



## GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

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**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING****Wednesday, November 3, 2021****9:30 AM**

The Rapid Central Station Conference Room  
250 Grandville Ave SW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

**AGENDA**

Laughlin, Chair of the Technical Committee, called the November 3, 2021 meeting to order at 9:31 am.

**I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS****Voting Members Present**

Kristin Bennett

Mark Bennett

Tim Bradshaw (*Vice Chair*)

Terry Brod

Rick Devries

Art Green

Tim Haagsma

Wayne Harrall

*Proxy for*  
*Grand Rapids Twp.*

Russ Henckel

Fred Keena

Dennis Kent

*Proxy for*  
*Mike Burns*

Tyler Kent

Jim Kirkwood

Doug LaFave

Brett Laughlin (*Chair*)

Travis Mabry

*Proxy for*  
*Scott Conners*

Terry Martin

Rick Sprague

*Proxy for*  
*Steve Warren*

Charlie Sundblad

Luke Walters

Rod Weersing

Kevin Wisselink

City of Grand Rapids

Tallmadge Twp.

Caledonia Twp.

Cannon Twp.

City of Grand Rapids

MDOT-GRTSC

Gaines Twp.

Kent County

City of Wyoming

Ottawa County Road Commission

MDOT

City of Lowell

MDOT

City of Kentwood

City of East Grand Rapids

Ottawa County Road Commission

City of Walker

Carrier &amp; Gable

Kent County Road Commission

City of Grandville

MDOT

Georgetown Twp.

The Rapid



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**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Brad Doane	GVMC Staff
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Laurel Joseph	GVMC Staff
Aman Pannu	GVMC Staff
George Yang	GVMC Staff
Mike Zonyk	GVMC Staff

**Voting Members Not Present**

Adam Elenbaas	Allendale Township
Bill LaRose	City of Cedar Springs
Brian Hilbrands	Cascade Charter Township
Clint Nemeth	Gerald R. Ford Intl. Airport
Don Tillema	Byron Township
James Kilborn	Ottawa County
Jeff Thornton	Village of Caledonia
Jeff Oonk	City of Wyoming
Jerry Hale	Lowell Township
Jim Holtvluwer	Ottawa County
John Said	Ada Township
Kevin Green	Algoma Township
Laurie Van Haitsma	Jamestown Township
Liz Schelling	ITP - The Rapid (alternate)
Matt McConnon	Courtland Township
Mike Burns	City of Lowell
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Charter Township
Nicole Hofert	City of Wyoming
Phil Vincent	City of Rockford
Rick Solle	Plainfield Charter Township
Robert Miller	City of Hudsonville
Scott Conners	City of Walker
Shay Gallagher	Village of Sparta
Steve Warren	Kent County Road Commission
Sue Becker	Alpine Township
Terry Schweitzer	City of Kentwood (alternate)
Tom Noreen	Nelson Township

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Laughlin entertained the following motion:

**MOTION by Haagsma, SUPPORT by Harrall to approve the September 1, 2021, Technical Committee minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**



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**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments.

**IV. TIP AMENDMENTS**

**Referring to Item IV: Attachment A**, Joseph introduced the amendments to the FY2020-23 TIP that were described in the agenda package. They are as follows:

- MDOT is requesting the amendments/modifications to the TIP project list in the attached pending projects and GPAs summary. Two of these changes have triggered a GPA threshold increase for the FY2022 Trunkline Traffic Operations and Safety GPA. MDOT is also requesting committee review of the S/TIP exempt project list, which has been modified to only show the projects that have undergone changes since the last Committee meeting. D Kent added that two of the projects that had a price increase are related to the traffic operations center that is now operating 24/7. The ITS maintenance and operations cost price went up as well since there are more devices on the road that have cost associated with maintaining and operating these devices. Another freeway project, Safety Service Patrol funded by FY 2022, will be operational in FY 2023. A presentation about this project will be shown to the committee as the project goes into the implementation phase. It is a service that will patrol the freeway and look for minor breakdowns and help with addressing incidents and incident clearing.
- KCRC is requesting several changes to the FY2022 TIP, including adding a bridge project, moving a project to FY2022 from FY2023, moving an illustrative project into FY2022, removing a project from FY2022, and replacing it with a project from the illustrative list (please see attachment).
- The City of Grand Rapids has received funding for a FY2023 safety project and is requesting approval to add it to the TIP (please see attachment).

**MOTION by K Bennett, SUPPORT by Haagsma to recommend approval of the TIP amendments requested by MDOT, Kent County Road Commission, and the City of Grand Rapids. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. 2022 SAFETY TARGETS**

**Referring to Item V: Attachment A** GVMC staff presented the state's safety targets for 2022 and provided GVMC data for comparison and discussion.



