

MINUTES

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, April 1, 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. Kent introduced Richard, the new communications representative for MDOT Grand Region, to the Committee.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Steve Warren (<i>Chair</i>)		KCRC
Jerry Alkema		Allendale Township
Alex Arends		Alpine Township
Mike Bouwkamp		City of Rockford
Patrick Bush		City of Grand Rapids
Ron Carr		City of Grandville
Timothy Cochran		City of Wyoming
Scott Conners		City of Walker
Sandra M. Cornell-Howe		MDOT
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Ken Feldt		City of East Grand Rapids
Tim Haagsma		Gaines Charter Township
Wayne Harrall	<i>Proxy for Mike DeVries</i>	Kent County
		Grand Rapids Township
Roy Hawkins		GRFIA
Russ Henckel	<i>Proxy for Bill Dooley</i>	City of Wyoming
		City of Wyoming
Jim Holtrop		Ottawa County
Bob Homan		Plainfield Township
Brett Laughlin		OCRC
Dan Strikwerda		City of Hudsonville

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	MDOT
John Richard	MDOT
Norm Sevensma	RWBC-WMEAC
Don Stypula	GVMC

Voting Members Not Present

Sandra Ayers
Mike Berrevoets
Dick Davies
Sharon DeLange
Dan DesJarden
Mike DeVries
Bill Dooley
Steve Groenenboom
Dennis Hoemke
Taiwo Jaiyeoba
Jim Miedema
D. Dale Mohr
Audrey Nevins
Steve Peterson
Chuck Porter
Terry Schweitzer
Toby VanEss

Village of Caledonia
City of Cedar Springs
Cannon Township
Village of Sparta
City of Lowell
Grand Rapids Township
City of Wyoming
Ada Township
Algoma Township
The Rapid
Jamestown Township
Georgetown Township
Byron Township
Cascade Charter Township
Courtland Township
City of Kentwood
Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Conners entertained a motion to approve the March 4, 2009 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes.

MOTION by Cochran, SUPPORT by Laughlin, to approve the March 4, 2009 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sevensma asked the committee for an update on the status of the Rails-to-Trails lobbying campaign to fund 40 communities across the country with \$50 million to promote non-motorized transportation. He also asked the committee if stimulus money would be available for this initiative. Itani responded that this grant was a request for the new transportation bill, not part of the stimulus package, and added that while Grand Rapids is a candidate to receive this funding, it may be 2 years before the next transportation bill is approved. Kent clarified that unless the amount of federal aid goes up, this will not be new money. Discussion ensued.

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

Speaking on **Item IV: Attachment A** and an additional handout from MDOT, Itani informed the Committee of three TIP amendment requests. The first request, from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), was to amend the General Program Accounts (GPAs) for EPE/PE/ROW and Highway Safety Trunk line for cost changes. This request also included amending the FY2008-2011 TIP to provide additional funding for the Road-CPM GPA in the amount of \$3.1 million for CPM projects planned on I-196 and M-45 in Ottawa County. Kent provided additional information about these projects.

Itani continued, describing the second request from the Kent County Road Commission

(KCRC) to delete their 2009 Belmont Avenue relocation project from the TIP and replace it with a different CMAQ project—the Knapp Street at Pettis Avenue Intersection project from the FY2010 CMAQ Project list. Harrall added that the KCRC has been unsuccessful in securing all the necessary right of way for the proposed Belmont Avenue relocation, and therefore, the KCRC cannot move forward with this project. Harrall stated that once the KCRC secures the right-of-way, they may bring the Belmont Road Relocation project back to the Committee. Laughlin asked if the CMAQ funding for the project would be the same amount. Harrall replied that it would be.

Itani stated that the last TIP amendment request, from the City of Hudsonville, was to no longer advance construct their 32nd Avenue project, and instead move forward with the project in FY2010, the same year that the funding was available.

