

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TECHNICAL/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, May 20, 2020
Video Conference**

Schweitzer, Policy Committee chair, called the meeting to order at 9:37 am. No introductions were necessary as all motions would be called to question by a roll call vote.

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

Terry Schweitzer (<i>Chair</i>)		City of Kentwood
Sue Becker		Alpine Township
Kristin Bennett		City of Grand Rapids
Tim Bradshaw		City of Kentwood/Caledonia Twp.
Scott Connors		City of Walker
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Karyn Ferrick		City of Grand Rapids
Jeff Franklin		MDOT
Tim Haagsma		Gaines Township
George Haga		Ada Township
Wayne Harrall		Kent County
Russ Henckel		City of Wyoming
Nicole Hofert		City of Wyoming
Andrew Johnson		ITP The Rapid
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for Mike Burns</i>	MDOT
Brett Laughlin		City of Lowell
Greg Madura		Ottawa County Road Commission
Don Mayle		Alpine Township
Robert Miller		MDOT
Josh Naramore		City of Hudsonville
Darrel Schmalzel		City of Grand Rapids
Kelly Sheeran	<i>Proxy for Kevin Green</i>	City of Walker
Rick Solle		Algoma Township
Rick Sprague	<i>Proxy for Steve Warren</i>	Algoma Township
Dan Strikwerda		Plainfield Township
Julius Suchy		KCRC
Charlie Sundblad		KCRC
Cameron Van Wyngarden		City of Hudsonville
Phil Vincent		Village of Sparta
Rod Weersing		City of Grandville
Kevin Wisselink		Plainfield Township
		City of Rockford
		Georgetown Township
		ITP-The Rapid

Steven Wooden

Kent County

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Janet Arcuicci
Aaron Dawson
Brad Doane
Brendon Eatmon
Andrea Faber
Art Green
Laurel Joseph
Tyler Kent
Terry Martin
John Weiss
George Yang
Mike Zonyk

MDOT OPT
FHWA
GVMC Staff
MDOT
GVMC Staff
MDOT
GVMC Staff
MDOT
Carrier Gable
GVMC Staff
GVMC Staff
GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Gail Altman
Ken Bergwerff
Terry Brod
Mike Burns
Dan Burrill
Jamie Davies
Robert DeWard
Mike DeVries
Adam Elenbaas
Jim Ferro
Rachel Gokey
Kevin Green
Tim Grifhorst
Jerry Hale
Bryan Harrison
Brian Hilbrands
Jim Holtvluwer
Tom Hooker
Ken Krombeen
Doug LaFave
Bill LaRose
Matt McConnon
Jim Miedema
Clint Nemeth
Tom Noreen
Rob Postema
Casey Ries
Ben Swayze
Jeff Thornton
Toby VanEss
Steve Warren
Mike Womack

Jamestown Township
Jamestown Township
Cannon Township
City of Lowell
City of Wyoming
City of Rockford
Gaines Charter Township
Grand Rapids Township
Allendale Township
Ada Township
Village of Sand Lake
Algoma Township
Tallmadge Township
Lowell Township
Caledonia Charter Township
Cascade Charter Township
Ottawa County
Byron Township
City of Grandville
City of East Grand Rapids
Cedar Springs
Courtland Township
Ottawa County Road Commission
GFIAA
Nelson Township
City of Wyoming
GFIAA
Cascade Charter Township
Village of Caledonia
Tallmadge Township
Kent County Road Commission
City of Cedar Springs

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Harrall noted that “federally” was misspelled on page 5. Haga also stated that he was not listed as either absent or present but did attend the meeting.

Schweitzer entertained a motion to approve the April 15, 2020 joint Technical/Policy Committee minutes.

