

**MINUTES**

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, December 1, 2010  
Kent County Road Commission  
1500 Scribner NW                      Grand Rapids, MI**

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

**I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS****Voting Members Present**

|                                |                                     |  |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Scott Conners ( <i>Chair</i> ) |                                     | City of Walker                             |
| Dennis Bishop                  | <i>Proxy for<br/>Dan Carlton</i>    | Georgetown Township<br>Georgetown Township |
| Timothy Cochran                |                                     | City of Wyoming                            |
| Sandra M. Cornell-Howe         |                                     | MDOT                                       |
| Jamie Davies                   |                                     | City of Rockford                           |
| Rick DeVries                   |                                     | City of Grand Rapids                       |
| Ken Feldt                      |                                     | City of East Grand Rapids                  |
| Tim Haagsma                    |                                     | Gaines Charter Township                    |
| Wayne Harrall                  | <i>Proxy for<br/>Mike DeVries</i>   | Kent County<br>Grand Rapids Township       |
| Russ Henckel                   | <i>Proxy for<br/>Bill Dooley</i>    | City of Wyoming<br>City of Wyoming         |
| Jan Hoekstra                   | <i>Proxy for<br/>Taiwo Jaiyeoba</i> | ITP-The Rapid<br>ITP-The Rapid             |
| Jim Holtrop                    |                                     | Ottawa County                              |
| Brett Laughlin                 |                                     | OCRC                                       |
| Steve Peterson                 |                                     | Cascade Charter Township                   |
| Terry Schweitzer               |                                     | City of Kentwood                           |
| Dan Strikwerda                 |                                     | City of Hudsonville                        |
| Steve Warren                   |                                     | KCRC                                       |
| Chris Zull                     |                                     | City of Grand Rapids                       |

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Mike Bouwkamp    | City of Rockford |
| Andrea Dewey     | GVMC Staff       |
| Andrea Faber     | GVMC Staff       |
| Abed Itani       | GVMC Staff       |
| Dennis Kent      | MDOT             |
| Steve Redmond    | MDOT             |
| Darrell Robinson | GVMC Staff       |
| Norm Sevensma    | WMEAC-RWBC       |
| Jim Snell        | GVMC Staff       |
| Don Stypula      | GVMC Staff       |

APPROVED

Steve Waalkes  
George Yang  
Mike Zonyk

**Voting Members Not Present**

Jerry Alkema  
Alex Arends  
Mike Berrevoets  
Dan Carlton  
Ron Carr  
Dick Davies  
Sharon DeLange  
Dan DesJarden  
Mike DeVries  
Bill Dooley  
Steve Groenenboom  
Roy Hawkins  
Dennis Hoemke  
Bob Homan  
Taiwo Jaiyeoba  
Jim Miedema  
Audrey Nevins  
Chuck Porter  
Toby VanEss

APPROVED  
ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A

Michigan Concrete Assn.  
GVMC Staff  
GVMC Staff

Allendale Township  
Alpine Township  
City of Cedar Springs  
Georgetown Township  
City of Grandville  
Cannon Township  
Village of Sparta  
City of Lowell  
Grand Rapids Township  
City of Wyoming  
Ada Township  
GRFIA  
Algoma Township  
Plainfield Township  
ITP-The Rapid  
Jamestown Township  
Byron Township  
Courtland Township  
Tallmadge Township

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Conners entertained a motion to approve the October 6, 2010 Technical Committee meeting minutes.

**MOTION by Cochran, SUPPORT by Haagsma, to approve the October 6, 2010 Technical Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**IV. FY2011-2014 TIP AMENDMENTS**

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson explained several TIP amendment requests to the Committee from the KCRC, the City of Hudsonville, and ITP-The Rapid.

The Kent County Road Commission requested to add two trail projects to the FY2011-2014 TIP. The first trail project is the "Fred Meijer Kenowa Trail" at a total cost of \$4,021,919. The second trail is West Michigan Regional Trail Network Connection "Musketawa Trail to White Pine Trail Connector" at a total cost of \$2,400,000.

The City of Hudsonville requested to advance construct a FY2012 project, 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue from M-121 to Highland Dr., in FY2011.

