

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, April 3, 2013
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave NW Grand Rapids, MI**

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

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**Voting Members Present**

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Wayne Harrall (<i>Chair</i>) | | Kent County |
| Jerry Alkema | | Allendale Township |
| Alex Arends | | Alpine Township |
| Timothy Cochran | | City of Wyoming |
| Scott Conners | | City of Walker |
| Rick DeVries | | City of Grand Rapids |
| Tim Haagsma | | Gaines Charter Township |
| Alan Hartley | <i>Proxy for Jan Hoekstra</i> | ITP-The Rapid |
| | <i>Proxy for Dan Strikwerda</i> | ITP-The Rapid |
| Jim Holtrop | <i>Proxy for Brett Laughlin</i> | Ottawa County |
| | | City of Hudsonville |
| Jack Klein | | OCRC |
| | | OCRC |
| Steve Redmond | | MDOT |
| Terry Schweitzer | | City of Kentwood |
| Phil Vincent | | City of Rockford |
| Steve Warren | | KCRC |
| Chris Zull (<i>Vice Chair</i>) | | City of Grand Rapids |

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Andrea Faber | GVMC Staff |
| Steve Hartman | Hope Network |
| Abed Itani | GVMC Staff |
| Norm Sevensma | WMEAC-RWBC |
| Jim Snell | GVMC Staff |
| Charlie Stein | MDOT |
| Rachael Tupica | FHWA |
| Mike Zonyk | GVMC |

Voting Members Not Present

| | |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| Dan Carlton | Georgetown Township |
| Ron Carr | City of Grandville |
| Mike DeVries | Grand Rapids Township |
| Bill Dooley | City of Wyoming |
| Ken Feldt | City of East Grand Rapids |
| Jim Ferro | Ada Township |

APPROVED

Roy Hawkins
Jan Hoekstra
Dennis Hoemke
Bob Homan
Mark Howe
Brett Laughlin
(Member awaiting appointment)
Tim Nelson
Audrey Nevins Weiss
Dave Pasquale
Steve Peterson
Chuck Porter
Tom Stressman
Dan Strikwerda
Martin Super
Toby VanEss

APPROVED
Item II: Attachment A

GRFIA
ITP-The Rapid
Algoma Township
Plainfield Township
City of Lowell
OCRC
Jamestown Township
Cannon Township
Byron Township
Grand Rapids Township
Cascade Charter Township
Courtland Township
City of Cedar Springs
City of Hudsonville
Village of Sparta
Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

MOTION by DeVries, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to approve the March 6, 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**, Itani explained two TIP amendment/modification requests to the Committee.

The first request, from MDOT, was to amend or modify the FY2011-2014 MPO TIP and the Draft FY2014-2017 TIP for the following projects:

FY2013-Trunkline Project Amendment/Modification (current TIP)

- US-131 10 Mile Rd. north to M-46 (17 Mile Rd.) (Job # 117992)
- M-37 (Broadmoor Ave.) 52nd St. north to 44th St. (Job #108915)

FY2014-Trunkline Project Amendment (new and current TIP)

- M-11 (28th St.) Kalamazoo Ave. East to Breton Ave. (Job #118134)
- M-37 (Broadmoor Ave.) 29th St. north to Lake Eastbrook Blvd. (Job 118845)

FY2015-Trunkline Project Amendment (new TIP)

- US-131 10 Mile Rd. north to M-46 (17 Mile Rd.) (Job # 119013)
- M-37 (Alpine Ave.) 3 Mile Rd. north to Alpenhorn Dr. (Job # 117998)

The second request, from Hope Network, was to add several projects to the FY2014 TIP using section 5310 funds. These projects included:

- 3 cutaway buses
- 3 light duty small cutaways
- Electronic vehicle inspection system
- Snow plow for service truck
- Computer equipment

Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Harrall entertained a motion to approve the TIP amendment/modification requests.

MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Haagsma, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the amendments/modifications to the FY2011-2014 and draft FY2014-2017 TIP requested by MDOT and Hope Network, as identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Itani stated that also included as part of **Item IV** of the agenda was a list of projects to receive \$3.7 million in carryover funding developed by the TPSG Committee at their March 21st meeting. Itani noted that the list included in the agenda packet contained errors and referred the Committee's attention to a new handout. Itani added that the list recommended by the TPSG Committee was currently overprogrammed by approximately \$90,000 with an 80/20 match.

