

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, November 4th, 2015
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Zull, chair of the Technical Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Chris Zull (*Chair*)
Alex Arends
Terry Brod
Ron Carr
Scott Conners
Rick DeVries
Bill Dooley
Jim Ferro
Rod Ghearing
Wayne Harrall

*Proxy for
Mike DeVries
Tim Haagsma*

Roy Hawkins
Jim Holtvluwer
Doug LaFave
John Lanum
Brett Laughlin
Matt McConnon
Terry Schweitzer
Dan Strikwerda
Steve Warren
Rod Weersing

City of Grand Rapids
Alpine Township
Cannon Township
City of Grandville
City of Walker
City of Grand Rapids
City of Wyoming
Ada Township
ITP-The Rapid
Kent County
Grand Rapids Township
Gaines Charter Township
KCDA/GRFIA
Ottawa County
East Grand Rapids
MDOT
OCRC
Courtland Township
City of Kentwood
City of Hudsonville
KCRC
Georgetown Township

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Mallory Avis
Mike Brameijer
Danielle Coles
Andrea Faber
Erin Haviland
Abed Itani
Dennis Kent
Erick Kind
Darrell Robinson
Norm Sevensma
Rachel Tupica
Dan VanderHeide

MDOT-Transit
GVMC Staff
FHWA
GVMC Staff
GVMC Staff
GVMC Staff
MDOT
MDOT
GVMC Staff
WMEAC-RWBC
FHWA
City of Kentwood

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema
Ken Bergwerff
Tim Bradshaw
Tim Cochran
Mike DeVries
Bill Fischer
Tim Haagsma
Dennis Hoemke
Audrey Nevins Weiss
Steve Peterson
Tom Stressman
Roger Towsley
Toby VanEss
Phil Vincent
Ron Woods

Allendale Township
Jamestown Township
City of Kentwood
City of Wyoming
Grand Rapids Township
Plainfield Township
Gaines Charter Township
Algoma Township
Byron Township
Cascade Charter Township
City of Cedar Springs
Village of Sand Lake
Tallmadge Township
City of Rockford
City of Lowell

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Zull entertained a motion to approve the September 2nd, 2015 Tech Committee minutes.

MOTION by Ghearing, SUPPORT by Holtvluwer, to approve the September 2nd, 2015 Technical Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sevensma informed the Committee that there is a proposal to make November National Bike Month and there are bicycles available now that can be ridden year-round, including snow and rough terrain; therefore, he asked Committee members to be more aware of bicyclists year-round and suggested keeping the facilities for bicyclists open longer.

IV. FY 2014-2017 TIP AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson explained the following TIP amendment/modification requests to the Committee:

- ITP-The Rapid is requesting to amend/modify the following FY2016 projects listed in the FY2014-2017 TIP.

Section 5307

TIP Line	Project	Original Federal Budget	Amended Federal Request
284	Replacement Buses CNG	840,000	1,000,000
308	Replacement Paratransit Buses	360,000	0
341	CNG Fueling Station	200,000	2,800,000
287	Surveillance/Security	87,831	89,739
288	Office Furniture/Equipment	33,949	0
289	A&E	918,128	0
311	Laker Line Project	1,240,051	0
290	Shop Equipment	164,800	0
291	Facility Equipment	164,800	0
292	Storage/Shelving Units	12,731	0
293	Computer Hardware	40,000	0
294	Computer Software	20,000	0
295	ITS/Smart Cards	910,922	1,827,551
296	Service Vehicles	62,381	0
297	Misc. Support Equipment	39,211	0
299	Rehab Admin Maint Facility	1,038,128	0
	Rehab ROC/CNG		227,614
304	Passenger Shelters	87,831	44,869
300	Preventive Maintenance	1,103,336	1,000,000
302	Misc. Contingencies	42,436	40,000
305	Bus Stop Signs	8,000	44,869
307	Planning Funds (UPWP)	360,000	487,702

- MDOT is requesting to amend/modify several FY2016 & FY2017 projects and GPAs listed in the FY2014-2017 TIP. Kent explained that they have several projects that are increasing or decreasing in cost, and some are just showing a change in the GPAs. Kent noted a new project not mentioned on the document was 68th to 131, car pool lot, property exchange with Byron Twp. This will be added to FY2016. The bridge over the Grand River project will increase by \$300,000. Kent would like these added to their original list.
- GVMC Staff is requesting to move the Remembrance Road from Walker Village Drive to Fred Meijer Standale Trail sidewalk project from the illustrative list to the main project list. This project has preliminary approval for FY2016 TAP funding. Staff is also requesting to move the City of Wyoming's previously approved FY2015 TAP funded Widening and Resurfacing Inter-Urban Trail project to FY2016.
- Harrall explained that due to the tight timelines for getting projects out to bid, the Kent County Road Commission requested the following illustrative project be added to the 2014-2017 TIP for fiscal year 2016 on the condition they are able to confirm the purchase of additional STP Rural funds from another county prior to this TIP Amendment being submitted to MDOT: Lincoln Lake Avenue from 6 to 7 Mile road. Rural STP funds are \$800,000; total project cost is \$1,000,000. They also proposed to advance construct the portion of Lincoln Lake Avenue from 7 mile to M-44, contingent upon the above referenced TIP amendment. This means doing 3 miles in one year as opposed to 1 mile each year for 3 years. Discussion ensued.