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

MOTION by Bush, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of amending the FY2008-2011 TIP to include the amendment requests from the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Kent County Road Commission, and the City of Hudsonville, as identified by Staff. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. **PROGRAMMING OF STIMULUS PROJECTS, FY2010-2013 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Itani updated the committee on the status of the FY2010-2013 TIP. The TIP was recently changed to include backfill projects to replace several projects that moved forward with ARRA funding. Itani explained to the committee that since the TIP included with the agenda packet did not include CMAQ, MDOT, or ITP projects, it was not complete. Itani requested that the Technical Committee recommend adopting this draft list so that it could be brought to the Policy Committee.

Harrall asked if there was a surplus of \$97,500 in STP-U funding in FY2010. Itani verified that, due to changes to keep all of the matches equal, this funding was available. Harrall suggested adding this funding to the KCRC's Belmont Avenue project. While the KCRC had already received \$1.25 million for the project, Harrall stated that the total amount for the project should be \$1.4 million for reconstruction. Warren added that another option to consume the funding would be to expand the limits of the KCRC's Cannonsburg project in the FY2010 TIP. Conners stated his preference to add the funding to the Belmont project. Bush suggested taking this remaining funding and splitting it proportionally between all of the projects.

Warren entertained a motion to approve the draft FY2010 STP-U list.

MOTION by Bush, SUPPORT by Feldt, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the draft FY2010 STP-U list, with the remaining \$97,500 in FY2010 to be divided proportionally among all non-advance construct projects for that year, and all projects with 80/20 matches would also be exempt from receiving additional funding. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Warren entertained a motion to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the FY2010-2013 TIP as a draft list.

MOTION by Conners, SUPPORT by Bush, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the FY2010-2013 TIP as a draft list. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Itani informed the Committee that the B-list stimulus projects need to be listed on the A-list in the body of the TIP and that these B-list projects will be able to compete with other projects on the A-list if no prioritizations are made. Itani continued that, other than Rockford's Main Street project, no priorities have been given to any of the B-list projects, and that the committee would eventually need to meet to determine priorities for these projects. Bush suggested adding the B-list projects to the TIP but providing a dividing line between A-list and B-list projects. Warren asked if the committee needed to take action on incorporating the B-list stimulus projects into the TIP. Itani responded that this was not necessary and that Staff would simply flag the B-list projects on the spreadsheet. Discussion ensued.

Warren informed the Committee that the KCRC had moved a FY2011 rural project forward to the rural stimulus list, which left enough funding for 2 miles of resurfacing. Warren stated his preference to use this funding to resurface Lincoln Lake from 3 Mile to 5 Mile. Itani added that while the Rural Task Force usually handles requests such as this, it is acceptable for the Tech Committee to approve them also.

Warren entertained a motion to amend the FY2011 Rural TIP.

MOTION by Bush, SUPPORT by HAAGSMA, to amend the FY2011 Rural TIP to include the KCRC's Lincoln Lake from 3 Mile to 5 Mile resurfacing project. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Harrall commented that he had not yet been able to get job numbers. Cornell-Howe responded that she would e-mail them.

Itani stated that the pavement management van had returned from Florida, where it had been sent for maintenance. Now that the van is in working order, Snell will be taking it out soon to begin rating the system. Discussion ensued.

Stypula updated the Committee on the status of transportation funding. He stated that while bills calling for an increase in transportation funding are ready to go, it will be difficult for them to be approved, due to polling results that indicate the public's hesitancy toward new taxes. Additionally, if the State switched to a system whereby tax is applied at the wholesale level as TF2 recommended, the revenue would be neutral for the first year.

Stypula added that a bill was introduced in Washington, S.575, that imposes new mandates on MPOs to do more environmental analysis for projects without increasing funding. He also stated that he has not heard any updates on the new transportation bill.

Kent provided MDOT construction maps to the Committee. The maps included ARRA

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Item II: Attachment A

projects.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Warren adjourned the April 1, 2009 Technical Committee Meeting at 10:26 am.