

**MINUTES**

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
TECHNICAL/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, February 17, 2021  
Video Conference**

Schweitzer, Policy Committee chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

**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		Caledonia Twp.
Terry Brod		Cannon Township
Dave Datema		Tallmadge Township
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Karyn Ferrick		City of Grand Rapids
Jeff Franklin		MDOT
Shay Gallagher		Village of Sparta
Jerry Hale		Lowell Township
Brian Hilbrands		Cascade Charter Township
Nicole Hofert		City of Wyoming
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for Mike Burns</i>	MDOT
		City of Lowell
James Kilborn		Ottawa County
Ken Krombeen		City of Grandville
Jack Klein	<i>Proxy for Brett Laughlin</i>	OCRC
		OCRC
Melissa LaGrand		Kent County
Greg Madura		Alpine Township
Don Mayle		MDOT
Jim Miedema	<i>Proxy for Laurie VanHaitsma</i>	OCRC
		Jamestown Township
Nick Monoyios		ITP-The Rapid
Josh Naramore		City of Grand Rapids
Clint Nemeth		GFIAA
Darrel Schmalzel		City of Walker
Terry Schweitzer ( <i>Chair</i> )		City of Kentwood
Dan Strikwerda		City of Hudsonville
Rick Sprague		Gaines Township
Julius Suchy		Ada Township
Charlie Sundblad		City of Grandville
Ben Swayze		Cascade Charter Township
Cameron Van Wyngarden		Plainfield Township
Phil Vincent		City of Rockford

APPROVED

APPROVED  
ITEM II: ATTACHMENT B

Steve Warren  
Rod Weersing  
Kevin Wisselink

KCRC  
Georgetown Township  
ITP-The Rapid

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Janet Arcuicci  
Bradley Doane  
Andrea Faber  
Laurel Joseph  
Tyler Kent  
Roger Marks  
George Yang  
Mike Zonyk

MDOT OPT  
GVMC Staff  
GVMC Staff  
GVMC Staff  
MDOT  
C2AE Engineering  
GVMC Staff  
GVMC Staff

**Voting Members Not Present**

Mike Burns  
Dan Burrill  
Scott Conners  
Jamie Davies  
Mike DeVries  
Robert DeWard  
Adam Elenbaas  
Jim Ferro  
Rachel Gokey  
Kevin Green  
Tim Haagsma  
Wayne Harrall  
Bryan Harrison  
Russ Henckel  
Jim Holtvluwer  
Doug LaFave  
Bill Larose  
Brett Laughlin  
Don Mayle  
Matt McConnon  
Robert Miller  
Tom Noreen  
Rob Postema  
Casey Ries  
Rick Solle  
Jeff Thornton  
Don Tillema  
Laurie VanHaitsma  
Mike Womack

City of Lowell  
City of Wyoming  
City of Walker  
City of Rockford  
Grand Rapids Township  
Gaines Charter Township  
Allendale Township  
Ada Township  
Village of Sand Lake  
Algoma Township  
Gaines Charter Township  
Kent County  
Caledonia Charter Township  
City of Wyoming  
Ottawa County  
City of East Grand Rapids  
Cedar Springs  
OCRC  
MDOT  
Courtland Township  
City of Hudsonville  
Nelson Township  
City of Wyoming  
GFIAA  
Plainfield Township  
Village of Caledonia  
Byron Township  
Jamestown Township  
City of Cedar Springs

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**—Defer action until Committees have separate meetings in March 2021.

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**IV. TIP AMENDMENTS—ACTION: On behalf Grand Rapids amendments/modifications to the FY2020-2023 TIP are being requested.****Referring to Item IV: Attachment A**

- The City of Grand Rapids is requesting to increase the local and total budgets for a FY2021 resurfacing project, which has triggered a threshold increase amendment for the FY2021 Local Road GPA. The federal funding associated with this project will not change (please see attachments).