Ghearing stated that the reason for moving money in their TIP is for the implementation of a compressed natural gas station. Discussion ensued.

Zull asked for comments on each amendment. Hearing none, he asked for a motion.

MOTION by Ghearing, SUPPORT by Schweitzer, to approve the FY2014-2017 TIP amendments/modifications requested by ITP-The Rapid, MDOT, GVMC Staff, and the KCRC. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. FY 2017-2020 TIP UPDATE

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A** and several display boards, Robinson passed out handouts and explained the process for the development of the FY2017-2020 TIP.

The first handout is the development schedule for the FY2017-2020 TIP.

- Identification of Deficiencies- November MPO Mtg. 2015
- Jurisdiction Project nominations due-November 30, 2015
- Revenue Estimates (pending MDOT)-November 2015
- Draft project Selection-January 13, 2016
- Projects added to "Map" database-February-March 2016
- Environmental Justice Analysis-February-March 2016
- Consultation-End of March-August 2016
- Public Involvement-December 2015-August 2016
- Final Projects Lists-May 2016 MPO Mtg.
- MPO TIP Approval & Document-May 2016 MPO Mtg.-GVMC Board-June 2016
- Submittal of TIP to MDOT-June-July 2016 MPO Mtg.

- FHWA, FTA, and EPA Review & Approval-July MPO meeting-September MPO Mtg. 2016

Tupica asked for clarification on how projects are prioritized and selected. Itani responded that projects are selected based on the guidelines in the Policies and Practices for Programming Projects document and through a cooperative process that includes meetings among the MPO members. Tupica stated that with performance-based planning on the horizon, the MPO may want to consider formalizing or documenting their project selection process for the TIP. Discussion ensued.

The second handout was a development schedule for the FY2017-2020 STIP/TIP from MDOT. This document shows milestones that the MPO will need to strive to meet in submitting documents and information to MDOT. One of the main deadlines is submitting the final snapshot by March 1st. Discussion ensued.

The third handout was on Category C-Urban Congestion Relief. Itani stated that he had received questions from Committee members if EDFC funds could be flexed for projects that don't include widening. Itani gave examples of projects that EDFC could be used for, including resurfacing, but that projects must still meet the criteria of 10,000 for two lanes or 25,000 for four lanes. Itani stated that he has asked Robinson to research this topic further. Robinson stated that he would follow up on this with an e-mail. Also included in this email would be information on the call for projects. Discussion ensued.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- MDOT State Long-Range Transportation Plan (SLRTP) update.

Kent explained that the agenda packet included a document on the SLRTP update. Two webinars regarding this document will be held on November 10, 2015 from 2-4pm and again on November 12, 2015 from 6-8pm. He clarified that this is a policy document, not a project document.

- Election of Chair and Vice Chair.

Zull noted that his two-year term as chair of the Technical Committee has expired and that, traditionally, the vice chair of the Committee would step into the chairmanship role. Schweitzer, the current vice chair, informed the Committee that he has been reassigned to the Policy Committee. Zull then asked for nominations for chair and vice chair.

Schweitzer nominated Harrall to serve as chair. Warren nominated DeVries to serve as chair or vice chair. However, Warren noted that the City of Grand Rapids Committee members would then serve back to back terms if DeVries was selected chair.

MOTION by Arends, SUPPORT by Schweitzer, to close nominations and elect Harrall to serve a two-year term as chair of the Technical Committee, and elect DeVries to serve a two-year term as vice chair of the Technical Committee. Both terms would start in January of 2016. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Kent stated that Roger Stafford is retiring at the end of the calendar year, and MDOT expects to appoint a replacement by the end of the calendar year.

- Kent stated that the State transportation bill passed last night and will result in an increase in the gas tax rate and registration fees. It will be incremental and take place starting January 1, 2017. Lanum went on to explain the gas tax will increase from 7.3 cents to 26.3 cents, and then registration fees will increase 20%. The governor is expected to sign this bill. Discussion ensued.
- Arends stated that Alpine Township was the recipient of TAP funds for a sidewalk project. He thanked the Transportation Committees, Robinson, and Harrall for their help in getting this project.
- Tupica stated that there is an extension for MAP-21, so there is transportation authorization for a couple more weeks. Congress is working on other funding options, such as the DRIVE act. Itani added that the House and Senate passed a two-year budget. However, there's no obligational authority associated with the budget.

Everyone thanked Zull for all his work as chair of the Tech Committee.

Itani noted that the Technical Committee will not be meeting in December. However, Committee members should plan on meeting in January.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Zull adjourned the November 4th, 2015 Technical Committee meeting at 10:47 am.