

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, July 2, 2014
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Zull, chair of the Technical Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. All Committee members, staff, and guests present introduced themselves.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Chris Zull (<i>Chair</i>)		City of Grand Rapids
Alex Arends		Alpine Township
Timothy Cochran		City of Wyoming
Scott Conners		City of Walker
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Jim Ferro		Ada Township
Rod Ghearing		ITP-The Rapid
Tim Haagsma		Gaines Charter Township
Wayne Harrall	<i>Proxy for</i>	Kent County
	<i>Mike DeVries</i>	Grand Rapids Township
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
Paul Lott		MDOT-SPS
Terry Schweitzer (<i>Vice Chair</i>)		City of Kentwood
Joe Slonecki		East Grand Rapids
Tom Stressman		City of Cedar Springs
Dan Strikwerda		City of Hudsonville
Phil Vincent		City of Rockford
Steve Warren		KCRC

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Erick Kind	MDOT
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Norm Sevensma	WMEAC-RWBC
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff
George Yang	GVMC Staff
Mike Zonyk	GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Ken Bergwerff	Jamestown Township
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township

Ron Carr
Mike DeVries
Bill Dooley
Bill Fischer
Roy Hawkins
Dennis Hoemke
Jim Holtrop
Mark Howe
Brett Laughlin
Tim Nelson
Audrey Nevins Weiss
Steve Peterson
Chuck Porter
Toby VanEss

City of Grandville
Grand Rapids Township
City of Wyoming
Plainfield Township
KCDA/GRFIA
Algoma Township
Ottawa County
City of Lowell
OCRC
Cannon Township
Byron Township
Cascade Charter Township
Courtland Township
Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Zull entertained a motion to approve the May 7, 2014 Technical Committee minutes.

MOTION by Cochran, SUPPORT by Haagsma, to approve the May 7, 2014 Technical Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. FY2014-2017 TIP AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A** and an updated memo from MDOT, Robinson stated that the City of Walker and MDOT were requesting to amend/modify the FY2014-2017 TIP.

The City of Walker requested an amendment to the FY2014-2017 TIP to move an illustrative project—M-45 Tunnel Project—to the project list of the TIP. The potential TAP funded project has received conditional commitment only at this time.

MDOT’s requests are outlined in the table below:

FY	JN	Route	Location	Work Description	Phase	Total Cost Est. (\$000)	Change
15	112943	I-96	Under Cascade Road	Bridge Replacement	Const.	\$9,068	Cost Decrease
15	113389	I-96	Under Cascade Road	RT & LT lanes, N/M and related DDI elements	Const.	\$3,132	CMAQ Cost Increase
14	113389	I-96	Under Cascade Road	RT & LT lanes, N/M and related DDI elements	PE	\$200	CMAQ New Phase
14	110039	US-131	76 th St. to M-11	Freeway Lighting	Const.	\$852	Modifications (submitted earlier)
14	112071	M-11	M-45 to Remembrance Rd.	Resurface and minor widening of accel. lane	Const.	\$2,300	Change year and cost

15	120146	M-37 NB	Patterson Ave. – 52 nd St.	Commercial Vehicle Enforcement pad	Const.	\$115	New Project
15	120147	M-37 SB	7 Mile Rd – 8 Mile Rd.	Commercial Vehicle Enforcement pad	Const.	\$115	New Project
15	119013	US-131	10 Mile Rd. to M-46	Median Cross-overs (for future reconstruct. project in FY 17 &18)	Const.	\$1,740	Cost Increase
15	112567	M-21	Valley Vista Dr. to E. Kent County Line	Mill and Resurface	Const.	\$1,355	New Project
15	N/A	Various	Areawide – GPA	Trunkline Traffic/Safety	Const.	\$1,200	New Project
15	N/A	Various	Areawide – GPA	Trunkline Bridge CPM	Const.	\$1,800	New Project
15	N/A	Various	Areawide – GPA	Trunkline Railroad/Safety	Const.	\$130	New Project
15	N/A	Various	Areawide – GPA	Trunkline Road CPM	Const.	\$7,500	New Project
15	N/A	Various	Areawide – GPA	Trunkline Pre-Const.	Const.	\$1,200	New Project
15	N/A	Various	Areawide – GPA	Trunkline Scoping	Const.	\$400	New Project

Robinson noted that the fifth item in the table—M-11 from M-45 to Remembrance Road—was revised from the memo included in the agenda packet, which was why the memo was redistributed before the meeting began.

Kent stated that he would explain the GPAs more at the next committee meeting. He added that most of the projects listed regarded the Cascade Road at I-96 interchange project and involved moving funding between CMAQ and the bridge program. Itani asked when MDOT was going to begin work on the M-11 from M-45 to Remembrance Road project. Kind responded that if it goes in FY2015, work will likely begin in the early summer. Itani cautioned that if MDOT obligates the project in FY2014 but doesn't begin work on it for nine months, FHWA will have a problem with that. Discussion ensued.

Zull entertained a motion to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the requested amendments/modifications to the FY2014-2017 TIP.

