

MINUTES

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

Conners, vice chair of the Technical Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Scott Conners	<i>(Vice Chair)</i>	City of Walker
Alex Arends		Alpine Township
Roger Belknap	<i>Proxy for</i>	KCRC
	<i>Steve Warren</i>	KCRC
	<i>Bob Homan</i>	Plainfield Township
Patrick Bush		City of Grand Rapids
Ron Carr		City of Grandville
Timothy Cochran		City of Wyoming
Sandra M. Cornell-Howe		MDOT
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Ken Feldt		City of East Grand Rapids
Wayne Harrall		Kent County
Roy Hawkins		GRFIA
Russ Henckel	<i>Proxy for</i>	City of Wyoming
	<i>Bill Dooley</i>	City of Wyoming
Taiwo Jaiyeoba		The Rapid
Jack Klein	<i>Proxy for</i>	OCRC
	<i>Brett Laughlin</i>	OCRC
Terry Schweitzer		City of Kentwood
Dan Strikwerda		City of Hudsonville
Michael Young	<i>Proxy for</i>	City of Rockford
	<i>Mike Bouwkamp</i>	City of Rockford

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Dewey	GVMC Staff
Jeff Dood	City of Rockford
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Jan Hoekstra	The Rapid
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Andy Johnston	GR Chamber of Commerce
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Sarah Koepke	FHWA
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff

APPROVED

Vicki Weerstra
George Yang
Mike Zonyk

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema
Sandra Ayers
Mike Berrevoets
Mike Bouwkamp
Dick Davies
Sharon DeLange
Dan DesJarden
Mike DeVries
Bill Dooley
Steve Groenenboom
Tim Haagsma
Dennis Hoemke
Jim Holtrop
Bob Homan
Brett Laughlin
Jim Miedema
D. Dale Mohr
Audrey Nevins
Steve Peterson
Chuck Porter
Toby VanEss
Steve Warren (*Chair*)

**APPROVED
Item II: Attachment A**

MDOT
GVMC Staff
GVMC Staff

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
Ada Township
Gaines Charter Township
Algoma Township
Ottawa County
Plainfield Township
OCRC
Jamestown Township
Georgetown Township
Byron Township
Cascade Charter Township
Courtland Township
Tallmadge Township
KCRC

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Connors entertained a motion to approve the February 4, 2009 and February 6, 2009 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes.

MOTION by Bush, SUPPORT by Schweitzer, to approve the February 4, 2009 and February 6, 2009 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA)

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment C**, Itani provided the Committee with a brief update on the status of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), also known as the stimulus package. He stated that the funding to this area will be divided either 75/25 or 70/30 between MDOT and the locals and that he is still working with MDOT to reach an agreement on this issue. If the funding was divided 75/25, the local share would be approximately \$12.3 million, and if it was divided 70/30, the local share would be around

\$13.8 million. He clarified that while MDOT is entitled to the 75/25 distribution, the MPO has the responsibility to determine priorities for this MPO-area, including local and MDOT projects, and then reach an agreement with the entities involved. Itani stated that the Transportation Programming Study Group will need to meet again. At their next meeting, the Committee will be able to program \$16.8 million dollars, or twice the funding they received in FY2008 under the STP program. However, they will also need to divide this list into an "A" list of \$12.3 million dollars worth of projects guaranteed stimulus funding, and a "B" list of projects for the remaining amount that will be funded if additional funds become available from other states. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Itani added that the City of Rockford was also requesting to add a project to the economic stimulus project list. Referencing **Item IV: Attachment B**, Young explained that while the City of Rockford had submitted a project for consideration for stimulus funding, they were not aware that there was a subcommittee that was meeting to select stimulus projects. Consequently, the submitted project was removed from the list. He asked the Committee to consider adding the project to the stimulus list. Connors suggested adding this project to the economic stimulus "B" list. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Schweitzer stated that he would like to use everyone's "fair share" as a guide to the amount of funding they receive. Itani responded that GVMC would not support using the "fair share" approach as a guide and encouraged the Committee members to look at the system as a whole to determine where the priorities should be. He added that he would provide the TPSG Committee with recommendations on how to cut down the stimulus projects list. Belknap asked if Staff had looked at the amount of funding available in the TIP. Itani commented that this needs to be part of the discussion and stated that he would make the remaining TIP balances available to the Committee. Discussion ensued.

Kent stated that MDOT would like to add a resurfacing project on 28th Street between Division and Kalamazoo to the illustrative state project stimulus list. The project cost would be \$1.7 million dollars. He hoped to determine before the Policy Committee Meeting if the project could be moved off of the illustrative list to the actual state project stimulus list. Itani stated his support for this project. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Speaking on **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson informed the Committee of a request from The Rapid to amend the ARRA list. This amendment, which has already been approved by the Policy Committee, reflected the recent release of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) apportionments and included an increase in only sections 5340/5307 Economic Recovery funds.

