

APPROVED

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ITEM III: ATTACHMENT A

MINUTES

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMMING STUDY GROUP
WEDNESDAY, February 9TH, 2006
WYOMING CITY HALL

The meeting was called to order by Dooley, Chair of the Technical Committee at 9:34 a.m.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Bill Dooley (<i>Chair</i>)	City of Wyoming
Patrick Bush	City of Grand Rapids
Mike Berrevoets	City of Cedar Springs (FTCH)
Ron Carr	City of Grandville
Scott Conners	City of Walker
Ken Feldt	City of East Grand Rapids
Jim Fetzer	The Rapid
John Gorney	City of Hudsonville
Wayne Harrall (<i>Proxy for Tim Haagsma</i>)	Kent County
Russ Henckel (<i>Proxy for Jerry Mears</i>)	City of Wyoming
Sandra Cornell-Howe	MDOT
Bob Rinck	Ottawa County
Terry Schweitzer	City of Kentwood
Steve Warren (<i>ViceChair</i>)	KCRC

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Patti Brink	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	MDOT-Grand Region
Steve Kepley	City of Kentwood
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff
Don Stypula	GVMC Staff
Vicki Weerstra	MDOT-Grand Region

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Voting Members Not Present

Sandy Ayers
James Beelen
Marta Brechting
Bryan Chodkowski
Bill Cole
Dan DesJarden
Mike DeVries
Tim Haagsma
Don Hilton, Sr.
Dennis Hoemke
William Holland
Dick Johnston
Ken Klomparens
Jim McIntyre
Gerald Mears
George Meek
Jim Miedema
Audrey Nevins
Tom Palarz
Steve Peterson
Robert Swenson
Gary Voogt
Bill Wiersma

Village of Caledonia
Allendale Township
Alpine Township
Village of Sparta
City of Grand Rapids
City of Lowell
Grand Rapids Township
Gaines Township
Gaines Township
Algoma Township
Georgetown Township
City of Rockford
GRFIA
Courtland Township
City of Wyoming
Plainfield Township
Jamestown Township
Byron Township
OCRC
Cascade Charter Township
Cannon Township
Ada Township
Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dooley stated that the August 30th, 2005 Transportation Programming Study Group Minutes are accepted as read and approved. The committee unanimously responded with "I."

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. FY2006-2008 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) ADJUSTMENTS

Robinson distributed a hand-out depicting a potential scenario of target amounts for STP and EDFC funding for FY2006. He noted the match on this spreadsheet reflects a change to 80/20, resulting in an additional 1.1 million dollars. Conners inquired as to the reasoning for the 80/20 match. Itani clarified that this hand-out/discussion is an option only at this time. He explained to the committee the other scenarios considered,

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which include going back to the 80/20 funding split, maintaining the split as is, or taking STP dollars to fund some of the projects under EDFC. He clarified that it is a committee decision as to how to proceed. Bush gave the committee some background on why funding matches have been lowered and possibly restored. Schweitzer had questions on adherence to Policy guidelines. Itani reiterated current Policy on EDFC funding, and suggested maintaining the Policy but to also look at combining dollars to do more on a percentage basis. He stressed that based on priorities and goals we need to achieve, the committee needs to determine where the money is going to be used. He suggested that the committee schedule additional meetings to discuss funding. Schweitzer addressed air quality requirements and inquired as to whether they changed under SAFETEA-LU. Discussion, comments and questions followed. As discussion continued, Dooley clarified the alternative proposals; (1) take additional STP dollars and apply to EDFC and cut EDFC projects to live within the reduced amount, or (2) consider STP and EDFC a joint pot of money and attempt to maintain all that has been approved in the 3 year TIP. Discussion continued

Itani identified a policy issue that allows projects over the amount listed in the TIP to be 10% over programmed. He stressed that the 10% allowance and/or any changes is a policy decision. Harrall gave the committee an example of an STP project which came under the funding allotment and the potential impact on the program that the 10% factor could have. Discussion followed. Cornell-Howe and Itani suggested the option of capping projects at the TIP amount. Discussion followed. Cornell-Howe noted that when projects are not finalized out, MDOT has no idea what has been used. Itani stated that when projects move forward, actual balances will be updated. Weerstra and Bush agreed that FY2006 should be considered separately from FY2007 and 2008. Discussion and comments followed.

As discussion continued, Dooley suggested clarification as to what should be done in FY2006. He reiterated the choices as stated previously to continue to finance projects which were approved in the FY2006 TIP. As FY2006 projects are well underway, Bush recommended that the suggestions today be a one time exception.

Cornell-Howe proposed a scenario citing a specific project to move from STP to EDFC Category C. Discussion, comments and questions followed. She noted that with this scenario there would be no loss of projects. Discussion continued. Cornell-Howe also discussed the time line of when projects are obligated and the process that follows. Itani noted the difference between appropriation and obligation authority. Dooley made suggestions as to how these issues might be resolved. Discussion followed.

Dooley entertained a motion to move the Walker Avenue project in STP to EDFC at the amount shown, and to fund a portion of the Wilson Avenue project with STP while the EDFC funded portion of the project be reduced by \$86,700. Discussion followed. Bush would agree with the motion with a caveat that this is a one time change FY2006 to alleviate setting a precedent for future years. The committee concurred that further discussion on this issue is warranted.

