

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, April 7, 2021
Video Conference**

Laughlin, chair of the Technical Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:30 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**

Kristin Bennett		City of Grand Rapids
Tim Bradshaw (<i>Vice Chair</i>)		Caledonia Twp.
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Jim Ferro		Ada Township
Jeff Franklin		MDOT
Shay Gallagher		Village of Sparta
Tim Haagsma		Gaines Charter 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
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for Mike Burns</i>	City of Lowell /MDOT
		City of Lowell /MDOT
James Kilborn	<i>Proxy for Jim Holtvluwer</i>	Ottawa County
		Ottawa County
Brett Laughlin, <i>Chair</i>		Ottawa County Road Commission
Travis Mabry	<i>Proxy for Scott Connors</i>	City of Walker
Matt McConnon		Courtland Township
Clint Nemeth		GFIAA
Liz Schelling		ITP-The Rapid
Rick Sprague		KCRC
Charlie Sundblad		City of Grandville
Laurie VanHaitsma		Jamestown Township
Phil Vincent		City of Rockford
Steve Warren		Kent County Road Commission
Rod Weersing		Georgetown Township

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Brad Doane	GVMC Staff
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff

Laurel Joseph
George Yang
Mike Zonyk

GVMC Staff
GVMC Staff
GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Sue Becker
Brad Boomstra
Terry Brod
Mike Burns
Scott Conners
Dave Datema
Mike DeVries
Adam Elenbaas
Rachel Gokey
Kevin Green
Jerry Hale
Nicole Hofert
Jim Holtvluwer
Doug LaFave
Bill LaRose
Matt McConnon
Robert Miller
Tom Noreen
Rick Solle
Jeff Thornton
Don Tillema
Kevin Wisselink

Alpine Township
City of Kentwood
Cannon Township
City of Lowell
City of Walker
Tallmadge Township
Grand Rapids Township
Allendale Township
Village of Sand Lake
Algoma Township
Lowell Township
City of Wyoming
Ottawa County
City of East Grand Rapids
Cedar Springs
Courtland Township
City of Hudsonville
Nelson Township
Plainfield Township
Village of Caledonia
Byron Township
ITP-The Rapid

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Laughlin entertained a motion to approve the January 6, 2021 Technical Committee minutes.

Kent noted a necessary change on Page 3 of the Minutes where I-196 needed to be changed to I-96. The change was to be included in the motion.

MOTION by Harrall, SUPPORT by DeVries, to approve the January 6, 2021 Technical Committee minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. TIP AMENDMENTS

Referring to Item IV: Attachment A, Joseph introduced the TIP amendments that were provided in the agenda package. They are as Follows:

- MDOT requested the amendments/modifications to the TIP project list in the attached pending projects summary in the agenda, which included Job 201136 which listed Federal and State amounts previously in question. Kent clarified that this is our MPO's share of a multi-MPO project. Among others, Kent mentioned that's the only significant project to point out.
- The City of Grand Rapids had a couple of amendments. They have received a conditional grant to use TAP funds for a Grand River Edges Project. Joseph mentioned that once the commitment is awarded it needs to be amended to the TIP which is the reason for that amendment. They also requested to modify a few projects on the illustrative list for Division Avenue as well as clarify a scope adjustment for a couple of projects on the Nonmotorized Plan List. These are for Grand River Edges West and Plaster Creek Trail Devries briefly spoke of the projects and opened the discussion up for questions.
- Kent County Road Commission requested a couple of cost changes for Burton Street and 7 Mile Road for which Harrall discussed briefly. There was also a GPA change required due to some bridge funding KCRC received for 2023.
- Staff, on behalf of the Caledonia for Kinsey Street, Ottawa County for a Bridge Project, and Hope Network also presented some more projects requiring an amendment. The Hope Network Project triggered a GPA amendment which was also addressed.

MOTION by Kilborn, SUPPORT by Harrall, to approve the TIP amendments requested by MDOT, the City of Grand Rapids, Caledonia, KCRC, and OCRC as requested including the GPA Amendments. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY by roll call vote.

V. STP-URBAN AND HIP FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Joseph presented the TPSG Subcommittees' recommendations for programming FY2021 STP-Urban that was turned back from Grandville, some HIP funding from the general 2021 HIP funds, and a large chunk of HIP COVID relief funds we received as an MPO.

The HIP projects to use the funds available were presented in a spreadsheet and opened for questions by Joseph.

MOTION by Haagsma, Support by Harrall, to recommending to the Policy Committee to approve the recommended allocations of the TPSG committee for these funds. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY by roll call vote.

VI. POLICIES AND PRACTICES UPDATE

Staff presented the Policies and Practices document update as a process the precedes the development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Minor modifications were pointed out by Joseph including the format, but also noting that the overall content program policies did not change much. Joseph opened it up for discussion.

Harrall asked for a summary of changes that occurred.

Joseph noted some capacity deficiency eligibility to make it consistent with the Congestion Management Process (CMP). In the Nonmotorized section we removed the definition of facility types because that is redundant when we have the Nonmotorized Plan as well. Joseph also points out that to make clear we are following federal guidelines to make our TAP project selection process transparent we added some language on our selection process from the Nonmotorized Plan. For transit we added some language on safety because it is a requirement because of safety performance targets that now need to be incorporated into the process.

Devries asked a question about TIP amendments where with the 25% threshold change that occurs when local funds are increased to see if there is an option to have obligation occur before the amendment occurs with hopes it will have less impact on the project.

Joseph replied with understanding and the note that it will be discussed with the MTPA group. The Federal Highway Administration (FHA) at this point wants to see the total cost as the trigger and not just the federal share. Changing this in the middle of a TIP cycle is a tough sell and hopefully before the next TIP process there will be some direction on an answer. Discussion ensued with the note that it affects project schedule and price.

Bradshaw asked a question about the National Functional Classification (NFC) changes on whether they impact federal aid eligibility. Joseph replied that anything that is currently federal aid has no impact and the guidance is only for newly proposed facilities.

Mabry had a message from Conners to see a redline version to highlight the technical changes and also postpone the documents approval for May. Joseph noted we're on a tight timeline with the Public Participation document needing to be approved next month, but that it was up to the committee to proceed or not with an approval.

Bennett asked about the accuracy of the facilities in the map and requested that we update it with the latest version of improvements regionally. Joseph replied saying that we are in the process internally of implementing an existing facility update and that is happening very soon, which precedes the development of our Nonmotorized Plan.

Warren proposed that we get a red-line version of the changes and postpone the approval until after we meet with TPSG to review the document more formally with a more in-depth discussion.

Joseph proposes we'll meet to get a recommendation from TPSG and we'll move forward from there. The committee agreed this is the best course of action.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Zonyk provided information regarding updates on two web mapping applications available on GVMC's website. The first application being the 2021 Construction Map, and the second being an interactive Crash Map that allows for trend analysis.

Kent provided information on the state order of remote working has extended until July 12th as of now. Also, for the M-37 group in Caledonia there is a poll for meeting dates next week and as a reminder please fill this out and they will send out a meeting invite next week.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Laughlin adjourned the April 7, 2021 Technical Committee meeting at 10:23 am.