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

**MOTION by Brod, SUPPORT by Schmalzel, to approve the TIP amendments requested by the City of Grand Rapids. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY by roll call vote.**

**V. PROPOSALS FOR ILLUSTRATIVE LIST OF PLANNING STUDIES—**

**Referring to Item V: Attachment A**, Joseph explained that, GVMC staff is in the process of developing the draft FY2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which incorporates all federally assisted state, regional, and local transportation planning activities proposed to be undertaken in the region during the fiscal year as well as GVMC's annual operating budget. It provides a process for the coordination and collaboration of transportation planning activities in the study area and is required as a basis and condition for all federal funding assistance for transportation planning.

In order to make sure the MPO continues to expand our planning programs in ways that serve the members and benefit the region, staff has requested proposals for planning work that members would like to see GVMC participate in in the coming years and incorporate into future year UPWPs as funding constraints allow. Because the revenue picture for future years is unknown, these proposals will be compiled into an illustrative list of planning projects/studies that staff will draw upon when developing the FY2022 UPWP and future year work programs. Discussion ensued.

**1<sup>st</sup> Project Proposal – Ford Airport Secondary Access**

Nemeth presented for Ries, explaining that, in line with the 2020 GVMC "2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan" and air transportation need #1 (chapter 5), a feasibility study for an additional, secondary access route to the airport is necessary. Specifically, alternatives to relieve capacity and safety/security constraints of a single entry to the terminal facilities will be evaluated. The feasibility study will incorporate considerations for regional access including Kent County Road Commission needs and opportunity for a multi-modal connection via rail adjacent to the airport.

Dennis Kent noted the relation of this proposal to the MDOT East Side Airport Access Study Proposal.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Project Proposal – East Side Airport Access Study**

Dennis Kent presented, explaining that, this is a continuation and a more focused follow-up to previous MPO studies which resulted in the new I-96/36<sup>th</sup> Street interchange. This study will identify needs, evaluate access options, and assess impacts to the local and state transportation network, east of the GR Ford International Airport. Growth at the Airport, land use and travel pattern changes, and multi-modal cargo transportation needs in the study area will be considered. In addition to the Airport, residents and businesses in the surrounding area have identified challenges to accessing the freeways from county roads. Conceptual improvement options will be identified, resulting in more detailed subsequent planning. Alternative analysis, NEPA and engineering activities.

Warren showed support for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> project proposals on behalf of KCRC, suggesting both proposals are combined. Schweitzer showed support as well.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Project Proposal – Regional Non-Motorized Traffic Counting**

Bennett presented, explaining the goal of the proposal is to establish a regional data collection process/standard for bicycle, pedestrian, and trail data collection based on NCHRP and other guidance. Fund purchase of equipment to regularly collect data for GVMC communities. Supports non-motorized data inputs for the regional traffic demand model, which is sparse now; REGIS could serve as the repository for the data.

Bennett stated the City of Grand Rapids already has applicable equipment and would like to join forces with GVMC and other regional jurisdictions. Tyler Kent asked if GVMC was involved with the City of Grand Rapids' non-motorized counts pilot project. Joseph said no. Schweitzer expressed support for the proposal.

**4<sup>th</sup> Project Proposal – Regional TDM Strategy**

Naramore presented, explaining the goal of the proposal is to develop a coordinated regional transportation demand management strategy that includes recommend funding sources, lead agencies, realistic mode shift goals, and outlines implementation strategies for cities and the Rapid to implement.

LaGrand expressed support for the proposal, noting the relation a well-planned transportation system has on housing. Monoyios expressed support.

**5<sup>th</sup> Project Proposal – West Michigan Express**

Strikwerda presented, explaining the goal of the proposal is to provide modeling/analysis to determine public transportation need for the Grand Rapids to Holland corridor to evaluate the potential change in ridership needs due to the impact of COVID.

Kilborn expressed support on behalf of Ottawa County.

