

**MINUTES**

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, March 6, 2013  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
678 Front Ave NW      Grand Rapids, MI**

Zull, vice 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**

Chris Zull ( <i>Vice Chair</i> )		City of Grand Rapids
Jerry Alkema		Allendale Township
Ron Carr		City of Grandville
Timothy Cochran		City of Wyoming
Scott Conners		City of Walker
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Ken Feldt		City of East Grand Rapids
Jim Ferro		Ada Township
Jan Hoekstra		ITP-The Rapid
Jim Holtrop		Ottawa County
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for</i>	MDOT
	<i>Mark Howe</i>	City of Lowell
Jack Klein	<i>Proxy for</i>	OCRC
	<i>Brett Laughlin</i>	OCRC
Terry Schweitzer		City of Kentwood
Rick Sprague	<i>Proxy for</i>	KCRC
	<i>Mike DeVries</i>	Grand Rapids Township
	<i>Tim Haagsma</i>	Gaines Charter Township
	<i>Wayne Harrall</i>	Kent County
	<i>Steve Warren</i>	KCRC
Tom Stressman		City of Cedar Springs
Dan Strikwerda		City of Hudsonville
Phil Vincent		City of Rockford

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Roger Marks	C2AE
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff
Steve Waalkes	Michigan Concrete Assn.
John Weiss	GVMC

**Voting Members Not Present**

Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township

APPROVED

Mike DeVries  
Bill Dooley  
Tim Haagsma  
Wayne Harrall (*Chair*)  
Roy Hawkins  
Dennis Hoemke  
Bob Homan  
Mark Howe  
Brett Laughlin  
(*Member awaiting appointment*)  
Tim Nelson  
Audrey Nevins Weiss  
Dave Pasquale  
Steve Peterson  
Chuck Porter  
Martin Super  
Toby VanEss  
Steve Warren

APPROVED  
Item II: Attachment A

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Zull entertained a motion to approve the January 9, 2013 Technical Committee meeting minutes.

**MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Cochran, to approve the January 9, 2013 Technical Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**IV. FY2011-2014 TIP AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS**

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

First, Robinson noted that the City of Grand Rapids was requesting to add an approved Transportation Enhancement project (pre-TAP funded) to FY2013 of the TIP. DeVries explained that this project is for Bicycle Safety Education and provided an overview of the program. Discussion ensued.

Second, Robinson added that ITP-the Rapid was also requesting to amend/modify the FY2011-2014 TIP. He clarified that the Rapid was asking to move two unobligated FY2012 projects to FY2013. These projects included the Amtrak Rail Relocation project and the Park and Ride Lot project. ITP-The Rapid was also requesting to amend the FY2014 TIP in preparation of the FY2014 grant application for MDOT.

Lastly, Robinson stated that, as part of the programming of the FY2014-2017 TIP for CMAQ funds, changes to the FY2013 CMAQ list were required. The City of Grand Rapids' College at Michigan Street project was delayed to a future year allowing two projects to be added to FY2013. These two projects included free bus rides on Clean Air

Action Days (ITP-The Rapid) and 12 Mile at M-37 (KCRC). Robinson also noted that the cost for one additional project was also reduced.

Itani asked Hoekstra if updating ITP-The Rapid's expenditures would require a UPWP amendment. Hoekstra responded that, so far, a UPWP amendment is not necessary.

Zull entertained a motion to approve all requested TIP amendments/modifications, as identified.

**MOTION by Conners, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the TIP amendments/modifications requested by the City of Grand Rapids, ITP-The Rapid, and Staff, as identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. FY2014-2017 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) DRAFT PROJECT LIST APPROVAL**

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A** and two handouts, Robinson stated that the Transportation Programming Study Group met on January 30<sup>th</sup> and February 13<sup>th</sup> to program the FY2014-2017 TIP. The draft project lists from these meetings were included in the agenda packet, and Robinson explained that Staff was looking for committee approval of the draft project lists in order to move forward with the consultation process. These project lists also included MDOT's Five Year Program and ITP-The Rapid's list of projects for FY2014-2017. Robinson noted that the projects on the illustrative list have no federal or state funding associated with them. Should more federal/state funding become available, these projects will be considered for funding. Robinson stated that projects were still being accepted for inclusion on the illustrative list through Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Robinson noted that the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects were included in a separate spreadsheet and that they would be going through a review on Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Itani gave an overview of the TIP development schedule, including the consultation, public involvement, and Environmental Justice process. The final TIP document would be sent to the State and FHWA in June or July. Lastly, Itani noted that, unlike years past, running air quality on the TIP is not required.

Itani also explained that seven projects programmed in various funding categories were moved to the illustrative list in order to avoid a Metropolitan Transportation Plan amendment and a lengthy air quality analysis. These projects can be moved back into the TIP by the end of July. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Zull asked the representatives of the City of Kentwood, Kent County, Ottawa County, Wyoming, and Walker if they would agree to move their projects temporarily to the illustrative list. They all agreed. Discussion ensued.

Feldt noted that the City of East Grand Rapids' project is still underfunded. He asked what could be done to get the project fully funded. Zull asked if the balance of the project could be added to the illustrative list. Robinson replied that he could add it. Itani stated that the Committee ultimately determines how available funds are used. Itani noted that

if the project is in the TIP, the balance doesn't need to be added to the illustrative list. Discussion ensued.

Conners suggested that the illustrative list be presented at the Transportation Summit Group on Friday, March 8, to show project need for the area. He suggested that everyone submit as many projects as possible. DeVries suggested adding all deficiencies to the illustrative list. Robinson suggested that he could add anything that received a PASER rating of 7 or below. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Feldt asked for an update on TAP projects. Robinson responded that he was planning on attending a statewide selection committee meeting on Monday, March 11. After that meeting, the Committee will need to select an endorsed list of projects in 2014. Itani added that all of the TAP projects in the system have been placed on the illustrative list and will go through the public comment process. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Zull entertained a motion to approve the FY2014-2017 Draft Project Lists.

**MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Carr, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the draft project lists, with the noted projects to be moved back from the illustrative list in July. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### VI. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Itani stated that the sequester is not expected to have an immediate impact on transportation funding. However, transit may be impacted, and next year might be different. He noted that GVMC is equipped to handle a 5%-6% funding cut, but more than that will be difficult.

Robinson noted that the federally required consultation process has begun. Letters will be going out in the mail today to all of the agencies on GVMC's consultation list. Itani also added that MDOT had suggested that, as part of the consultation process, the local tribes be invited to GVMC's March Tech and Policy Committee meetings, but no representatives attended today's meeting.

#### VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Zull entertained a motion to adjourn the March 6, 2013 Technical Committee meeting.

**MOTION by Feldt, SUPPORT by Sprague, to adjourn the March 6, 2013 Technical Committee meeting at 10:06 am. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**