

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, November 4, 2009
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Warren, chair of the Technical Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:36 am.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Steve Warren (Chair)		KCRC
Alex Arends		Alpine Township
Mike Bouwkamp		City of Rockford
Patrick Bush		City of Grand Rapids
Timothy Cochran		City of Wyoming
Sandra M. Cornell-Howe		MDOT
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Tim Haagsma		Gaines Charter Township
Wayne Harrall	<i>Proxy for Mike DeVries</i>	Kent County
		Grand Rapids Township
Russ Henckel	<i>Proxy for Bill Dooley</i>	City of Wyoming
		City of Wyoming
Brett Laughlin		OCRC
Steve Peterson		Cascade Charter Township
Terry Schweitzer		City of Kentwood

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Dewey	GVMC Staff
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Norm Sevensma	RWBC-WMEAC
George Yang	GVMC Staff
Mike Zonyk	GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Sandra Ayers	Village of Caledonia
Mike Berrevoets	City of Cedar Springs
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Ron Carr	City of Grandville
Scott Connors	City of Walker
Dick Davies	Cannon Township
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta

CORRECTED AND APPROVED

Dan DesJarden
Mike DeVries
Bill Dooley
Ken Feldt
Steve Groenenboom
Roy Hawkins
Dennis Hoemke
Jim Holtrop
Bob Homan
Taiwo Jaiyeoba
Jim Miedema
Audrey Nevins
Chuck Porter
Dan Strikwerda
Toby VanEss

CORRECTED AND APPROVED
ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A

City of Lowell
Grand Rapids Township
City of Wyoming
City of East Grand Rapids
Ada Township
GRFIA
Algoma Township
Ottawa County
Plainfield Township
The Rapid
Jamestown Township
Byron Township
Courtland Township
City of Hudsonville
Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Warren entertained a motion to approve the September 2, 2009 Technical Committee meeting minutes.

MOTION by Laughlin, SUPPORT by Arends, to approve the September 2, 2009 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sevensma asked the Committee for a recommendation on who to contact to have maintenance done on the multi-use path located South of Wilson that continues to Jenison along the river in order to remove an obtrusive ledge. Discussion ensued.

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

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A** and several handouts, Robinson informed the Committee about several FY2008-2011 TIP amendment requests.

The first request, from the City of Lowell, was to modify the TIP to allow for a slight re-configuration of the Bowes Road projects and the assignment of the ARRA funds. The City’s proposal would call for two projects—reconstruction of Bowes Road from Valley Vista Street to 1950 feet west and micro seal of Bowes Road from South Hudson Street to Valley Vista Street—to be combined, and for a change in scope of the micro seal portion, as per the letter from the City of Lowell distributed by Robinson.

The second request, from the Ottawa County Road Commission (OCRC), was to fund a project on 20th Avenue at Baldwin Street, which would involve the addition of dedicated left and right turn lanes on 20th Avenue at a cost of \$238,000 federal, utilizing a portion of the surrendered FY2010 CMAQ funds.

The third request, from the City of Grand Rapids, was to fund a project named ITS Traffic Signal Communications, Traffic Operations Center Upgrades at a cost of \$150,000 federal, also utilizing a portion of the surrendered FY2010 CMAQ funds.

The fourth request, from the Kent County Road Commission, was to add a new CMAQ project at the intersection of Cascade, Spaulding, and Hall Street to the TIP. This project would use \$126,458 in previously surrendered federal CMAQ funds. With this request, the KCRC also asked to amend the TIP to allow for a reconstruct and widening project on Northland Drive from M-57 to Indian Lakes Road. The cost of this project would be \$2,072,000 federal and would utilize the surrendered EDFC funds.

MDOT provided the last requests. The first request was to amend the Highway Safety Local GPA and the Bridge Local GPA. MDOT also requested to add three trunkline bridge rehabilitation projects to the FY2008-2011 TIP specifically for FY2010. The first bridge was on US-131 under 32nd Street. The second bridge is on I-96 over 28th Street, and the last bridge is on I-96 westbound over C & M railroad. The total estimate for all three bridges is \$2,102,000. MDOT's last request was to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP to include the AMTRAK station and track relocation project planned for FY2010.