Harrall stated that, at the March 21st TPSG meeting, there seemed to be some misconceptions about eligible projects. Itani clarified that, at the last TPSG meeting, Staff recommended that the Committee members choose projects from the old FY2011-2014 TIP because it would be easiest to move them forward as they have already gone through consultation, public involvement and Environmental Justice (EJ). He discouraged members from choosing projects from the new FY2014-2017 TIP because that would delay the development process, possibly causing staff to miss the October 1st deadline. He noted that if committee members have a completely new project for FY2013 or a project from the FY2014-2017 illustrative list that they want to move forward, staff is willing to go through the approval process required by MDOT and FHWA. Zull clarified that the list that the TPSG Committee developed contained no new projects so that it could be approved without any delays.

Connors stated that the listed total for the joint City of Walker/City of Grand Rapids Elmridge Avenue project was too high. DeVries clarified that the federal share listed was actually the total for the entire project. This reduced the amount that the project list was overprogrammed by approximately \$80,000.

Warren said that he wasn't able to attend the last TPSG Committee meeting and stated his disappointment that new projects weren't considered. He noted that in the past, the KCRC had moved forward many projects so that the area wouldn't lose any funding. This left them with no projects that were ready to go, and because of this, they did not receive any of the additional funding. He added that, in the past, the Committee has always worked to spread the funding between various jurisdictions. He also said that it would be difficult for him to support the proposed list when there was so much confusion about project eligibility.

Harrall added that he had discussed with Bill Dooley from Wyoming the possibility of scaling their 36th St. project back to its original limits and allowing the KCRC to receive the remaining funding for a GPA. He stated that Dooley was willing to consider this proposal. Itani responded that this would free up roughly \$350,000. However, he added that staff cannot go through public involvement, etc., with a GPA project that isn't defined. Therefore, he recommended that the KCRC choose a specific project.

Understanding Harrall's frustration with the process, DeVries offered to remove the City of Grand Rapids' Turner Avenue or Lake Dr. project from the list. Both projects are also in the new FY2014 TIP, and didn't need to be completed with this funding. Harrall asked that the Committee consider funding the KCRC's 3 Mile Road from Grand Rapids limits to the East Beltline project with remaining funds. After correcting the cost of the Elmridge project, adding the KCRC's 3 Mile project, scaling back the limits of the City of Wyoming's 36th project to its original limits, and removing both of the City of Grand Rapids' projects, there was enough funding left for a small project. No other projects were recommended for this funding, so DeVries chose to keep the Lake Dr. project on the list, and the list was programmed with a 79/21 match. Discussion ensued.

Itani stated that the Committee will need to go back and reprogram FY2014 of the TIP with projects from the illustrative list. Tupica added that, with the additional funding, FHWA had been encouraging MPOs to first look at projects that were overmatched, second, look at moving projects in the current TIP forward, and last, look at adding in brand new projects. She stated that the MPO appeared to be taking this approach. In addition, she cautioned the Committee members to make sure that they are ready to make expenditures on their projects when they obligate them so that they avoid being placed on the inactive project list. She also highly encouraged the Committee members to prioritize their illustrative list of projects. Discussion ensued.

Schweitzer stated his support of MDOT's 28th St. sidewalk project in FY2014. Tupica noted that MDOT's strategy for determining additional funding in FY2014 wasn't fully clear. Discussion ensued. Itani stated that MDOT's sidewalk project is on the list for consideration for FY2014, but added that, while this is a good project, the question is whether the locals want to use their funding on MDOT sidewalks when there are 321 miles of failed roads on the system. He noted that if funding was left over from other areas, it could possibly be used for this project. Redmond explained that this project is an opportunity for partnership. Warren noted that the MPO also had a policy against using STP funding on sidewalks and asked how the Committee could determine to fund sidewalk in one place and not another since sidewalks are needed in many locations. Itani added that enhancement funds can be used for sidewalks. Discussion ensued.

Harrall entertained a motion to approve the revised project list.

MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Conners, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the revised project list for the \$3.7 million in carryover funding, as identified. (Revisions included adjusting the cost of the City of Grand Rapids' Elmridge project for accuracy, scaling back the City of Wyoming's 36th St. project to its original limits, removing the City of Grand Rapids Turner project from this list (and funding it instead with FY2014 STP funding), and funding the KCRC's 3 Mile Rd. resurfacing project with the remaining funding.) **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

APPROVED

APPROVED
Item II: Attachment A

Harrall noted that GVMC would complete any public involvement activities necessary for the 3 Mile Road project.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Conners asked for an update on the projects that were temporarily removed from the FY2014-2017 TIP in order to avoid an air quality analysis. Snell replied that Staff is still awaiting a letter from the FHWA and the EPA. Discussion ensued.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Harrall entertained a motion to adjourn the April 3, 2013 Technical Committee meeting.

MOTION by Haagsma, SUPPORT by Alkema, to adjourn the April 3, 2013 Technical Committee meeting at 10:32 am. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.