

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 9, 2013
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Harrall, chair of the Technical Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:32 am. The Committee members, staff, and guests present introduced themselves.

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

Wayne Harrall (<i>Chair</i>)	<i>Proxy for Mike DeVries</i>	Kent County Grand Rapids Township Allendale Township City of Grandville City of Wyoming City of East Grand Rapids
Jerry Alkema		Ada Township
Ron Carr		City of Wyoming
Timothy Cochran		City of Wyoming
Ken Feldt		ITP-The Rapid
Jim Ferro		City of Lowell
Russ Henckel	<i>Proxy for Bill Dooley</i>	OCRC
Jan Hoekstra		MDOT
Mark Howe		City of Walker
Brett Laughlin		City of Walker
Ray Lenze		City of Kentwood
Travis Mabry	<i>Proxy for Scott Connors</i>	City of Cedar Springs
Terry Schweitzer		City of Hudsonville
Tom Stressman		City of Rockford
Dan Strikwerda		KCRC
Phil Vincent		City of Grand Rapids
Steve Warren		
Chris Zull		

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Steve Currie	Michigan Assn. of Counties
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Norm Sevensma	WMEAC-RWBC
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff
Rachael Tupica	FHWA

Voting Members Not Present

Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Scott Connors	City of Walker

APPROVED

Mike DeVries
Rick DeVries
Bill Dooley
Tim Haagsma
Roy Hawkins
Dennis Hoemke
Jim Holtrop
Bob Homan
Jim Miedema
Tim Nelson
Audrey Nevins Weiss
Dave Pasquale
Steve Peterson
Chuck Porter
Martin Super
Toby VanEss

APPROVED
Item II: Attachment A

Grand Rapids Township
City of Grand Rapids
City of Wyoming
Gaines Charter Township
GRFIA
Algoma Township
Ottawa County
Plainfield Township
Jamestown Township
Cannon Township
Byron Township
Grand Rapids Township
Cascade Charter Township
Courtland Township
Village of Sparta
Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Harrall entertained a motion to approve the November 7, 2012 Technical Committee meeting minutes.

MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Cochran, to approve the November 7, 2012 Technical Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sevensma commented that he had recently received a newsletter from the Greater Grand Rapids Bicycle Coalition that stated that the City of Grand Rapids is looking to hire a new bicycle planner and that the position would be funded for one year. He asked for clarification on this position. Zull provided additional details. Discussion ensued.

IV. FY2011-2014 TIP AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson noted that several jurisdictions were requesting to amend/modify the FY2011-2014 TIP.

First, Robinson explained that the City of Grand Rapids was requesting to add two approved Transportation Enhancement projects (pre-TAP funded) to FY2013 of the TIP. The projects are the Seward Avenue Bikeway and Streetscape along Ionia Ave, Logan St., and McConnell St. (Downtown Market).

Second, Robinson stated that MDOT was requesting to add a new phase to a current FY2013 project. Kent explained that the amendment is to actually add a new phase (PE) in FY2013 for a future bridge project which should be constructed in FY2015. The bridge is located on I-196 over the Grand River in Downtown Grand Rapids, and the project will involve major deck replacement in 2015 and also widening to complete the fix on I-196.

Sevensma asked for clarification on what “rub rails” are, which was mentioned in the City of Grand Rapids’ Seward Avenue Bikeway project. Harrall replied that it’s hand railing.

Robinson also noted that the Transportation Programming Study Group (TPSG) Committee met on December 11, 2012, to program new NHPP and additional STP-Urban funds in FY2013. As a result of that meeting, the following recommendations were made:

- To move two segments of the City of Grand Rapids Leonard Street project (programmed as STP urban funds in FY2013) to NHPP funding with another segment on Leonard St. split between STP Urban and NHPP funding.
- To move the City of Grand Rapids Lake Michigan Drive project (programmed in FY2014) to FY2013.
- To add funds and lengthen a FY2013 STP Rural funded project on Cascade Road for the KCRC. The project funding was increased by \$206,713 Federal, and the length was increased by approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile.
- To add funds to a FY2013 STP Urban funded project on Highland Drive in the City of Hudsonville. The project funding was increased by approximately \$55,000 Federal.
- To increase the current match of 68.04% Federal/31.96% local to 80% Federal/20% local for FY2013 in STP Urban and NHPP funding for the FY2011-2014 TIP.

Referring to a handout, Harrall noted that the Kent County Road Commission also had several TIP amendment requests, including adding the following projects to FY2013 of the TIP: Musketawa Trail to White Pine Trail Connector – Phase 2, 108th Street Bridge over the Thornapple River, and Knapp Street Bridge over the Grand River.

Lastly, Harrall asked when the TPSG Committee would be selecting/prioritizing TAP projects for funding and when the Policy Committee would meet. Robinson replied that the Policy Committee would be meeting on Wednesday, January 16, and that the TPSG Committee would be meeting on Thursday, January 17 to address TAP projects. Harrall asked if, in order to avoid delays, authority could be given to the TPSG Committee to approve the TAP project list for FY2013 on behalf of the Technical Committee. Itani responded that, because TPSG is a subcommittee of the Technical Committee, the Technical Committee could give them the authority to bring the list directly to Policy. However, Itani also clarified that the TPSG Committee would only be developing a draft priority list on the 17th and that it would be premature to add the TAP projects into the TIP at that time. Therefore, the TPSG Committee could only be given the authority to recommend a priority list for TAP funds to the Policy Committee—not to add the projects to the TIP. He also noted that giving the TPSG Committee additional authority to recommend projects directly to Policy would not likely save any time and that the Committee members would have plenty of time to amend the projects into the TIP. Lenze suggested adding the TAP projects selected on January 17 to an illustrative list, which would allow the jurisdictions to begin design work on their projects. He noted that this could cut down wait time. Discussion ensued.

