

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, March 4th, 2015
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Schweitzer, vice chair of the Technical Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Terry Schweitzer (*Vice Chair*)

Alex Arends

Timothy Cochran

Scott Conners

Rick DeVries

Rod Ghearing

Tim Haagsma

Wayne Harrall

*Proxy for
Mike DeVries*

Brett Laughlin

Paul Lott

Joe Slonecki

Rick Sprague

Dan Strikwerda

Roger Towsley

Steve Warren

City of Kentwood

Alpine Township

City of Wyoming

City of Walker

City of Grand Rapids

ITP-The Rapid

Gaines Charter Township

Kent County

Grand Rapids Charter Township

OCRC

MDOT

City of East Grand Rapids

KCRC/Cannon Township

City of Hudsonville

Village of Sand Lake

KCRC

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Mallory Avis

Tim Bradshaw

Andy Brush

Andrea Faber

Erin Haviland

Abed Itani

Erick Kind

Nick Monoyios

Steve Redmond

Darrell Robinson

Norm Sevensma

Jim Snell

Steve Waalkes

Mike Zonyk

MDOT

City of Kentwood

MDOT

GVMC Staff

GVMC Staff

GVMC Staff

MDOT

ITP-The Rapid

MDOT

GVMC Staff

WMEAC-RWBC

GVMC Staff

MCA

GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema

Ken Bergwerff

Ron Carr

Allendale Township

Jamestown Township

City of Grandville

Mike DeVries
Bill Dooley
Jim Ferro
Bill Fischer
Roy Hawkins
Dennis Hoemke
Jim Holtvluwer
Mark Howe
Audrey Nevins Weiss
Steve Peterson
Chuck Porter
Tom Stressman
Toby VanEss
Phil Vincent
Rod Weersing
Chris Zull (*Chair*)

Grand Rapids Charter Township
City of Wyoming
Ada Township
Plainfield Township
KCDA/GRFIA
Algoma Township
Ottawa County
City of Lowell
Byron Township
Cascade Charter Township
Courtland Township
City of Cedar Springs
Tallmadge Township
City of Rockford
Georgetown Township
City of Grand Rapids

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Schweitzer entertained a motion to approve the February 4th, 2015 Technical Committee minutes.

MOTION by Haagsma, SUPPORT by Ghearing, to approve the February 4th, 2015 Technical Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

IV. FY2014-2017 TIP AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson stated that the City of Grand Rapids, City of Kentwood, the American Red Cross, ITP-The Rapid, Hope Network, and MDOT are requesting to amend/modify the FY2014-2017 TIP. Listed below are the specific requests:

- The City of Grand Rapids is requesting to add an MDOT funded FY2015 TAP project to the TIP titled Pedestrian Safety Improvements at Eight Locations.
- The City of Kentwood is requesting to remove a FY2017 project from the TIP— East Paris Avenue from Burton Avenue to the northern City Limits—and move in an illustrative project in its place—44th Street from Broadmoor Avenue to Patterson Avenue. This will be a project switch. The City is then requesting to advance construct the 44th St. project in FY2016 due to the severe degradation of pavement.
- The American Red Cross is requesting to add three vehicles utilizing FY2016 5310 funding to the TIP.
- ITP is requesting to modify the cost of several projects, add three projects, and remove two projects in FY2016 of the TIP. ITP-The Rapid is also in the process of submitting an application to enter into FTA Small Starts Project Development (PD) for the Laker Line BRT, and one of the federal requirements is to designate the funding source for the Preliminary Engineering and Design portion of the project by showing documented evidence that it is included in the TIP. Therefore, ITP- The Rapid also requested to reduce \$560,000 in federal funds from the Section 5307

Replacement Bus Purchase from three buses to one bus in FY2015, and create a new project line called Laker Line Project Development, which would then use the removed funding. In FY2016, they requested to reduce \$1,440,000 in federal funds from Section 5307 Replacement CNG Bus purchase from six buses to two buses. This would create a new project line called Laker Line Project Development and would utilize these funds.

- Hope Network is requesting to add 14 replacement vehicles utilizing 5310 funding and software with New Freedom capital funding and New Freedom operating funds for their competitive ride program to the FY2016 TIP.
- MDOT is requesting to amend/modify the costs of several projects listed in FY2015 of the TIP, including a GPA increase and cost increase for the I-96 under Cascade Road projects.

Robinson went on to state that there are two other requested changes. First, as an informational item, the City of East Grand Rapids received more money for their non-motorized TAP project in FY2015 from the TAP program. It was originally in FY2014 and is now in FY2015. Second, because the Michigan legislature funded the rural project originally listed in FY2016, the Rural Committee met this morning to reprogram FY2016. The Rural Committee selected the KCRC's Lincoln Lake from 5 Mile to 6 Mile reconstruction project for that year. The project was on the illustrative list.

