

MINUTES

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, May 7, 2008  
Kent County Road Commission  
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI

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

**I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Voting Members Present**

Scott Conners	<i>(Vice Chair)</i>	City of Walker
Roger Belknap	<i>Proxy for Steve Warren</i>	Kent County Road Commission
Patrick Bush		City of Grand Rapids
Sandra M. Cornell-Howe		MDOT
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Wayne Harrall	<i>Proxy for Mike DeVries Bob Homan Tim Haagsma</i>	Kent County Grand Rapids Township Plainfield Township Gaines Township
Russ Henckel		City of Wyoming
Ken Klomparens		GRFIA
Brett Laughlin		OCRC
Gerald Mears		City of Wyoming
Terry Schweitzer		City of Kentwood
Conrad Venema	<i>Proxy for Jim Fetzer</i>	The Rapid

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Andrea Dewey	GVMC Staff
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Norm Sevensma	WMEAC-RWBC
Don Stypula	GVMC Staff
George Yang	GVMC Staff
Mike Zonyk	GVMC Staff

**Voting Members Not Present**

Sandra Ayers	Village of Caledonia
James Beelen	Allendale Township
Mike Berrevoets	City of Cedar Springs
Marta Brechting	Alpine Township
Ron Carr	City of Grandville

**APPROVED**

Dick Davies  
Sharon DeLange  
Dan DesJarden  
Mike DeVries  
Bill Dooley  
Ken Feldt  
Jim Fetzer  
Steve Groenenboom  
Tim Haagsma  
Don Hilton, Sr.  
Dennis Hoemke  
William Holland  
Jim Holtrop  
Bob Homan  
Dick Johnston  
Jim McIntyre  
Jim Miedema  
Audrey Nevins  
Steve Peterson  
Dan Strikwerda  
Steve Warren (*Chair*)  
Bill Wiersma

**APPROVED  
Item II: Attachment A**

Cannon Township  
Village of Sparta  
City of Lowell  
Grand Rapids Township  
City of Wyoming  
City of East Grand Rapids  
The Rapid  
Ada Township  
Kent County Road Commission  
Gaines Charter Township  
Algoma Township  
Georgetown Township  
Ottawa County  
Plainfield Township  
City of Rockford  
Courtland Township  
Jamestown Township  
Byron Township  
Cascade Charter Township  
City of Hudsonville  
Kent County Road Commission  
Tallmadge Township

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Connors entertained a motion to approve the April 2, 2008 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION by Bush, SUPPORT by Schweitzer, to approve the April 2, 2008 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sevensma pointed out that the Michigan Transportation Funding Task Force and the Citizen Advisory Committee discussed by Kent at the previous meeting contained no advocates for or experts on non-motorized transportation. Stypula stated that GVMC did try to advocate for individuals with backgrounds in non-motorized transportation. However, efforts didn't go as well as hoped.

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

Referring to **Item IV: Attachments A and B**, Itani spoke to the committee regarding several FY2008-2011 TIP amendments/modifications from the Kent County Road Commission and MDOT.

MDOT was requesting to bring three new projects into the FY2008-2011 TIP. These included a reconstruction project, I-196 from Fuller Avenue to I-96 (JN 45790), deploying various ITS technologies per the GVMC HPP earmark in the Grand Rapids Metro Area (JN 100492), and resurfacing and minor widening for the carpool lot at M-57 and US-131

(JN 87478). Kent provided additional information about these projects. Discussion, comments, and questions ensued.

Conners entertained a motion to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP to include the MDOT projects presented by Staff.

**MOTION by Henckel, SUPPORT by Laughlin, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of amending the FY2008-2011 TIP to include the MDOT projects previously identified by Staff. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Itani continued, stating that the Kent County Road Commission (KCRC) is also requesting to modify the FY2008-2011 TIP by switching the 60<sup>th</sup> and Kalamazoo Avenue CMAQ project in the FY2009 TIP with the Belmont Avenue at 10 Mile Road CMAQ project in the FY2008 TIP. The 60th/Kalamazoo Avenue Project would then move into the FY2008 TIP, while the Belmont Avenue at 10 Mile Road project would move into the FY2009 TIP. The amount of funding available for both projects is similar, but the Belmont Avenue project is \$94,000 more, which means that there will be an extra \$94,000 available for CMAQ funding in FY2008. Itani stated that the KCRC is asking that the extra funds be added to the Kalamazoo project in order to raise the federal match, but the final decision will be left to the committee.

Referring to a memo that he had handed out, Harrall provided additional information about the projects and their funding sources. Discussion continued.

Conners entertained a motion to modify the FY2008-2011 TIP to include switching the two projects discussed by Staff between FY2008 and FY2009.

**MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Bush, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of modifying the FY2008-2011 TIP to include the modifications discussed by Staff. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Dewey stated that she is going to be sending out a letter soon to reconvene the non-motorized committee. She asked those with an interest in joining this committee to let her know.

Dewey also provided an update on Rails and Trails. In the new 2010 transportation legislation, Rails and Trails is attempting to pass an earmark program for 2 billion dollars, which would allow 40 communities throughout the United States to receive 50 million dollars for non-motorized programs. In Michigan, Grand Rapids and Ann Arbor have been selected as potential areas to receive this funding, should this earmark be passed. Although this is a long shot, GVMC is working with the West Michigan Strategic Alliance and the West Michigan Trails and Communities Coalition to develop a proposal to give to the Rails and Trails Organization so that they can continue to lobby legislators in Congress. Itani added that if Rails and Trails is going to submit for an earmark, they will need the support of the MPO. Therefore, he stated that GVMC will not only work with them, but also bring together the non-motorized committee to develop a selection process for projects in case the earmark is approved. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

**APPROVED**

**APPROVED**  
**Item II: Attachment A**

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Conners adjourned the Technical Committee Meeting at 9:50 am.