

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
TECHNICAL/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, April 15, 2020  
Video Conference**

Schweitzer, chair of the Technical Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:33 am. Those present introduced themselves to the Committee.

**I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Voting Members Present**

Terry Schweitzer (*Chair*)

Sue Becker

Kristin Bennett

Ken Bergwerff

Tim Bradshaw

Terry Brod

Dan Burrill

Scott Conners

Mike DeVries

Rick DeVries

Karyn Ferrick

Jim Ferro

Tim Haagsma

George Haga

Wayne Harrall

Roy Hawkins

Russ Henckel

Nicole Hofert

Andrew Johnson

Dennis Kent

*Proxy for  
Mike Burns*

Brett Laughlin

Greg Madura

Matt McConnon

Jim Miedema

Robert Miller

Josh Naramore

Darrel Schmalzel

Kelly Sheeran

Rick Sprague

Dan Strikwerda

Julius Suchy

Charlie Sundblad

Cameron Van Wyngarden

Phil Vincent

Steve Warren

Rod Weersing

City of Kentwood

Alpine Township

City of Grand Rapids

Jamestown Township

City of Kentwood/Caledonia Twp.

Cannon Township

City of Wyoming

City of Walker

Grand Rapids Township

City of Grand Rapids

City of Grand Rapids

Ada Township

Gaines Township

Ada Township

Kent County

GFIAA

City of Wyoming

City of Wyoming

ITP The Rapid

MDOT

City of Lowell

Ottawa County Road Commission

Alpine Township

Courtland Township

Ottawa County Road Commission

City of Hudsonville

City of Grand Rapids

City of Walker

Algoma Township

KCRC

City of Hudsonville

Village of Sparta

City of Grandville

Plainfield Township

City of Rockford

Kent County Road Commission

Georgetown Township

Kevin Wisselink  
**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**  
 Janet Arcuicci  
 Aaron Dawson  
 Brad Doane  
 Andrea Faber  
 Mark Fitzpatrick  
 Jeff Franklin  
 Art Green  
 Laurel Joseph  
 Tyler Kent  
 Josh Lunger  
 Terry Martin  
 Don Mayle  
 Gayle McCrath  
 Norm Sevensma  
 John Weiss  
 George Yang  
 Mike Zonyk

ITP-The Rapid  
 MDOT OPT  
 FHWA  
 GVMC Staff  
 GVMC Staff  
 Ada Township  
 MDOT  
 MDOT  
 GVMC Staff  
 MDOT  
 Grand Rapids Chamber  
 Carrier Gable  
 MDOT  
 GVMC Staff  
 RWBC/WMWAC  
 GVMC Staff  
 GVMC Staff  
 GVMC Staff

**Voting Members Not Present**

Mike Burns  
 Adam Elenbaas  
 Rachel Gokey  
 Kevin Green  
 Tim Grifhorst  
 Jerry Hale  
 Jim Holtvluwer  
 Tom Hooker  
 Bill LaRose  
 Tom Noreen  
 Steve Peterson  
 Rick Solle  
 Jeff Thornton  
 Toby VanEss

City of Lowell  
 Allendale Township  
 Village of Sand Lake  
 Algoma Township  
 Tallmadge Township  
 Lowell Township  
 Ottawa County  
 Byron Township  
 Cedar Springs  
 Nelson Township  
 Cascade Charter Township  
 Plainfield Township  
 Village of Caledonia  
 Tallmadge Township

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Sprague stated he was present in the last meeting representing Gaines Township. Joseph noted the change.

**MOTION by Naramore, SUPPORT by Laughlin, to approve the Jan. 15 meeting minutes with the noted change. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**IV. TIP AMENDMENTS - ACTION: On behalf of MDOT, Grand Rapids, Lowell, Walker, and Wyoming amendments/modifications to the FY2020-2023 TIP are being requested.**

**Referring to Item IV: Attachment A,** Joseph introduced the TIP amendments. Joseph explained last month the Technical Committee reviewed many of the TIP amendments the committee is going over today. However, the Policy Committee did not meet due to offices being shut down. Some 2020 amendments were approved using regional policy amendment allowing Technical or Policy Committee chairs/vice chairs to approve certain amendments. The amendments currently under consideration are as shown:

- MDOT is requesting the amendments/modifications to the TIP project list in the attached TIP Amendments/Modifications Summary, including the corresponding GPA thresholds. MDOT is also requesting 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 – “new” projects have been highlighted.
- The federal proportion of the City of Grand Rapids Regional TOC projects increased to 80% of the total project cost because MDOT has agreed these projects can be funded out of the State’s ITS set-aside. The budget changes were administrative, but the FY2021 Local Traffic Ops and Safety GPA threshold was triggered and requires review and approval.
- The City of Lowell is requesting to add a State TAP funded project to FY2021 after completing the MGS review process and receiving a conditional commitment. This request was reviewed and recommended for approval by the Technical Committee in March.
- The City of Walker is requesting to add a regional TAP project to FY2021 after completing the MGS review process and receiving a conditional commitment. This request was reviewed and recommended for approval by the Technical Committee in March.
- The City of Wyoming is requesting to move a FY2020 State-EDC funded project to FY2021 due to the need for continued coordination with MDOT and FHWA on the final project design and timing for approval to break the limited access ROW for construction. This request was reviewed and recommended for approval by the Technical Committee in March.

Weiss stated there are a lot of amendments, but most of the items have already been approved by the Technical Committee or gone through some processes. Naramore agreed.

