent announced a new MetroQuest survey for the 131 PEL study, which will be open through early February.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Laughlin adjourned the January 6, 2021 Technical Committee meeting at 10:39 am.