Cornell-Howe stated that MDOT's bridge rehabilitation projects were moved up from later on in the 5-year plan in order to show the "maintenance of effort" that is necessary for ARRA funds. Discussion ensued.

Robinson also referred the Committee to a handout entitled "Transportation Enhancement Program." He stated that the City of Walker's enhancement project—the Frederik Meijer Standale Trail—has been approved by MDOT. Discussion, comments, and questions ensued.

Bush questioned whether the City of Walker's enhancement project should be listed in the TIP. Itani affirmed that the project should be accounted for under the GPAs.

Warren entertained a motion to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP.

MOTION by Bush, SUPPORT by Peterson, to recommend to the Policy Committee amending the FY2008-2011 TIP to include project requests from MDOT, the City of Lowell, the Ottawa County Road Commission, the City of Grand Rapids, and the Kent County Road Commission, as identified.

Harrall commented that there is an enhancement project in Byron Township that hasn't yet been obligated but has been given conditional approval. Cornell-Howe instructed Harrall to give the project total to Robinson so that it could be funded through the GPA.

Warren returned the motion in question to the floor. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Itani stated that there is no formal date to submit an application for enhancement projects to MDOT and that there is no limit to the number of projects that can be submitted. Cornell-Howe provided additional information about the application process for enhancement projects from MDOT.

Itani stated that MDOT and FHWA are changing the frequency of how often they will complete TIP amendments. Amendments will still go through monthly Tech and Policy meetings as usual. However, MDOT and FHWA will not process the amendments unless

they fit with their amendment periods. Cornell-Howe stated that MDOT would likely choose certain months where they would not do any amendments. Once these months are determined, they will be shared at MTPA.

Harrall asked if a TIP amendment would be necessary to get the Byron Township enhancement project on 84th Street in FY2010 added into the GPA in the TIP. Harrall added that the cost was approximately \$550,000 for this project. Cornell-Howe added that this project could be part of the FY2008-2011 TIP amendment by adding the cost of the project to the GPA. Harrall stated that he would e-mail specifics about the project to Robinson.

Warren entertained a motion to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP by adding additional funding to the GPAs.

MOTION by Harrall, SUPPORT by Schweitzer, to recommend approval to the Policy Committee of amending the FY2008-2011 TIP by adding \$550,000 for the Byron Township 84th Street streetscape enhancement project to the GPA fund as a FY2010 project. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Referring to a letter from MDOT, Cornell-Howe explained how the redistribution of ARRA funds would work. MDOT intended to have the list of eligible projects finalized by December 30, 2009. If the local agency has not provided the Grade Inspection package to LAP by this date, MDOT will no longer keep the project active, but will seek alternative projects to use the funding. Additionally, in the event that a planned project does not meet the interim deadline, MDOT will first contact the local agency and their associated Rural Task Force (RTF) or Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to determine if they have a project that has developed plans and can be immediately implemented. A decision must be made by January 8, 2010, if a project is available. If the RTF or MPO cannot deliver a project, MDOT will contact other local agencies statewide and determine if there is any agency with developed plans for a project which can be immediately implemented. A decision will be made by January 15, 2010 if a project is available. If no local agencies' projects are available for immediate implementation, MDOT will identify a trunkline project to use the remainder of the funds.

Robinson stated that Committee members will need to inform the MPO on how committed they are to the projects on the B or C lists for stimulus funding. Only B and C list projects or projects already in the TIP will be eligible to be chosen, since they have already gone through the public involvement and environmental justice procedures. Cornell-Howe suggested that Staff develop funding scenarios for these projects. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Itani asked the Committee members to send any projects that they are committed to moving forward to Robinson. Itani also suggested that agencies with advance construction conversions projects in FY2010 send their paperwork to MDOT as soon as possible.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Warren adjourned the November 4, 2009 Technical Committee meeting at 10:20 am.