MOTION by Naramore, SUPPORT by Becker, to approve the April 15, 2020 joint Technical/Policy Committee minutes as corrected. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY by roll call vote.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. TIP AMENDMENTS

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

- Hope Network and Kent County Community Action have received their allocation of Section 5310 funding for FY2020 and are, therefore, requesting to add transit capital projects to the TIP. These additions have triggered a GPA threshold increase that needs to be reviewed and approved.
- Grand Rapids and Rockford have both been awarded local safety funds from the statewide pool for safety projects in FY2021. Adding these projects to the FY2021 Local Traffic Operations and Safety GPA has triggered a GPA threshold increase that needs to be reviewed and approved.
- Grand Rapids is also requesting to amend a FY2021 reconstruction project, slightly modifying the limits and adding a significant amount of local funds. The federal funding level for this project will not change.

Additional information was provided in the agenda packet.

Additionally, Joseph explained that the KCRC has a 2021 project that was programmed incorrectly in the TIP for 2020. This triggered a GPA threshold issue for the 2021 sustainability GPA, and therefore a technical correction is needed.

Harrall added that this project was a TAP project, Burton St. nonmotorized trail over 96, and asked that the project be documented in the motion.

Schweitzer entertained a motion to approve the TIP amendments, as requested.

MOTION by Naramore, SUPPORT by Haagsma, to approve the TIP amendments requested by Hope Network, Kent County Community Action, the City of Grand

Rapids, the City of Rockford, as well as the technical correction to the 2021 sustainability GPA for the KCRC's Burton St. nonmotorized trail over 96 project.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY by roll call vote.

V. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Due to Schweitzer having issues with an audio connection, Laughlin, Technical Committee chair, assumed chairmanship of the meeting from this point forward.

Joseph stated that the Michigan division of FHWA has been discussing internally what qualifies as a federal amendment. Currently, budget changes of 20% or more of the total project cost trigger a federal amendment, which means that these amendments must be reviewed by FHWA, even if only local dollars are increasing. FHWA has developed a white paper which discusses federal cost changes of 25% or greater triggering a federal amendment. In the past, only federal cost changes triggered an amendment. FHWA is asking for feedback on this topic by the end of June. Joseph stated that she would follow up this discussion item with an email as well as a survey to garner member feedback. Joseph encouraged the committee to consider what the public wants to know versus reducing the number of amendments when responding.

Dennis Kent noted that limiting the number of federal amendments doesn't mean that all amendments won't still go through the MPO Committee process for review. Changing what triggers an amendment will only limit the amendments that go to FHWA.

Tyler Kent introduced MDOT Grand Region's planning/engineering intern, Brenden Eatmon, who will be attending our meetings with Dennis and Tyler Kent for the foreseeable future.

Dennis Kent explained that MDOT is participating in a one day a week furlough through the end of July. LAP has sent out a schedule of the furlough days, most of which fall on either side of a weekend.

Weiss asked Dennis Kent to discuss MDOT's recent traffic reports that showed significantly decreased traffic volumes. Kent explained that traffic volumes statewide are down. At one point, reports, most of which are primarily focused on the freeway system, showed that traffic volumes were reduced by as much as 60%. As Michigan gradually reopens, traffic volumes are slowly increasing. The last report Kent had viewed showed that traffic volumes were down in the 30% range. Reduced traffic volumes will impact revenue, as the gas tax funds transit, road projects, the TAP program, etc. According to a recent statewide revenue estimating conference, the general fund is down significantly, but Kent has not seen any numbers yet that show the impact the Stay at Home Order will have on the federal or state transportation trust fund.

Weiss added that, after the quarantine, the numbers he saw showed that traffic dropped over 60% for a couple of weeks, then went up to a 40% decline and stabilized there for a while, and traffic is now gradually increasing again. Discussion ensued. Kent reaffirmed that we haven't seen new gas tax revenue projections based on reduced traffic volumes. Kent added that funding is also received from income taxes from the

general fund through the 2015 transportation package, so there may be future changes there as well.

Haagsma stated that the KCRC has a chart that he will send to GVMC staff for distribution indicating that traffic volumes are down 24% at 8 locations they are tracking from pre-COVID times. Their data shows that traffic is ticking back up too.

Tyler Kent added that according to the Mackinac bridge authority, traffic is steadily increasing across the bridge, and they will need to hire for the fall boost.

Discussion ensued.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Laughlin adjourned the May 20, 2020 joint Technical/Policy Committee meeting at 10:00 am.