MOTION by Haagsma, SUPPORT by Harrall, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the amendments/modifications to the FY2014-2017 TIP requested by the City of Walker and MDOT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. 2040 SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROJECTIONS

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A** and two maps on the wall which provided a visual of the SE data, Snell informed the Committee that he was requesting adoption of the final set of future socio-economic data for use in the GVMC 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). He noted that socio-economic data is comprised of population, housing, auto availability, and many types of employment forecasts through the year 2040. This data is a primary input of GVMC's travel demand modeling process and is used to predict future travel demand so that the MPO can plan the region's transportation systems accordingly.

Snell reminded the Committee that, earlier this year, Staff met with each member jurisdiction individually to discuss many topics that will help shape the development of the MTP. Base SE data was one of those topics. Using the information collected during these meetings, staff developed projections for each TAZ within each jurisdiction for all of the items listed on the previous page. Earlier this month, Snell sent a draft version of the SE data to the members for review. The deadline for that review has now expired. Snell further explained that once this data is adopted, staff can go ahead and determine deficiencies.

Warren asked what this means in terms of area growth, and what period of time this would occur over. Snell responded that the base year is 2010 and goes through 2040, and GVMC is showing growth of about half a percent per year over that time frame. Some areas, like Grand Rapids, are showing larger areas of growth than others, but all numbers are within the control number. He noted that this data will be reviewed again in another 3 ½ years.

Zull entertained a motion to recommend approval of the SE data to the Policy Committee.

MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Ghearing, to recommend approval of the 2040 socio-economic projections to the Policy Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Snell noted that the data can always be adjusted if Committee members have changes; staff just needs a baseline to move forward with at this point.

VI. 2040 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) UPDATE

Referring to **Item VI: Attachment A**, Snell noted that the MTP document will need to be completed in the next six months, and that staff is on track to meet this deadline. He anticipated that a draft document would be available in December. He added that there won't likely be a Tech or Policy Committee meeting in August, but the Transportation Programming Study Group will be meeting to discuss needs. Staff will bring the needs list to the Tech and Policy Committee in September for approval. In October, staff will bring the MTP Steering Committee back together, and they will prioritize the pool of projects. He stressed the importance of the Committee members staying involved in the MTP development process so that they are not surprised about anything that happens. He also encouraged the Committee members to let staff know if they have comments.

Zull asked for additional information on the public involvement piece of the MTP. Snell stated that public involvement for the MTP is active all the time, but the next official comment period will be for the draft list of deficiencies needs.

Zull also asked if there have been any consistent themes that have come up throughout the public involvement process. Snell responded that the recent survey that staff conducted included a question about whether or not residents would pay more to fix the roads. He stated that the answer was an overwhelming "yes," with a 2-1 margin. He said the most consistent feedback he hears is about the condition of the system. He also noted that staff has started to survey the federal aid system and will have more to report the next time the Committee meets.

Warren asked Snell if patching a bad spot here or there will impact the PASER rating of a segment of roadway. Snell stated that it would depend on the coverage, but that ratings go back to the worst condition on the corridor.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Schweitzer asked if the Non-Motorized Plan was approved by the Metro Council. Itani responded that the Non-Motorized Plan was approved by the Policy Committee in May, and that it didn't need to go on to Metro Council separately for approval. It will, however, be included in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan when it goes to them for approval.

Arends thanked the KCRC for the work they did in Alpine Township.

Itani gave the Committee an overview of GVMC's certification review and noted that it went rather smoothly and that he didn't believe that FHWA would find any deficiencies. However, FHWA will likely have best-practice recommendations for the MPO. Rachael Tupica from FHWA will be writing the report and will present it to the Committee. It will be completed in approximately three months. He also thanked Warren, Connors, and several Policy Committee members for attending the Policy Committee discussion part of the review.

Second, Itani stated that transportation funding is going to be cut at the end of July. FHWA indicated a while back that if no additional funds were added to the trust fund, by the end of July, the funds will run out. As of today, Congress hasn't done anything about this. After the end of July, states will receive reimbursement every couple of weeks or every month as they receive money from the gas tax. This shouldn't, however, impact the MPO process this year since the funding has already been obligated.

Last, Itani described the timeline for implementing performance-based planning and programming. Regulations regarding performance-based planning and programming were published on June 2nd and are available for comment for 90 days. Once the final regulations are published, GVMC will have two years to comply with MAP-21 requirements. There will also be mandates on the MPO to explain how every project in the MTP and TIP meet the goals in the MTP, so there will need to be a direct link between both documents. Emphasis will be put on setting goals and targets for safety and the NHS system, and Itani cautioned the Committee to make sure that the goals and targets they set are achievable. He added that FHWA has agreed to bring their people to educate the Committee. Itani further noted that there is a lot of emphasis on scenario planning in MAP-21, and that he has developed 5-6 scenarios with Snell. These scenarios must be multi-modal. Discussion ensued.

Itani also added that there is a question in MAP-21 about including transit agencies as part of the Metro Council board. He noted that this was also a regulation in SAFETEA-LU, but it was a grandfathered clause and didn't apply to GVMC because the organization was established before 1991. He noted that the Rapid is represented on the Policy Committee but not on GVMC's board. He stated that it's still debatable how that issue will be resolved, and that Metro Council can't change the board without going to change the law at the state level. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Zull entertained a motion to adjourn the July 2, 2014 Technical Committee meeting.

MOTION by Ghearing, SUPPORT by Harrall, to adjourn the July 2, 2014 Technical Committee meeting at 10:10 am. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.