

MINUTES

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, February 4, 2009
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI

Warren, chair of the Technical Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Steve Warren (<i>Chair</i>)	<i>Proxy for Bob Homan</i>	Kent County Road Commission Plainfield Township
Alex Arends		Alpine Township
Patrick Bush		City of Grand Rapids
Ron Carr		City of Grandville
Timothy Cochran		City of Wyoming
Scott Conners	<i>(Vice Chair)</i>	City of Walker
Sandra M. Cornell-Howe		MDOT
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Ken Feldt		City of East Grand Rapids
Steve Groenenboom		Ada Township
Tim Haagsma		Gaines Charter Township
Wayne Harrall		Kent County
Russ Henckel	<i>Proxy for Bill Dooley</i>	City of Wyoming
Jim Holtrop		City of Wyoming
Brett Laughlin		Ottawa County
D. Dale Mohr		OCRC
Steve Peterson		Georgetown Township
Terry Schweitzer		Cascade Charter Township
Dan Strikwerda		City of Kentwood
		City of Hudsonville

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Roger Belknap	Kent County Road Commission
Andrea Dewey	GVMC Staff
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Sarah Koepke	FHWA
Joan Konyndyk	Hope Network
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Norm Sevensma	WMEAC-RWBC
Don Stypula	GVMC Staff
George Yang	GVMC Staff

APPROVED

**APPROVED
Item II: Attachment A**

Mike Zonyk

GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema
Sandra Ayers
Mike Berrevoets
Mike Bouwkamp
Dick Davies
Sharon DeLange
Dan DesJarden
Mike DeVries
Bill Dooley
Roy Hawkins
Dennis Hoemke
Bob Homan
Jim McIntyre
Jim Miedema
Audrey Nevins
Toby VanEss
Conrad Venema

Allendale Township
Village of Caledonia
City of Cedar Springs
City of Rockford
Cannon Township
Village of Sparta
City of Lowell
Grand Rapids Township
City of Wyoming
GRFIA
Algoma Township
Plainfield Township
Courtland Township
Jamestown Township
Byron Township
Tallmadge Township
The Rapid

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Warren entertained a motion to approve the January 7, 2009 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes.

MOTION by Holtrop, SUPPORT by Carr, to approve the January 7, 2009 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sevensma said that he had heard on the news that The Rapid wanted to pass an operation millage for a bus to go down S. Division. This was expected to start in 2012, and Sevensma asked if the millage had to be put in place before equipment could be purchased. Discussion ensued.

IV. FY2008-2011 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENTS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson informed the Committee that MDOT was requesting to amend the TIP to update the General Program Accounts for FY2009 for trunkline and local projects by either adding the GPAs not currently in the TIP or adding funding to GPAs that do currently exist.

Robinson continued to discuss several additional TIP amendments that were walked onto the agenda. The first of these was a request from The Rapid to amend the FY2010 TIP to make adjustments and additions to their Section 5307 and Section 5309 projects listed within the TIP. Robinson passed out a handout that provided additional information.

The second request, from Staff, was to amend the FY2009 TIP by adding two Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) projects to the FY2009 TIP. MDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have determined that the projects are eligible for CMAQ funding. Robinson provided a handout for additional information.

The last request, from the City of Grand Rapids, was to amend the TIP to add an awarded FY2009 Enhancement project to the TIP. The project consists of reconstructing Cherry Street from Commerce Avenue to Division Avenue and the realignment of the Division/Cherry intersection. The award amount was \$417,328 federal with a total construction cost of \$1,470,000, with additional funding provided by the City of Grand Rapids and the Downtown Development Authority. Robinson again provided a handout for additional information.

Itani asked why the City of Grand Rapids' Enhancement project was not included under the GPAs. Cornell-Howe responded that it is a Committee decision whether the enhancement project is included under GPA funding or listed separately. Cornell-Howe continued that as soon as the Committee Members receive commitment letters for enhancement or safety projects, they need to make sure that the MPO knows about it. Discussion ensued.