**6<sup>th</sup> Project Proposal – Transit Master Plan**

Monoyios presented, explaining this will initiate and updated Transit Master Plan (TMP). A new TMP will maximize the value that public transportation has as an MPO Planning priority and identify the strategic direction for public transportation over the next 20 years. In addition to the existing TMP being over 10 years old, the emergence

from the pandemic will require a comprehensive and exhaustive assessment to provide an up-to-date blueprint for the most effective and efficient regional transit provisions. Combining this TMP with other updated regional smart growth strategies will ensure the greatest impact public transportation can have for our region with our unified commitment to competitive and substantial growth.

Schweitzer noted the correlation between the Division Avenue Bus Lane Extension Study and the Transit Master Plan. LaGrand expressed support, explaining the positive relation to regional housing. Naramore mentioned the Central Needs Task Force in county-wide transit's potential involvement as well as the West Michigan Express. Naramore talked about first mile-last mile connections in the TMP. Bennett followed, stating the importance of scoping out the broadness of first mile-last mile and its possible involvements, including non-motorized safety. Monoyios agreed. Medura asked if there was going to be a lot of overlap in the proposals. Schweitzer said GVMC will be looking at the information in terms of developing a work program. Joseph said a lot of the discussion has highlighted the overlap and GVMC will look to combine work in the proposals to create more consolidated projects.

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Project Proposal – Division Avenue Bus Lane Extension Study**

Schweitzer presented, explaining the Division United Study is anticipated to recommend the extension of the existing bus lanes along the Silverline route at least as far south as 54<sup>th</sup> Street. It may be desirable to assess the utility and compliance with the current bus lane demarcations along the existing Silverline route as well as evaluate the prospect of the bus lane extension. The transportation elements analyzed should include non-motorized, existing transit, and existing and proposed traffic operations for passenger and freight vehicle movements.

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Project Proposal – 100<sup>th</sup> Street Extension**

Sprague presented, explaining the proposal is meant to study the traffic impacts of extending 100<sup>th</sup> St east from Kraft Ave to Duncan Lake Ave and upgrading 100<sup>th</sup> St between Duncan Lake Ave and Kinsey St to provide Primary Road Connection to M-37 (Cherry Valley Ave).

Tyler Kent stated this project supports other mobility efforts in the area. Bradshaw expressed support on behalf of Caledonia Township.

#### **9<sup>th</sup> Project Proposal – Kraft/M-37 Connector**

Sprague presented, explaining the proposal is meant to study the traffic impacts of constructing a new public street between Kraft Ave and M-37 (Cherry Valley Ave).

Tyler Kent stated this project supports other mobility efforts in the area, noting growth in the area. Schweitzer asked if 100<sup>th</sup> St had a clear route into Ottawa County. Sprague said yes.

#### **10<sup>th</sup> Project Proposal – East Beltline Zoning Advisory Board**

Schweitzer presented, proposing the consideration to resurrect a review board involving all the East Beltline communities from Caledonia Township and Village to the south to Grand Rapids and Plainfield Township in the north. The intent would be to partner with

KCRC and MDOT to review development proposals in the corridor in an effort to collectively and consistently balance land use and transportation design considerations.

Dennis Kent said this project could feed into other regional studies. Van Wyngarden echoed the need for study in that area.

**11<sup>th</sup> Project Proposal – M-11 (Wilson Ave) Corridor Study**

Dennis Kent presented, explaining generally, from I-196 north to the Remembrance Road Round-About, and west to I-96 in Walker and eastern Ottawa County; the study will include local parallel and cross streets as well as M-11, and identify needs, improvement option and priorities, which could include transit and non-motorized improvements, as well as state and local roadway improvement options.

Schmalzel expressed support, adding the corridor has seen a lot of activity over the years. Datema expressed support. Bennet expressed the need for non-motorized consideration on this study and others like it. Schweitzer agreed. Tyler Kent said it would be helpful to include something like that in the application.

Naramore asked Joseph to bring unspent federal PL dollars from prior years to next month's meeting.

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

Joseph said she recently sent a notice out about the new highway infrastructure funding that will be added to the next TPSG Subcommittee meeting.

Joseph said Bradley Doane will be reaching out to members in regard to updating the non-motorized facilities inventory.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Schweitzer adjourned the February 17, 2021 Tech/Policy Committee meeting at 10:50am.