

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, November 5, 2014
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Zull, chair of the Technical Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:32 am. All Committee members, staff, and guests present introduced themselves.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Chris Zull (<i>Chair</i>)		City of Grand Rapids
Alex Arends		Alpine Township
Ron Carr		City of Grandville
Timothy Cochran		City of Wyoming
Scott Conners		City of Walker
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Jim Ferro		Ada Township
Rod Ghearing		ITP-The Rapid
Tim Haagsma		Gaines Charter Township
Russ Henckel	<i>Proxy for Bill Dooley</i>	City of Wyoming
	<i>Proxy for Mark Howe</i>	City of Wyoming
Dennis Kent		MDOT
		City of Lowell
Brett Laughlin		OCRC
Paul Lott		MDOT
Terry Schweitzer (<i>Vice Chair</i>)		City of Kentwood
Joe Slonecki		East Grand Rapids
Dan Strikwerda		City of Hudsonville
Roger Towsley		Village of Sand Lake
Steve Warren	<i>Proxy for Wayne Harrall</i>	KCRC
		Kent County

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Henry Betten	Cannon Township
Danielle Coles	FHWA
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Erin Haviland	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Erick Kind	MDOT
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff
Rachael Tupica	FHWA
Mike Zonyk	GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
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Ken Bergwerff
 Dan Carlton
 Mike DeVries
 Bill Dooley
 Bill Fischer
 Wayne Harrall
 Roy Hawkins
 Dennis Hoemke
 Jim Holtrop
 Mark Howe
 Audrey Nevins Weiss
 Steve Peterson
 Chuck Porter
 Tom Stressman
 Toby VanEss
 Phil Vincent
 Member awaiting appointment

Jamestown Township
 Georgetown Township
 Grand Rapids Township
 City of Wyoming
 Plainfield Township
 Kent County
 KCDA/GRFIA
 Algoma Township
 Ottawa County Commissioner
 City of Lowell
 Byron Township
 Cascade Charter Township
 Courtland Township
 City of Cedar Springs
 Tallmadge Township
 City of Rockford
 Cannon Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Zull entertained a motion to approve the September 3rd, 2014 Technical Committee minutes.

MOTION by Ghearing, SUPPORT by DeVries, to approve the September 3rd, 2014 Technical Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. FY2014-2017 TIP AMMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson explained several requests to amend/modify the FY 2014-2015 TIP. ITP-The Rapid requested to modify the costs of three FY2015 TIP Projects, Bus Tire Lease, Computer Software, and Planning Funds. MDOT’s four requests included: (1) increasing the cost of the Grand Rapids TSC HMA crack treatments GPA, (2) adding two new GPAs: WB Off-Ramp to M-11 Pavement Repairs for construction and PE, and (3) correcting an error in the total project cost for the Grand River to Cascade Road Mill and Resurface/CPM project. The City of Grand Rapids requested an administrative modification to change the project limits of a FY2015 TIP project—Fulton Street-Woodward Ave. to Lakeside Ave—from 0.29 miles to 0.383 miles. DeVries provided additional details about the project.

There are two walk-ons to add to the list. Kent County Road Commission requested the following MDOT selected TAP projects be added to the 2014-2017 TIP for fiscal year 2015:

- Burroughs Street Bridge PM Project (Historical Restoration)
- Caledonia Trails – Phase 1

Robinson noted that the Caledonia Trails project is a conditional commitment.

Robinson also explained that the City of Wyoming had a TAP project in FY2014 to connect their urban area trail to the City of Kentwood Trail. He was told yesterday that the project can be moved forward to FY2015. However, some creative financing will need to be done for the project.

MOTION by Ghearing, SUPPORT by Haagsma, to recommend to the Policy Committee endorsement of the FY2014-2017 TIP Amendment/Modifications requested by ITP-The Rapid, MDOT, the KCRC, the City of Grand Rapids, and the City of Wyoming. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. 2040 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN – FUTURE FUNDING STRATEGY

Snell explained a handout that was passed out concerning the Congestion Management Process. Snell stated this was not for action today; he just wanted to give the Committee an idea of what the process is. Snell stated that he could email a copy to whoever would like to have one. Tupica complimented Snell on the format of the handout since it clarified the MPO's congestion management process. Kent asked if the staff could note somehow within the document which projects are environmentally clear and indicate MDOT's commitment to build them. Snell stated that Staff can do this.

Snell went over the 2040 MTP Funding Alternative Analysis. The handout goes over five major funding categories: Congestion Mitigation, Non-Motorized, Pavement Conditions, Safety, and Transit. All of these categories except for pavement have a dedicated funding source. There is \$505,000,000 in flexible funding available between now and 2040, and the goal for today's meeting is to endorse a funding strategy for this funding. Snell laid out several options, including a "do nothing" approach to continuing the path we're on today with dedicating all of the available funding to pavement. He conducted an analysis which shows what happens if nothing is done versus putting that money to use in one or several categories. For the purpose of discussion, Snell put \$505,000,000 into the Pavement Condition category; however, it is up to the committee to determine where the flexible funding should go. The source for the flexible funding is the STP fund, NHPP, and some local funding. Itani reiterated that the debate the Committee needs to have is whether all of the flexible funding should continue to be dedicated to pavement, or if it should be allocated to other fund sources as well. He added that the Committee will need to decide what measures of effectiveness they will use for various categories in the future. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Haagsma, to recommend to the Policy Committee endorsement of the third funding strategy—continuing the current path of dedicating the flexible funding to pavement. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. NATIONAL FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION STATEWIDE REVIEW

Referring to **Item VI: Attachment A**, Zonyk explained that he recently received an informational packet from MDOT with guidance on the National Functional Classification (NFC) statewide review process. The agenda included a summary of the process and a timeline. The first order of business will be a study group/workshop meeting. More information will be shared at that time about how to move forward. There will be an opportunity to bring modifications for functional classification changes through the MPO process for review. Discussion ensued.

VII. GENERAL PROGRAM ACCOUNT (GPA)

Robinson stated that MDOT encouraged MPOs to move forward with adding local projects into GPAs. In the past, only MDOT has used GPAs. Robinson went on to explain what he would like to see is the projects using the funding accounts such as STP, CMAQ, EDFC, etc. be moved into one GPA by work type. One line item would then be in the TIP per category per year. Lott explained that the agreed upon GPA accounts are based on work type not funding type. The purpose of this is to make it easier to make amendments and modifications to the projects. The implementation of this will take some time and will need help from the communities. Lott provided additional information about how the process would work, noting that the transition will be challenging. Discussion ensued.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Robinson provided the committee with a handout regarding the Laker Line Study. Itani mentioned that a presentation was originally scheduled for today but that presentation by ITP was cancelled. Robinson gave a few highlights from the study and noted that he wasn't familiar enough with the study to provide many details. Itani stated that if the Committee wishes, ITP can come back next month and give the presentation then, or Committee questions could be directed to ITP. He noted that the presentation will be held at the Policy Committee meeting also if members wished to attend. Discussion ensued.

Zull mentioned the next Technical Committee Meeting would be held in January due to the holidays.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ghearing, SUPPORT by Lott, to adjourn the November 5, 2014 Technical Committee meeting at 10:55 am. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.