

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, September 12, 2012
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. The Committee members, staff, and guests present introduced themselves.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Wayne Harrall (*Chair*)

Ron Carr

Scott Conners

Rick DeVries

Jim Ferro

Tim Haagsma

Roy Hawkins

Russ Henckel

*Proxy for
Bill Dooley*

Jan Hoekstra

Dennis Kent

*Proxy for
Mark Howe*

Stephen Kepley

*Proxy for
Terry Schweitzer*

Brett Laughlin

Ray Lenze

Dave Pasquale

Joe Slonecki

*Proxy for
Ken Feldt*

Dan Strikwerda

Phil Vincent

Steve Warren

Kent County

City of Grandville

City of Walker

City of Grand Rapids

Ada Township

Gaines Charter Township

GRFIA

City of Wyoming

City of Wyoming

ITP-The Rapid

MDOT

City of Lowell

City of Kentwood

City of Kentwood

OCRC

MDOT

Grand Rapids Township

City of East Grand Rapids

City of East Grand Rapids

City of Hudsonville

City of Rockford

KCRC

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Dewey

Andrea Faber

Abed Itani

Erick Kind

Darrell Robinson

Norm Sevensma

Rick Sprague

George Yang

Mike Zonyk

GVMC Staff

GVMC Staff

GVMC Staff

MDOT

GVMC Staff

WMEAC-RWBC

KCRC

GVMC Staff

GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema

Alex Arends

Allendale Township

Alpine Township

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Roger Belknap
Dan Carlton
Timothy Cochran
Dick Davies
Mike DeVries
Bill Dooley
Ken Feldt
Dennis Hoemke
Jim Holtrop
Bob Homan
Mark Howe
Jim Miedema
Audrey Nevins Weiss
Steve Peterson
Chuck Porter
Terry Schweitzer
Martin Super
Toby VanEss
Chris Zull

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Item II: Attachment A
City of Cedar Springs
Georgetown Township
City of Wyoming
Cannon Township
Grand Rapids Township
City of Wyoming
City of East Grand Rapids
Algoma Township
Ottawa County
Plainfield Township
City of Lowell
Jamestown Township
Byron Township
Cascade Charter Township
Courtland Township
City of Kentwood
Village of Sparta
Tallmadge Township
City of Grand Rapids

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Harrall entertained a motion to approve the July 11, 2012 Technical Committee meeting minutes.

MOTION by Laughlin, SUPPORT by Haagsma, to approve the July 11, 2012 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**, Robinson noted that several jurisdictions were requesting to amend/modify the FY2011-2014 TIP.

First, Robinson explained that the City of Grand Rapids was requesting to (1) delete the Leonard Street – I-96 EB Ramps to I-96 WB Ramps project from the FY2013 TIP, (2) Increase the Federal Cost for Elmridge Drive from \$748,440 to \$874,314 by the \$125,874 previously designated for Leonard Street – I-96 EB Ramps to I-96 WB Ramps, and (3) Change the limits of the City of Walker’s Elmridge Drive from 3 Mile Road to South City Limit to 3 Mile Road to 400’ South of the South City limit. Robinson noted that the Elmridge Drive project has a PASER rating of a 3 or 4 and lacks curb and gutter, which makes it an eligible project. DeVries noted that there is a segment of Elmridge Drive to the south that is fully improved with curb and gutter. He noted that if this project is not done, there’d be a fully improved street in Grand Rapids but not in Walker. He added that part of this project will include connecting two dead-end water mains and providing sewer service for the 400’ segment. Discussion ensued.

Second, referring to several handouts, Hoekstra explained several requests from the Rapid.

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Item II: Attachment A

- The first of these requests was to amend the TIP for FY2013 in preparation of the FY2013 section 5307/5339 and 5310 grants. The Activity Line Items (ALIs) listed in the handout reflected the changes, and all other ALIs will remain the same.
- The second of these requests was to amend the FY2013 Unified Planning Work Program. She noted that FTA has requested that the Section 5339 Corridor Study for the Laker Line be placed in the UPWP.
- The last request was to move forward the unobligated FY2012 funds to the FY2013 TIP. Specifically, Hoekstra requested (1) to move the FY2012 Park and Ride Lot project with a Federal amount of \$287,868 to the FY2013 TIP (CMAQ), (2) to move the FY2012 Corridor Study project with a Federal amount of \$600,000 and supported with a Toll Revenue Credit (TRC) match from MDOT (5339), (3) to remove the remaining BRT projects from the illustrative list, and (4) to move \$12,071,942 of unobligated Federal funds from the FY2012 BRT line item; to be combined with FY2013 Federal funds of \$14,860,800 for a Federal funding total of \$26,932,742 in FY2013 (leaving \$1,963,200 obligated federal funds in FY2012 for 5309).