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- Yang explained that the state safety targets for the federal performance measures are based on five-year rolling averages. MDOT's safety performance targets are based on two models developed and maintained by the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI). For both models, the economic factors such as the GDP, median annual income, the unemployment rate among 16–24-year-olds, and alcohol consumption had the greatest impact at approximately 85 percent. The MPO is required to establish safety targets either by supporting the MDOT safety targets or establish our own traffic safety targets by February 27, 2022. Yang added that the five-year moving average for the number of fatalities and the fatality rate has been decreasing but the number of serious injuries has been increasing since the last few years. However, the average for nonmotorized serious injuries and fatalities have remained stable over the last few years.
- Joseph added that in addition to the performance-based measures compared to the state, staff looked at the safety funding that we received compared to our share of fatalities and injuries in the state. We received about 9% of the local safety funding and MDOT spent about 11.5% of the funding in the GVMC region. Both of these shares are higher than the number of serious injuries and fatalities that occur in this region of the state. Joseph explained that the majority of our funds were spent on signal modernization upgrade projects, and the safety funds that the state is spending in our region were more diversified in terms of project types. Our recommendation as staff would be that we continue to support the state targets as an MPO but also that we establish regional goals of reducing serious injuries and fatalities in our region, as a parallel effort. Staff will continue to look at data and report back to the committee on the safety data for our region.
- Laughlin made the committee aware that this item will be broken down into two different motions. Firstly, a motion to support the statewide safety targets and secondly to establish a quantifiable target for the performance measures for the MPO area. K Bennett asked if there is a timeline for setting regional targets and if the targets are going to be set quarterly/annually? Joseph answered that it depends on staff capacity, but the programming decision will happen at the committee level. Joseph added staff will be doing more monitoring and reporting out so that we can make decisions in a more educated way. However, the targets can be expected to be set at least annually.

**MOTION by LaFave, SUPPORT by Haagsma to support MDOT statewide safety targets. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**



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**MOTION by K Bennett, SUPPORT by Harrall to establish regional goals for safety for the MPO. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**VI. THE RAPID SAFETY PLAN AND TARGETS**

**Referring to Item VI: Attachment A:**

- Joseph explained that as part of federal performance-based planning requirements, The Rapid was required to develop and submit a Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) by the end of July 2021 and provide it also to the MPO for their acknowledgement. As part of this acknowledgement the MPO should express its support for the transit agency safety targets that are included in this PTASP.

**MOTION by Haagsma, SUPPORT by Bradshaw to acknowledge receipt and recommend support of The Rapid Transit Safety Targets.**

**VII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The two-terms for the Committee's chair and vice chair will expire at the end of the year, so the Committee will need to elect a new chair and vice chair. The committee selects Tim Bradshaw for Chair and Scott Conners for Vice Chair.

**MOTION by Harrall, SUPPORT by Wisselink to recommend Tim Bradshaw for the Technical Committee chair and Scott Conners for the Technical Committee vice chair. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

- Traffic Counts Discussion: Doane explained that the success of the transportation model being properly calibrated relies heavily on our traffic count program. Directional volumes captured using two-tube L6 format are used to determine trip allocation in the model. Doane notified the committee that the counts program has fallen off a bit. He added that in past years, GVMC has reimbursed 500 counts that we had the budget for, but in the past two years, we reimbursed only 220 counts each year. Doane requested the road agencies to discuss any hardships or modifications that might be needed to move forward with the counts program.  
Keena added that at the Ottawa County Road Commission, they faced some staffing issues, but they are looking to resolve this issue internally.



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K Bennett added that staffing along with Covid-19 was also an issue for the City of Grand Rapids.

Haagsma responded that they have had better success with the Houston Radar Armadillo Tracker. It allows them to take counts in winter because, unlike the tubes, they do not go on the road and there is no worry about the tube elasticity.

Bradshaw asked if there is a federal requirement to collect counts using this equipment or can digital data from google or other private sector resources be used as a reliable source. Joseph replied that it is unsure whether the data collection method is federally required to be collected through counters. Joseph added that the private sector data is usually very expensive to acquire. Discussion ensued.

- Special Studies Update: Joseph gave an update that we are very close on developing a contract for the Airport Access Study. The draft contract will be directed to the board soon. The RFP is also out for the Transportation Demand Management Study and is available on the GVMC website, American Planning Association, Planetizen and Michigan Association Planning website as well.
- Discussion about MI Senate Bills 465 and 466: Joseph summarized the senate bill and how it would allow MDOT to buy federal aid from locals at 93 cents on the dollar and give locals the Michigan Transportation Funds (MTF). The funds will still be used for those specific projects and will have to follow the MPO process. Joseph added that there are some questions from MPOs at the statewide level about what happens related to overages, when bids go under, or when there is exchange of projects, whether those projects will have to come back through the MPO process.  
Discussion ensued.  
Joseph reminded the committee that the TPSG meeting will occur next Wednesday, and the Nonmotorized committee meeting will occur next week Monday.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Laughlin adjourned the November 3, 2021, Technical Committee meeting at 10:25 am.