ITP-The Rapid requested the following TIP amendments:

| <u>Projects</u>                            | <u>Original<br/>Budget</u> | <u>Amendment<br/>Requested</u> |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Section 5307</b>                        |                            |                                |
| Paratransit Replacement Vehicles (up to 3) | 163,508                    | 215,076                        |
| Paratransit Expansion Vehicles (up to 2)   | 0                          | 133,879                        |
| Replacement 40' Buses (up to 7)            | 4,351,770                  | 2,800,000                      |
| Expansion 40' Buses (up to 3)              | 0                          | 1,200,000                      |
| Associated Capital Maintenance Items       | 586,885                    | 691,817                        |
| Preventive Maintenance                     | 1,625,000                  | 1,250                          |
| A&E  | 50,000                     | 100,000                        |
| Wealthy Facility Renovation                | 938,120                    | 1,012,253                      |
| Security Surveillance                      | 88,382                     | 99,340                         |
| ADA Vehicle Equipment                      | 150,000                    | 0                              |
| ITS  | 1,250                      | 0                              |
| Terminals                                  | 0                          | 900,000                        |
| Planning                                   | 793,150                    | 985,187                        |
| <b>Section 5309</b>                        |                            |                                |
| DABRT                                      | 19,303,000                 | 1,434,000                      |
| Expansion 40' Buses (up to 2)              | 768,900                    | 0                              |
| Wealthy Operation Center                   | 862,632                    | 0                              |
| Terminal                                   | 750,000                    | 0                              |
| Amtrak Rail Relocation                     | 750,000                    | 0                              |
| ITS  | 2,800,000                  | 0                              |
| <b>Section 5339</b>                        |                            |                                |
| Streetcar Study                            | 125,000                    | 0                              |
| Feasibility Study                          | 0                          | 3,125,000                      |

Robinson pointed out that the original budget for the streetcar study was \$3,125,000, instead of \$125,000, which was listed. He also noted that ITP-The Rapid was simply requesting to change the name of the study from Streetcar Study to Feasibility Study.

ITP-The Rapid also requested the following UPWP amendment:

*Amended FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program Projects*

| Description                       | Total Costs |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Section 5307</b>               |             |
| ADA Planning/Compliance           | \$ 69,400   |
| Community Information & Education | \$175,000   |
| Human Resource Planning           | \$ 62,500   |

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Long Range Planning | \$578,287        |
| REGIS/GVMC          | \$ 40,000        |
| Website Development | \$ 60,000        |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>\$985,187</b> |

**CMAQ**

|              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| Ridesharing  | \$154,822        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$154,822</b> |

**Section 5339**

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Feasibility Study | \$3,125,000        |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>\$3,125,000</b> |

Hoekstra provided additional information about the UPWP amendment.

Itani added that there are many minor changes in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) studies. The one major change involves the toll recovery credit. This credit was substituted by transportation comprehensive funding. Because of the change in resources, the UPWP needs to be amended.

Connors entertained a motion to amend the TIP and UPWP.

**MOTION by Warren, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the FY2011-2014 TIP amendments and the amendment to the FY2011 UPWP, as identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. FY2035 LRTP DRAFT DOCUMENT AND PROJECT LIST**

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Dewey explained that, as part of the Long Range Transportation Planning process, GVMC has developed a Rough Draft Long Range Transportation Plan project list, which was included in the agenda packet. The projects in this list were grouped by years and funding source. Unlike previous project lists, the list includes funding for competitive programs and projects that don't have guaranteed funding. Dewey added that results from the air quality analysis should be available soon.

Dewey continued, stating that the LRTP update is nearly complete. The draft document can be downloaded from gvmc.org. She encouraged the Committee to submit comments/changes by Monday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>. The LRTP project list and document are also available to select agencies for consultation purposes during the month of December. The final draft copy will be finalized the end of December. The public comment period for the draft LRTP is January 1-30, and from January 17-20, Staff will be holding a series of eight public meetings to encourage public comment.