Conners asked the Committee to include with this action the addition of \$777,000 in enhancement funds to the GPA account for the Standale Trail Project. Cornell-Howe stated that she and Robinson would need to review the local GPA for enhancement and make sure it has the appropriate amount of funding. Discussion ensued.

Harrall stated that there is a County Parks project to widen Kent Trails. The cost was \$800,000 and included \$400,000 in federal funding and \$400,000 local funding. He wanted to make sure that this project was covered in the GPA as well. Itani responded that this had been discussed recently and that the decision had been made to include it in the GPA account.

DeVries asked if it made more sense to have enhancement projects listed project by project. Bush asked the Committee if there was a list of enhancement projects included somewhere in the GPA. Cornell-Howe stated that once projects have job numbers, they can be pulled up from the database. However, if it is too early in the process, the project may not yet have a job number. Bush expressed his concern that there may not be a definitive list of enhancement projects that exists. Itani responded that GVMC needs to know that a project has been accepted and awarded federal funds so that, in turn, the MPO can go back to Cornell-Howe and make sure that there is enough money in the GPAs to cover it. Itani stated that once GVMC receives information about each project, they will create a list of projects awarded funding under GPA. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Warren entertained a motion to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP to include the amendments previously identified.

MOTION by Carr, SUPPORT by Schweitzer, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of amending the FY2008-2011 TIP to include the amendments from MDOT, The Rapid, Staff, the City of Grand Rapids, the City of Walker, and Kent County as identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

Itani stated that the details of the Economic Stimulus Package are continually changing. However, he said that he expected the MPO area to receive roughly 13.1 million dollars for the urban area and \$891,000 for the rural area. Itani informed the Committee that a Rural TIP Development meeting had already been held and the Committee had developed project lists for the FY2010-2013 TIP and the stimulus package. However, Itani continued, determining how to program the funding for the urbanized area has proven to be more complicated, as the list of submitted urban stimulus projects currently stands at \$157 million. The TPSG Committee has been asked to look at their priorities and reduce the list to \$20-25 million dollars. That way, if the area receives additional funding, there will be projects that will be ready to go. Itani hoped that a list would be completed during the February 6 TPSG meeting.

Itani stated that another obstacle is that the amount of time to obligate the funds is still unknown. Koepke responded that once the President signs the bill, the states will receive the money within seven days. Itani continued that once an illustrative economic stimulus project list is identified, GVMC would hold a 30-day public comment period and send out Environmental Justice letters. A public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11 at the Wyoming Public Library. By March 18, Itani expected to have everything ready to go to the state and feds for their approval. Those projects will be concurrently sent to MDOT so they can start the process of GIs, advertising, letting, etc. Discussion ensued.

Warren asked if there was anything the Technical Committee could do to expedite the approval process and if a special Technical Committee Meeting should be held to bring the Technical Committee up to speed after the TPSG meeting. Itani invited the Technical Committee members to attend the upcoming TPSG meeting, but stated that he didn't believe a separate Technical Committee Meeting was necessary, since almost the entire Technical Committee would be represented at the TPSG Committee Meeting. He reiterated the importance of expediting the approval process. Dewey provided additional information about the projected timeline. Bush suggested holding a Technical Committee Meeting immediately following the TPSG meeting. The Committee agreed and a Technical Committee Meeting was scheduled to begin at 12:00 pm on February 6, immediately following the TPSG Meeting. In order to expedite the approval process, Itani stated that he was going to seek to give the Policy Committee authority to approve the Illustrative Economic Stimulus List. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Cornell-Howe distributed a handout that provided a timeline for the Committee to follow in order to meet certain deadlines. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

DeVries asked for clarification on a letter he received regarding the Stimulus Package.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Warren adjourned the February 4, 2009 Technical Committee Meeting at 10:41 am.