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MOTION by Bush, SUPPORT by Fetzer, to recommend to the Technical Committee approval of moving the Walker Avenue Project in STP to EDFC Funding with all State funds at the amount shown, and to fund a portion of the Wilson Avenue project with STP while the EDFC funded portion of the project be reduced by \$86,700 and the balance of the projects will continue to be funded as shown. This is with the understanding that the changes are noted for FY2006 only. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Dooley requested direction from the committee in addressing the FY2007 and 2008 program. Several committee members concurred that the committee might follow scenarios that were done in FY2006, and agreed that FY2007 could be addressed at this time.

Cornell-Howe noted that as we become less of a donor state, Category C funding will decrease. Discussion followed. Itani and Warren noted that it would be safe to assume current levels when looking at FY2007 funding. Warren requested discussion of the FY2008 program as well. Discussion followed. Itani discussed the impact on air quality if projects are deleted. Robinson gave the committee estimates for the FY2007 STP and EDFC pot. Discussion followed. Harrall shared his concerns with making changes to the project list. Discussion followed. Conners discussed additional funding opportunities with older projects that are not finalized out. Cornell-Howe made suggestions as to how to be pro active, and stressed the importance of calling the company that did the work to find out whether they have submitted their bill. Discussion followed. She explained what happens when projects close out relative to obligation authority. Robinson cautioned that the EDFC federal portion does not last long.

The committee continued the discussion of closing out projects, left over funds and obligation authority. Schweitzer suggested that projects be followed up locally. Cornell-Howe suggested contacting city engineers to determine if final bills have been submitted. Discussion followed.

Dooley requested committee input for FY2007 projects that need to go to another fiscal year. Discussion followed. Warren shared his concerns with the system and projects programmed 10% over, and suggested that all projects should be capped at the TIP amount. Cornell-Howe confirmed that capping and not allowing the 10% is one way that would help, but would not solve the problem. As the rules continue to change, Itani stated that staff will check every project and if there is money action will be taken. Cornell-Howe noted MDOT's flexibility in processing/expediting administrative adjustments when projects come in under TIP amount

At this point in the meeting, Dooley requested recommendations for FY2007 STP and EDFC projects.

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To resolve funding issues in FY2007, Dooley suggested leaving the STP projects in tact, and use additional STP funds to apply to EDFC projects, and reduce EDFC projects accordingly, or, eliminate/drop a project and leave funding at current levels. Discussion followed.

MOTION by Schweitzer to address FY2007 similar to FY2006 with the caveat that estimated \$208,000 shortfall be reflected in adjustment percentages in EDFC.

As there was no **SUPPORT**, Dooley noted that the **MOTION FAILS**. Discussion continued.

Warren expressed concerns with changing percentages and the effect on 2 KCRC projects. Discussion, comments and questions followed.

Noting there was no support for a motion, Schweitzer suggested that another motion be made.

Dooley entertained a motion to recommend to the Technical Committee approval of amending the STP and EDFC funding.

MOTION by Warren, SUPPORT by Harrall to recommend to the Technical Committee approval of adjusting both STP and EDFC percentages proportionally the same to match the available total pot of dollars over the entire program.

Discussion continued. Dooley had questions regarding the actual financing of the projects. Cornell-Howe clarified that projects funded with Category C funds must meet criteria of that funding, however Category C projects can be a combination of local, state, "C", and STP. Conners inquired as to whether total project costs could be administratively adjusted. Discussion followed. Itani will make revisions to make the TIP financially constrained and will bring this to the Technical Committee.

Dooley called to question the motion on the floor. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Itani inquired as to whether the committee should recommend that today's actions be taken directly to the Policy Committee.

Dooley entertained a motion to take today's approved changes to the FY2006 and 2007 TIP directly to the Policy Committee.

MOTION by Conners, SUPPORT by Carr, to recommend that the actions taken today to approve changes to the FY2006 and 2007 TIPS be provided directly to the Policy Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Robinson noted that no formal decision on 10% over was reached. Bush and Itani suggested that this issue be addressed at the Technical or Policy Committee level.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Itani has received from MDOT numbers for CMAQ funding. Via a handout depicting Process Improvement Objectives and the Proposed Michigan CMAQ funding splits, he discussed the MPO Prioritization Process and explained why the funding has to be shared. He stated that while the process does not change, the funding mechanism is now different. He explained that the actual appropriation amount of CMAQ funding is 3.22 million, and speculated on the amounts left to share with the region. Warren and others had questions as to whether local projects qualify for the state set aside. Discussion, comments and questions followed. Itani clarified that he is not in favor of the state set aside, and stressed that this MPO should determine the area's priorities and how the funding should be distributed. Discussion and comments followed.

Kent noted a project (Walker) that could be incorporated in the state set aside. Discussion followed. Cornell-Howe discussed CMAQ projects and obligation levels.

Fetzer inquired as to the timeline for the finalization of projects. Itani stressed that the projects must be programmed expeditiously. Discussion followed. Fetzer inquired as to what priorities are used for the process. Cornell-Howe noted that population levels are the determining factor. She also noted that MDOT Staff makes project/funding recommendations to top MDOT management. Discussion followed. Itani clarified that dollars come to the state based on population in non-attainment areas, and it is the state's choice as to how the funding is spent. He stressed that this MPO chooses to share between the state and the locals. Discussion, comments and questions followed. Fetzer requested from Staff the funding amounts for set aside projects. Itani recommended that a meeting to work with CMAQ FY2006 should be scheduled immediately for clarification of where we are.

The committee agreed to meeting on Friday, February 17th with the location to be announced.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Dooley adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.