V. **TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Dewey updated the Committee on the public involvement effort for the 2008-2011 TIP amendment as a result of the ARRA transportation projects. She stated that committee members had submitted approximately \$40 million worth of projects to Staff with the intention that these projects may be funded as part of the economic stimulus. The Committee further refined this list

to approximately \$13.1 million worth of projects to be funded with federal stimulus money. The remaining projects were compiled into an illustrative list. Should funding become available, the remaining projects could be added to the refined list. All projects funded with federal stimulus funds must be amended into the FY2008-2011 TIP, and therefore, the projects submitted needed to be taken through the MPO's public involvement and environmental justice processes, per federal law.

The unrefined list of projects is now available on GVMC's web site and those citizens in Environmental Justice areas that may have transportation projects nearby have been sent notice. Those interested in submitting comments were welcomed to contact GVMC by mail, phone, or fax, or to attend the public meeting on Wednesday, March 11 from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm at the Wyoming Public Library. Dewey stated that Staff would also be announcing the results of the air quality conformity analysis triggered by the MDOT I-196 expansion from US-131/Grand River to Fuller Avenue project at the public meeting.

VI. PROPOSED 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) AMENDMENT

Referring to **Item VI: Attachment A**, Dewey requested the committee to recommend the anticipated 2035 LRTP Amendment and air quality analysis that is a result of the ARRA MDOT transportation project on I-196 to the Policy Committee. This project, which includes providing additional lane capacity, reconstruction, replacing the Coit Avenue and Lafayette bridges, and adding and replacing freeway lighting, has a cost of \$41,045,000. This project was currently listed in the 2035 LRTP for fiscal years 2019-2025 for \$20,000,000. Dewey explained that when a project such as this has a major cost change, it triggers an amendment to the LRTP. Also, since the timeframe for project completion has moved from the outer years of the LRTP (FY2019-2025) to FY2009, the project has an impact on air quality and requires a reassessment of air quality conformity. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Connors requested that the Committee brainstorm regional projects at the next meeting, and entertained a motion to recommend the anticipated 2035 LRTP amendment and air quality analysis identified by Staff to the Policy Committee.

MOTION by Carr, SUPPORT by Bush, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the anticipated 2035 LRTP Amendment and air quality analysis that is a result of the ARRA MDOT transportation project on I-196, as identified by Staff. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VII. PROPOSED 2035 LRTP AMENDMENT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Speaking on **Item VII: Attachment A**, Dewey stated that due to project cost modifications and air quality conformity changes for MDOT's I-196 from US-131/Grand River to Fuller Avenue project, an amendment to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan is warranted. In order to encourage public involvement in the amendment process, Staff placed an ad in the *Grand Rapids Press* on Thursday, February 26, 2009 that informs the public that the Air Quality Conformity Analysis is available on GVMC's web site (www.gvmc.org), instructs the public on how to submit comments, and tells the public of two opportunities to submit comments in person—at the previously scheduled March 11 public meeting for the TIP amendments and at the March 18 Policy Committee meeting. Dewey also mailed notice of the Air Quality Conformity Analysis and LRTP

amendment to GVMC's Public Involvement/Consultation list, inviting comment.

Dewey informed the Committee that once the TIP amendment public involvement process has concluded on March 11, and all the public comments received have been reviewed and considered, Staff will ask that the refined list of ARRA projects be amended into the current FY2008-2011 TIP by the Policy Committee. Similarly, when the LRTP amendment public involvement period ends on March 18 and all public comments received have been reviewed and considered, staff will then request an amendment to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan for the MDOT I-196 US-131/Grand River to Fuller Avenue project.

VIII. FY2010-2011 SAFETY PROJECT ENDORSEMENT

Referring to **Item VIII: Attachments A and B**, Robinson informed the Committee that the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has sent a notice of a call for FY2009 Safety and High Risk Rural Road Programs. In order to proceed with the selection process, he asked the Committee to endorse the safety project list included in this attachment. Robinson stated that once the proposed safety project list has been endorsed by the Technical and Policy Committee, Staff will draft a letter to MDOT requesting that funding consideration be given to the submitted projects. Projects selected will then be amended into the TIP.

Harrall had one change to the Division Avenue at 13 Mile project. He stated that the project scope should change to read "vertical improvements for sight distance and left turn lane." Discussion ensued.

Conners entertained a motion to endorse the safety project list, as identified by Staff.

MOTION by Arends, SUPPORT by DeVries, to endorse the Safety Project List, as identified by Staff, and to also recommend endorsement of the list to the Policy Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Itani stated that the State of Michigan will receive \$25 million for enhancement projects through the stimulus package. Because of this, Itani requested that Committee members with enhancement projects send these projects to the State as soon as possible. Itani also reminded the Committee to submit their CMAQ projects for FY2010 and FY2011. Robinson reminded the Committee that the TIP will eventually need to be backfilled.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Conners adjourned the March 4, 2009 Technical Committee Meeting at 10:26 am.