Harrall asked if it made sense to include giving the TPSG Committee the authority to approve the draft list of FY2013 TAP projects on behalf of the Technical Committee. Itani agreed that it could make sense to give TPSG the authority to do this, if necessary. Ferro noted that there should be a written description of how to handle the TAP project selection process for clarity. Itani responded that most of the TAP projects will come from the Nonmotorized Plan, so there is somewhat of a process in place regarding selection of projects, and that there is also a process in place for amending projects.

However, the Committee could also discuss this process further, if necessary. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Harrall entertained a motion to amend/modify the FY2011-2014 TIP and give the TPSG Committee additional approval authority.

MOTION by Warren, SUPPORT by Schweitzer, to recommend approval to the Policy Committee of the following: (1) all of the amendments/modification requests to the FY2011-2014 TIP from the City of Grand Rapids, MDOT, and the KCRC, as identified; (2) all of the recommendations from the TPSG Committee made at their December 11, 2012, meeting, as identified; and (3) giving the TPSG Committee authorization to provide approval for the project list for FY2013 TAP projects on behalf of the Technical Committee as long as the projects are financially constrained.

Itani asked if the motion could be amended to say that the TAP projects selected on January 17 would be added to an illustrative list, since they would not be financially constrained. Discussion ensued. The motion was amended as follows, and returned to the floor for action:

Amended MOTION by Warren, SUPPORT by Schweitzer, to recommend approval to the Policy Committee of the following: (1) all of the amendments/modification requests to the FY2011-2014 TIP from the City of Grand Rapids, MDOT, and the KCRC, as identified; (2) all of the recommendations from the TPSG Committee made at their December 11, 2012, meeting, as identified; and (3) giving the TPSG Committee authorization to provide approval for the project list for FY2013 TAP projects on behalf of the Technical Committee, with the illustrative and selected projects to be distinguished. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. MDOT FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM UPDATE

Kent provided the Committee with copies of MDOT's 2013-2017 Five-Year Transportation Program, and noted that today is the last day of the formal public comment period. Comments can be submitted through the website or directly to Kent. He provided details about the document and added that it has been on the web for approximately a month for comment as well. Lastly, Kent said that the projects in MDOT's Five-Year Transportation Program would go through the TIP process.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

*Information on MDOT's CMAQ projects from FY2013-FY2017

Referring to **Item VI: Attachment A**, Kent noted that the CMAQ process has been revised, and that there is a February 11, 2013 statewide deadline to submit FY2014-2017 CMAQ projects for eligibility. He explained that the attachment included projects that MDOT was proposing for FY2013 through FY2017. Itani noted that he has raised concerns about the short deadline for CMAQ projects and that he was told the MPO could have more time to determine projects. Discussion ensued.

Robinson stated that the deadline for submitting applications for TAP funding for FY2013-2014 is Tuesday, January 15. The meeting to select/prioritize TAP projects will be Thursday, January 17 at 9:00 am at GVMC. He noted that the hope is also to

program EDF-C funds for FY2014-2017 at this meeting as well. The TPSG Committee will be meeting again on Wednesday, January 30th to program STP Urban, Rural, Flex, and NHPP. Robinson added that he would be sending out information about both meetings soon. Snell encouraged the Committee to look closely at the deficiencies list that Robinson was going to be sending out and to think about creative ideas for using EDFC funding. He also encouraged the Committee to look at diversifying CMAQ projects in the future. Discussion ensued.

Snell noted that the new Pavement Management Report is done and that he is working on setting up an Asset Management meeting to discuss the data and results, as well as the creation of a GPA account to use for preventative maintenance. The meeting will be held either January 22nd or 24th. The outcome of the meeting will be brought to TPSG.

Feldt asked when the call for projects will be for the TIP. Robinson stated that STP Urban, STP Rural, Flex, and NHPP projects will be due to him by Friday, January 25. He noted that he would need project names, limits, the work the jurisdictions want to do (if available), and cost.

Itani added that, with the passage of MAP-21, there have been some changes to the TIP development process. Tupica noted that the US Department of Transportation is in the process of developing nationwide performance measures. She added that it will be a few years before the performance measures need to be fully implemented and the law goes into place.

Warren asked if the NHS Functional Review is currently taking place. Itani confirmed that it was. Warren then asked when there will be another opportunity for locals to look at the functional classification of roads. He noted if the functional classification of roads changes, it may impact projects in the TIP planning process. Itani noted that he is in discussion with Mike Toth, who is scheduling a workshop for next month. Itani added that several roads may be eligible to be added to the NHPP system. Discussion ensued.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Harrall adjourned the January 9, 2013 Technical Committee meeting at 10:30 am.