

**MINUTES**

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, September 4, 2013  
Kent County Road Commission  
1500 Scribner NW      Grand Rapids, MI**

Harrall, 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**

Wayne Harrall ( <i>Chair</i> )	<i>Proxy for Mike DeVries Tim Haagsma</i>	Kent County Grand Rapids Township Gaines Charter Township Alpine Township City of Wyoming City of Walker City of Grand Rapids Ada Township City of Wyoming City of Wyoming ITP-The Rapid Ottawa County
Alex Arends		OCRC
Timothy Cochran		OCRC
Scott Conners		MDOT
Rick DeVries		City of Lowell
Jim Ferro		MDOT
Russ Henckel	<i>Proxy for Bill Dooley</i>	City of Kentwood
Jan Hoekstra		KCRC
Jim Holtrop		KCRC
Fred Keena	<i>Proxy for Brett Laughlin</i>	City of Grand Rapids
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for Mark Howe</i>	
Paul Lott		
Terry Schweitzer		
Rick Sprague	<i>Proxy for Steve Warren</i>	
Chris Zull ( <i>Vice Chair</i> )		

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Rod Ghearing	ITP-The Rapid
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Erick Kind	MDOT
Steve Redmond	MDOT
Darrell Robinson	GVMC
Suzanne Schulz	City of Grand Rapids
Norm Sevensma	WMEAC-RWBC
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff
Steve Waalkes	Michigan Concrete Assn.
George Yang	GVMC
Mike Zonyk	GVMC

APPROVED

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Item II: Attachment A

**Voting Members Not Present**

Jerry Alkema  
Ken Bergwerff  
Dan Carlton  
Ron Carr  
Mike DeVries  
Bill Dooley  
Ken Feldt  
Tim Haagsma  
Roy Hawkins  
Dennis Hoemke  
*(Member awaiting appointment)*  
Mark Howe  
Brett Laughlin  
Tim Nelson  
Audrey Nevins Weiss  
Steve Peterson  
Chuck Porter  
Tom Stressman  
Dan Strikwerda  
Toby VanEss  
Phil Vincent  
Steve Warren

Allendale Township  
Jamestown Township  
Georgetown Township  
City of Grandville  
Grand Rapids Township  
City of Wyoming  
City of East Grand Rapids  
Gaines Charter Township  
GRFIA  
Algoma Township  
Plainfield Township  
City of Lowell  
OCRC  
Cannon Township  
Byron Township  
Cascade Charter Township  
Courtland Township  
City of Cedar Springs  
City of Hudsonville  
Tallmadge Township  
City of Rockford  
KCRC

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Harrall entertained a motion to approve the July 10, 2013 Technical Committee minutes.

**MOTION by Conners, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to approve the July 10, 2013 Technical Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**IV. FY2014 TAP FUNDED PROJECTS (RECOMMENDED BY THE NON-MOTORIZED AND TPSG COMMITTEES) AND CMAQ PROJECT CHANGES**

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson stated that the Non-Motorized Committee met on August 13<sup>th</sup> to collaborate and provide the TPSG Committee a shortlist of possible projects for FY2014 TAP funds. The Non-Motorized Committee narrowed down a list of \$38 million in overall need to just under \$1 million based on project quality, value, and readiness for use of funds. On August 14, the TPSG Committee was tasked with evaluating this list, selecting the appropriate projects, and reducing the dollar amount to match the available funds. Robinson noted that the list developed at the TPSG Committee meeting (which included the City of East Grand Rapids voluntarily removing a project) was being brought forward to the Technical Committee for review and approval today, pending the technical review at MDOT.

Robinson continued, stating that the KCRC's FY2016 Belmont/Jupiter at 10 Mile Rd. project was found ineligible for CMAQ funding because it's a new facility. The KCRC

agreed to give up the CMAQ funding so long as the Committee agreed to fund the Belmont project if additional funds become available in the future. In order to utilize the remaining funding, MDOT/GVMC staff requested approval of a plan to move an ITP-The Rapid bus project from FY2014 to FY2016 to fill the hole left by the KCRC's project, and to fund sidewalks on 28<sup>th</sup> St. from Patterson Avenue to Breton Avenue with the local FY2014 CMAQ funding remaining in FY2014. Kent provided additional details about the project, explaining that the 20% match would be split between the two cities (Kentwood and Grand Rapids), and Kentwood will be the grant applicant for the project. MDOT will also add sidewalks from Breton Avenue to Kalamazoo Avenue using their own funding. The cost of both segments will be about \$750,000 each. ITP-the Rapid will also be involved in the project by adding connections from the bus stops and the transfer center to the sidewalk. Lastly, Robinson also noted that the City of Grand Rapids' V2V project, which connected vehicles to vehicles and vehicles to signals, was also determined to be ineligible for CMAQ funds in FY2017. Zull clarified that this wasn't an approved technology, and therefore, the project was deemed ineligible. The TPSG Committee will need to meet again to reprogram this funding.