In FY2017, the Village of Sand Lake requested to move the limits of their Lake Street from 5th St. to Northland Dr. to Lake Street from Ritchie Ave. to 5th St. They increased the length of the project but lowered the overall cost. With these changes, the rural funding for FY2016 and FY2017 has been consumed. Schweitzer stated that it sounded like what has come out of the Rural Committee is a recommendation for the Technical Committee. Robinson stated that yes it was a recommendation for the Technical Committee.

Schweitzer entertained a motion to recommend approval of the amendments/modifications to the FY2014-2017 TIP.

MOTION by Warren, SUPPORT by Towsley, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the FY2014-2017 TIP Amendments/Modifications requested by the City of Grand Rapids, City of Kentwood, the American Red Cross, ITP-The Rapid, Hope Network, MDOT, the City of East Grand Rapids, and Staff. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. NON-MOTORIZED PLAN PROJECT LIST AMENDMENT

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Zonyk explained that on February 17th, 2015 the Non-Motorized Committee met to discuss potential funding possibilities for use of Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds in FY2016 and FY2017. One of the agenda items for this meeting was to discuss any modifications that needed to be made to the Non-Motorized Plan project list since its publishing in May of 2014. Six projects were presented and formally approved for inclusion or modification to the Non-Motorized Plan. The six projects are as follows:

- The Village of Sand Lake's Lake Street Streetscape from 5th St. to the White Pine Trail project
- Hudsonville/Jamestown/Georgetown's 22nd Avenue Barry St. Connector and 22nd Van Buren Avenue to Barry St. projects

- Jamestown/Georgetown/Byron's Pioneer Trail Connector – Kenowa Ave. project
- The City of Grand Rapids' Richmond Street project
- The City of Grand Rapids' Maryland Avenue project
- The City of Grand Rapids' 3 Mile Road project

Zonyk added that Laughlin also suggested that the 68th Avenue Corridor in Allendale Township also be added to the list for non-motorized improvements. Laughlin noted that some information about the project, such as project and limits, would be forthcoming. Discussion ensued.

Harrall also stated that the Road Commission is being asked by MDNR, Kent County Parks, the City of Lowell and Grattan Township to submit for TAP funding through the state for two trails: Fred Meyer Flat River Valley Trail which runs from Lowell to Greenville as well as the trail from Lowell to Saranac that is along the Grand River. Zonyk stated he believed that these projects were already on the list. He also reiterated that the projects on the TAP list are not guaranteed funding.

Schweitzer entertained a motion to recommend to the Policy Committee adoption of the Non-Motorized Plan Project List Amendment.

MOTION by Conners, SUPPORT by Ghearing, to recommend to the Policy Committee adoption of the Non-Motorized project list pending additional information from Laughlin about the 68th St. Corridor project (including limits and cost) and to confirm the Kent County's request that the trail projects are listed in the Non-Motorized Plan, with the understanding that if the projects are not on the TAP list, that they would be added.

Robinson asked that if any community is asking for TAP funding through the State that they keep the MPO in the loop to ensure that the project is on the Non-Motorized plan.

Schweitzer called the motion to question. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Harrall updated the Committee on the Regional Preventative Maintenance Project that the KCRC is heading up for the entire group. There are about 8 different agencies that have preventative maintenance projects for 2015. MDOT has the GI package, and the KCRC is waiting for the GI to be scheduled. They're currently anticipating a June letting. As soon as a date is determined, everyone that has projects will be notified.

Robinson discussed two handouts. The first handout, from MDOT, discussed some modernization of the FHWA fiscal management information systems for the CMAQ program. This will take place between April 1st and 13th, 2015, and could affect your obligation requests. Robinson then explained the second handout, from MDOT, which shows a segment of their GPA's programmed in 2015. Robinson noted that the MPO's intent, and with the Committee's consent, is to take local STP, EDFC, CMAQ, transit projects, etc., and put them into a GPA-type project listing for efficiency also. One advantage would be that minor modifications could be done within days rather than having to hold meetings for approvals. He noted that the initial step is time consuming but well worth it. Harrall asked if the Kent County Road Commission would have their own GPA list. Robinson stated this would be broken down by work type not jurisdiction. Schweitzer asked

who the lead agency would be. Robinson stated jurisdictions would remain their own leads for their own projects. Discussion ensued.

Itani asked Lott if there are any delays in approving TIP Amendments. Lott answered stating no, and added that the current amendment MDOT is reviewing is moving forward. He noted that as long as all the projects are non-exempt, the TIP Amendments can go forward.

Itani also noted that the EPA was sued last year and lost for exceeding their authority for partially revoking the 1997 ozone standard. Because of this, we can't approve the 2040 MTP because we didn't run an air quality conformity analysis on it. We will have to wait until the EPA issues a full revocation of the 1997 ozone standard. Once the letter is out, they will have to publish it for 30 days, after which point it will become law. Therefore, GVMC will need to wait until May or June to bring the document to the Metro Council Board for final approval. Discussion ensued.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Ghearing, SUPPORT by Harrall, to adjourn the March 4th, 2015 Technical Committee meeting at 10:08 am. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.