Itani asked for clarification on carrying forward unobligated CMAQ funds. Lenze noted that the funding is lost if it's not obligated. Hoekstra clarified that the money has already been transferred, but it needs to appear in the FY2013 TIP. Lenze noted that the money should not be listed as CMAQ funds, but as FTA funds instead. Robinson stated that he would list the projects in the TIP as being funded with 5307 funds instead of CMAQ.

Kent asked for a timeline to be given for the BRT study on the Laker Line. Hoekstra replied that there is no timeline yet; however, it will probably begin this spring. Discussion ensued.

The last TIP amendment request was from the Georgetown Seniors. They requested to move their Medium Duty Bus project in FY2012 to FY2013. The funding would also increase from \$104,000 Federal, \$26,000 State to \$142,208 Federal, \$35,552 State, for a total of \$177,760. It was noted that this cost increase does not impact other Federal or local projects or financial constraint. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Harrall entertained a motion to amend the FY2011-2014 TIP.

MOTION by Pasquale, SUPPORT by Warren, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the amendments/modifications to the FY2011-2014 TIP requested by the City of Grand Rapids, the Rapid (with the notation that their unobligated CMAQ funds from FY2012 would be listed in the FY2013 TIP as 5307 funds), and Georgetown Seniors, as identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. FY2012 ADDITIONAL FEDERAL FUNDS

Robinson provided the Committee with an update on an email sent Friday, 8/17/2012, that notified Committee members that additional federal funding may be available for FY2012 from the HPPP program. At the time the email was sent, it was estimated that an additional \$300,000 to \$400,000 may be available for the area. Since the fiscal year ends on September 30th, the Committee members were urged to send Robinson their shovel-ready projects from the FY2011-2014 TIP that could be obligated before the end of the fiscal year as soon as possible.

Since the time this email was sent, Robinson has spoken to MDOT and learned that this funding is mostly unspent money from the east side of the state and from a major project in

the UP. These areas will have the first priority in using the money. If these areas are unable to spend the funding, then MDOT will spend it within the area it was originally given to. Therefore, no funds will be available for GVMC because there are no remaining unspent funds for this area. Discussion ensued.

Itani noted that, since this is HPPP funding, it should go through the distribution formulas, and TMAs should receive a portion of it. Lenze replied that the root of the problem is that the funding must be spent by the end of the year or it will be lost. Itani added that GVMC Staff appreciates what MDOT does, but added that the area wants more funding. Lenze replied that the best way to be prepared for additional funds in the future is to get projects, even in the 3rd and 4th year of the TIP, moving through the process as quickly as possible.

Itani noted that the KCRC's 84th St. project received additional funds and was a net gain for the area. Harrall added that the KCRC's 68th St. project may also be able to be obligated. Robinson noted that the Committee could have an extra \$800,000 for projects in FY2014 of the TIP because of additional funding for these projects. Warren asked when the new TIP would begin to be developed. Itani responded that development of the next TIP would begin in October. Robinson noted that he has not yet received the financial estimates, which may potentially delay the development of the TIP. Itani added that while we have the bill, we don't have the methodologies as to how the funding will be distributed. However, it doesn't appear that the MPOs will need to change what they have programmed in the TIP for FY2013. Lenze also noted that CMAQ funding is no longer 100% federal. It is now 80/20. (However, rideshare is still 100% federal.) Because of this change, Lenze asked the Committee members to check with Robinson to see if their FY2013 CMAQ project matches will need to change from 100% federal to 80/20.

VI. NEW TRANSPORTATION BILL (MAP 21) UPDATE

Referring to **Item VI: Attachment A**, Itani noted that he had included a presentation from FHWA on MAP-21 in the agenda packet which FHWA staff will eventually present to the Committee. In the meantime, he shared a few highlights about the new bill, including:

- There will be seven funding programs, including safety, freight, STP, metropolitan planning, etc. (There were close to 30 programs in SAFETEA-LU.)
- The biggest change is that the feds are requiring the MPOs and the State to develop performance-based plans. Staff will need to give a brief description on how projects are going to meet these goals. The FHWA has 18 months to come up with the performance measures. Once they are developed, they will need to be adopted by the State and the TMAs.
- PL money dropped to the 2009 level. However, the population of the MPO area went up by 7%, which helped to make up for some of the shortfall.

Harrall added that, under MAP-21, the HRRR program will now fall under the umbrella of the Safety program. He noted that HRRR projects were previously funded at 90/10, but safety projects were funded at 80/20. He asked what the funding split will be for FY2013 for these projects. Lenze suggested that Harrall contact the person from MDOT that he's working with, as there might be a different answer for every project impacted. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Harrall asked if a TPSG meeting will be held in October about developing the new TIP. Robinson asked the Committee members to stay tuned for more information.

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Item II: Attachment A

Kent noted that the State Transportation Commission will be meeting in Grand Rapids on October 24th.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Harrall adjourned the September 12, 2012 Technical Committee meeting at 10:12 am.