Itani asked if the Committee needed to take official action on MDOT's sidewalk proposal since this item had been discussed previously and there had been general consensus to move ahead. Kent requested that there be a formal action on record. Discussion ensued.

Sevensma asked if there were any plans to extend the Fred Meyer Pioneer Trail sidewalk to reach the White Pine Trail. Harrall affirmed that there are plans to do this in the TIP. He noted that the project would likely be in FY2014 and include building that trail from the intersection of 3 Mile Road and Alpine across private property to West River Drive. From there, it would cross West River Drive and go into an abandoned rail corridor. The trail would go up the rail corridor to the existing staging area at North Park. Harrall asked that "north side" be removed from the project description for the Fred Meijer Pioneer Trail Sidewalk, as the side for the trail has not yet been determined. He suggested that "sidewalk" be removed from the description, since this will be a trail. He noted that "3 Mile" should also be listed in parenthesis for the location. Discussion ensued.

Harrall recapped the discussion and asked for a motion to recommend approval of the FY2014 TAP project list and the CMAQ program changes.

**MOTION by Kent, SUPPORT by Hoekstra, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the following: (1) the FY2014 TAP project list with the edits identified by Harrall and pending MDOT's technical review and (2) updating the FY2014 CMAQ project list to include 28<sup>th</sup> St. sidewalks from Patterson to Breton and the FY2016 CMAQ project list to include the ITP-The Rapid bus moved from FY2014 to accommodate the sidewalks. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **V. NON-MOTORIZED PLAN FUNDING POLICY**

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Zonyk stated that the Non-Motorized Committee requested to update the current Non-Motorized Plan funding policy as it relates to TAP and CMAQ funding. He explained that the Non-Motorized Committee would like to set a target of 50% of the TAP funds going toward projects from the Non-Motorized Plan and allowing the usage of CMAQ funds as an additional option for non-motorized projects. He noted that this had been discussed at TPSG, and the revised policy is as follows:

*All non-motorized projects included in the GVMC Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Non-Motorized Transportation Plan are eligible for funding as allowed under applicable federal-aid categories. One-half of the allocated funds to the MPO for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), at a minimum, shall be the target for use on bicycle and pedestrian related facility improvements. The allocated funds to the MPO for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program shall also be eligible and considered for use on bicycle and pedestrian facility improvements. All CMAQ funded non-motorized projects shall be addressed on a case by case basis to prove high use, mode shift, and connectivity and score well using the scoring criteria set forth in the Non-Motorized Plan. For the use of CMAQ funds all projects must demonstrate emission reduction and alleviate congestion.*

*All non-motorized projects requesting federal funds must be endorsed by the MPO to receive federal funds and be included in the MPO TIP.*

Harrall clarified that the 50% target for TAP funding was only a target, not a set-aside. Itani added that, originally, the Non-Motorized Committee had suggested a target of 25% of CMAQ funds for non-motorized projects, but the TPSG Committee decided to look at projects on their own merit before approving them. However, non-motorized projects do qualify for CMAQ funds if they meet the requirements. Itani also noted that this policy is being revised because staff is in the process of developing the Non-Motorized Plan. The only way this plan will be implemented is if there's a source to fund it.

Harrall noted that this new policy will supersede the policy approved on March 2, 2011, and entertained a motion to approve it.

**MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Zull, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the revised funding policy for Non-Motorized projects regarding TAP and CMAQ funding, as identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

Robinson provided the Committee with an update on FY2013 project obligation statuses. He noted that, after speaking with Eric Mullen, the following projects were identified as being behind: (1) 3 Mile Road from GR City Limits to the East Beltline—KCRC, (2) 36<sup>th</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> St. resurfacing jobs—City of Wyoming, (3) Monroe Ave from Knapp St to North Park—City of Grand Rapids, and (4) Planning Funds—GVMC. Since then, he has spoken with the agencies that had those projects. Harrall, Henckel, and DeVries also provided updates about the status of their respective projects, and Robinson explained the delay in the GVMC Planning Funds being obligated. The rest of the FY2013 list was obligated. Lott stated that he would put together a year-end report and double check obligation status of all jobs by the first of next week. Itani commented that all projects must be obligated before the Committee can tap into the unused obligational authority. Discussion ensued.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Harrall entertained a motion to adjourn the September 4, 2013 Technical Committee meeting.

**MOTION by DeVries, SUPPORT by Schweitzer, to adjourn the September 4, 2013 Technical Committee meeting at 10:04 am. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**