**MOTION by Naramore SUPPORT by Haagsma, to recommend APPROVAL of the FY2020-2023 TIP Amendments. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**V. 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**VI. APPROVAL OF 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP)—ACTION: GVMC Staff is asking the Committee to approve the MTP with changes received during the public comment period.**

**Referring to Item VI: Attachment A**, Faber explained the changes made to the MTP to the committee. The GVMC 2045 MTP document represents months of work and includes input from Committee members, stakeholders, and the public. The MTP updates are as follows:

The Technical and Policy Committees approved the draft 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) at the joint meeting on January 15, 2020. The document then entered a 31-day public comment period that concluded on March 2, 2020. We received 20 comments from the public during this time frame, and they have been reviewed, responded to, and added to Appendix I of the MTP, starting on page 328.

Limited changes have been made to the document and include comments received to date as well as:

- A new appendix that details expected population growth by jurisdiction between 2015-2045
- Documentation of advertising for the public comment period
- Minor editorial updates

A public meeting was also held on Monday, February 10 at 5:30 pm at The Rapid. Seventeen people were in attendance, including five staff members from GVMC, two staff members from MDOT, one staff member from The Rapid, one representative from our PR firm, and eight members of the public—including a professor and student from GVSU and several members of Grand Rapids Climate Action. The members of the public expressed a variety of concerns, including these highlights:

- Educating the public about moving away from Single Occupancy Vehicles (SOVs)
- Radically changing the document to better address the climate change emergency and to consider transit as the dominant means of travel in the future, including funding transit at 10 times the current level
- Improving the survey and response rate
- Better connecting land use and transportation, so that transportation drives land use instead of land use driving transportation

All of these comments were addressed at the meeting.

Weiss complimented staff on their work on the document, particularly public involvement. Faber said the MTP garnered over 500 public comments and expanded on other outreach efforts.

**MOTION by Naramore, SUPPORT by Haagsma, to recommend approval of the draft 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to the GVMC Board. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**VII. RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY DETERMINATION REPORT—ACTION: Staff is requesting approval of the resolution of support for the Transportation Conformity Determination Report for the 1997 ozone NAAQS for the Grand Rapids Orphan Maintenance Area for GVMC’s 2045 MTP and 2020-2023 TIP.**

**Referring to Item VII: Attachment A,** Faber introduced the Transportation Conformity Determination Report. Contents are shown in the attached resolution:

Per the court decision in South Coast II, beginning February 16, 2019, transportation conformity determinations for the 1997 ozone standard are needed for those areas that were maintenance areas when the 1997 ozone standard was revoked and then attainment for the 2008 and 2015 ozone standard, which includes GVMC's MPO area.

MDOT has written a Transportation Conformity Determination Report for the 1997 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for the Grand Rapids orphan maintenance area which includes the GVMC 2045 MTP and the 2020-2023 TIP. This document demonstrates that these planning documents meet the Clean Air Act and Transportation Conformity rule requirements for the 1997 ozone NAAQS to conform to the State Implementation Plan as required by provisions of Title 40 CFR 51.390 and 93, and the South Coast II decision according to EPA's Transportation Conformity Guidance for the South Coast II decision, and meets Title 23 CFR 450.

**MOTION by Naramore, SUPPORT by Wisselink, for APPROVAL of the resolution of support for the Transportation Conformity Determination Report for the 1997 ozone NAAQS for the Grand Rapids Orphan Maintenance Area for GVMC's 2045 MTP and 2020-2023 TIP. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**VIII. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (FY2021 UPWP)**

Joseph made an introductory comment stating the FY2021 UPWP includes the budget for all federally assisted transportation activities undertaken by GVMC, The Rapid, and MDOT for the entire fiscal year.

No public comment

**IX. PROPOSED FY2021 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET —ACTION: Staff is requesting the Committee's approval of the proposed FY2021 UPWP activities and budget before it is presented to the Board for final approval in May.**

**Referring to Item IX: Attachment A.** Joseph referenced the outline and draft document committee members received in their agenda packets. Joseph highlighted aspects of the Unified Planning Work Program including:

Typical activities, such as maintaining and updating traffic demand model, pavement condition, collection, maintaining TIP, maintaining MTP, are staying the same for next year. There are new goals GVMC staff is hoping to achieve in the next fiscal year including the 2045 MTP. Next year staff is planning to do work toward implementing recommendations from the 2045 MTP, such as attempting to increase transportation funding, improving safety, including condition and operation of the existing transportation system, and mode shift away from single occupancy vehicles.

Joseph continued, saying GVMC staff will continue to work with their freight subcommittee toward a regional freight plan and continue work started this year to update GVMC's nonmotorized plan and develop a new safety outreach campaign. Joseph mentioned GVMC will be looking to hire another planner and possibly an intern in the future as well. There will be no dues increase next year for committee members.

Wisselink said The Rapid has four projects under the UPWP including bus ADA compliance, program administration, transportation planning, and ride sharing.

Naramore addressed freight planning, recommending staff look at first mile, last mile delivery challenges. Naramore also stated the City of Grand Rapids is working with the University of Michigan on a Department of Energy Grant focused on delivery service. Naramore asked for a breakdown of unspent PL from previous years. Joseph addressed these comments.

**MOTION by Naramore, SUPPORT by Wisselink, for APPROVAL of the proposed FY2021 UPWP activities and budget before final approval in May. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**X. OTHER BUSINESS**

Weiss introduced Laurel Joseph as GVMC’s new Director of Transportation Planning to the committee members and thanked everyone for their participation in today’s meeting.

Schweitzer said he appreciated the continued level of service the jurisdictions have been provided.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Schweitzer motioned to adjourn the April 15, 2020 Tech/Policy Committee meeting at 10:14 am, second by Haagsma. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**