Itani asked that Committee members who wish to move expand/improve projects to another year do so as soon as possible. He added that GVMC is currently using Model 6 to run the air quality analysis. However, the next time the LRTP is updated, GVMC will

be required to use a new air quality model—MOVES. This new model requires 1 day to run a scenario, which will be a significant time commitment for staff. Discussion ensued.

## **VI. POLICIES AND PRACTICES NONMOTORIZED SECTION UPDATE**

Referring to **Item VI: Attachment A**, Dewey stated that the current nonmotorized Policies and Practices do not correspond with recent MPO practice. She explained that federal surface transportation funding is, for the most part, very flexible and may be spent on non-motorized transportation investments. According to the current Policies and Practices for Programming Projects, it is the local practice/policy of the MPO to restrict federal funds for non-motorized transportation. Transportation Enhancement funds are listed as the only source for nonmotorized transportation project funding by the MPO. However, Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality funds have already been dedicated in 2011 for nonmotorized projects. Dewey presented to the Committee a revised nonmotorized section that could replace the current nonmotorized and sidewalk sections of the Policies and Practices document and bring the document up-to-date with current MPO practices. The revised section suggests permitting the use of federal funds for nonmotorized improvements. In addition to statewide competitive Transportation Enhancement grants, CMAQ funds would be a likely fund source for future nonmotorized improvements. Dewey explained that the revision is informational at this time.

Sevensma asked about the approval process for adopting the revised nonmotorized section of the Policies and Practices document. Itani explained that items approved by the Technical Committee would move on to the Policy Committee, and the Policy Committee has the final say. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Conners clarified that updating the nonmotorized section of the Policies and Practices document would only open the Committee up to the possibility of using funding on nonmotorized projects and would not necessarily mean that funds will be spent on them.

Cochran asked how this revision ties in with Complete Streets legislation. Kent responded that he did not foresee that the policy revision would conflict with Complete Streets legislation. Itani added that, if Committee members want to address their improvements through a complete streets process, GVMC does not have anything against this. However, the project must be approved by the Committee.

Conners entertained a motion to adopt the updated nonmotorized section of the Policies and Practices document.

### **MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Cochran, to recommend to the Policy Committee amending the updated nonmotorized section of the Policies and Practices document.**

Kent commented that the term “maintenance” in the final recommendation, which read, “Federal funds be permitted to fund maintenance (resurfacing and reconstruction) of nonmotorized facilities,” be replaced with “rehabilitation.”

Based on these comments, the motion was revised as follows:

### **MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Cochran, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the updated nonmotorized section of the Policies and Practices document.**

**Practices document, with Kent's revision, as identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

• **FY2011-2015 MDOT 5-YEAR PROGRAM UPDATE**

Referring to a handout, Kent provided the Committee with a brief overview of MDOT's 5-year program.

• **FY2011-2014 TIP AMENDMENT**

Robinson asked for the Committee's approval in walking on an additional TIP amendment. Being that there was a Committee consensus, Robinson explained that this amendment was for FY2011-14 section 5309 funding for the Division Avenue Bus Rapid Transit project. Hoekstra further explained that she was simply requesting to reallocate the funding in FY2011, FY2012, FY2013, and FY2014 and that the original amount of funding for the project has not changed. Discussion ensued.

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

**MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by DeVries, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of amending the FY2011-2014 TIP to include the Rapid's request, as identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

• **CMAQ**

Robinson added that several CMAQ applications for FY2011 projects have been returned by MDOT because of missing information. Once the applications are corrected, they can be resubmitted.

• **RECOGNITION**

Itani noted that Cornell-Howe will be retiring the end of the month. He thanked Cornell-Howe for her assistance throughout the years. Warren also thanked her on behalf of the locals.

• **LANSING UPDATE**

Stypula updated the committee on the transition from the Granholm administration to the Snyder administration. He noted that the Snyder administration is conducting a nationwide search for the new director of MDOT and that Snyder intends to split the MDNRE back to the MDEQ and MDNR.

• **TRANSPORTATION FUNDING**

Itani added that the deficit commission is proposing a \$.15/gallon tax on gas. However, the money will be used to reduce the deficit.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Conners adjourned the December 1, 2010 Technical Committee meeting at 10:14 am.