

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2008
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Warren, Vice Chair of the Technical Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. He welcomed Steve Groenenboom, who is the new Technical Committee representative from Ada Township. He has replaced Gary Voogt, who retired.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Steve Warren (<i>Vice Chair</i>)		KCRC
Marta Brechting		Alpine Township
Patrick Bush		City of Grand Rapids
Ron Carr		City of Grandville
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Jim Fetzer		The Rapid
Steve Groenenboom		Ada 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
Jim Holtrop		Ottawa County
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for Dan DesJarden & Sandra Cornell-Howe</i>	MDOT
		City of Lowell
		MDOT
Ken Klomparens		GRFIA
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
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Bill Dooley (<i>Chair</i>)	City of Wyoming
Sandra Ayers	Village of Caledonia
James Beelen	Allendale Township
Mike Berrevoets	City of Cedar Springs
Scott Conners	City of Walker
Sandra M. Cornell-Howe	MDOT
Dick Davies	Cannon Township
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Dan DesJarden	City of Lowell
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Ken Feldt	City of East Grand Rapids
Tim Haagsma	Kent County Road Commission
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Charter Township
Dennis Hoemke	Algoma Township
William Holland	Georgetown Township
Dick Johnston	City of Rockford
Brett Laughlin	OCRC
Jim McIntyre	Courtland Township
Gerald Mears	City of Wyoming
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Steve Peterson	Cascade Charter Township
Dan Strikwerda	City of Hudsonville
Bill Wiersma	Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Warren entertained a motion to approve the November 7, 2007 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes. One correction was noted on page 4 in the second paragraph under “Other Business.” “Dooley” should read “Bush.”

MOTION by Carr, SUPPORT by Bush, to approve the November 7, 2007 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes with the correction stated above. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Itani stated that because the current chair (Dooley) and vice chair (Warren) of the Technical Committee have reached the culmination of their two year terms, new

officers must be elected. Itani added that the tradition in years past has been to elect the most recent vice chair as chair of the committee.

Warren entertained a motion for this tradition to continue.

MOTION by Bush, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to elect Warren, the current vice chair, to the position of chair of the Technical Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Warren asked the floor for nominations for the next vice chair of the Technical Committee and entertained a motion for Scott Conners to be elected to this position.

MOTION by Harrall, SUPPORT by Schweitzer, to elect Conners as the vice chair of the Technical Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. **ITP FY 2008-2009 AMENDMENTS**

Fetzer spoke to the committee on **Item V: Attachment A**, which outlined capital project requests from Hope Network, Senior Neighbors, the American Red Cross, and The United Methodist Community House. These projects need to be added to the FY 2008-2011 TIP using Section 5310 funds. Section 5310 is a capital program that assists non-profits that provide special services for persons with disabilities, the elderly, etc. Most of the requests are for vehicle replacements. However, some of the requests are for computer equipment or GPS technology. Robinson added that because we are still operating under the FY 2006-2008 TIP as we wait for federal approval, both the FY 2006-2008 and FY 2008-2011 TIPs must be amended.

Warren entertained a motion to amend both TIPs to include the projects outlined by ITP-The Rapid.

MOTION by Bush, SUPPORT by Carr, to approve both the FY 2006-2008 TIP and the FY 2008-2011 TIP to include project requests on behalf of Hope Network, Senior Neighbors, the American Red Cross, and the United Methodist Community House, with the funding to come from Section 5310 funds. MOTION carried unanimously.

Fetzer continued to speak on **Item V: Attachment B**, which included changes to ITP-The Rapid's Capital Program for FY 2008. Fetzer said that ITP-The Rapid is still waiting on the Federal Transit Administration to approve the Capital Program, which will probably occur this summer. Most of the changes to the Capital Program are familiar to committee members. However, he did further explain the addition of an ITS line item in Section 5208 (Intelligent Transportation System) that is an earmark received in the amount of 1.4 million dollars. Fifty percent of this amount is funded by a federal grant, with the other half being funded locally.

Along with this change are changes to the Unified Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP has been amended this year through the addition of new line items. One line item is for \$110,000 to fund a study to determine transit needs in outlying areas of Kent County, while another calls for the addition of a \$250,000 line item to the LRTP.

Bush asked for clarification on what the ITS line item covers. Fetzner clarified that the 1.4 million dollars will cover, among other things, real time arrival information at key bus stops and an upgraded camera system. Questions, comments, and discussion ensued.

Warren entertained a motion to amend the FY 2008 TIP, which includes amending Section 5307 and the UPWP.

MOTION by Holtrop, SUPPORT by Schweitzer, to amend the FY 2006-2008 TIP, the FY 2008-2011 TIP, and the UPWP to include the changes outlined by ITP-The Rapid. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. **2007 OBLIGATED PROJECTS LIST**

Robinson informed the committee that, in adherence with the new transportation planning regulations, the FY 2007 Obligated Projects List has been posted on GVMC's web site (www.gvmc.org). This is a requirement with the new transportation planning regulations. He thanked the committee for doing an excellent job obligating the projects and welcomed comments or questions.

VII. **TIP TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS**

Speaking on **Item VII: Attachment A**, Robinson notified the committee that MDOT awarded the Kent County Road Commission, on behalf of Grand Rapids Charter Township, a Transportation Enhancement Project. The awarded project is a 10-foot-wide bituminous, non-motorized trail along the Forest Hill/Crahen Avenue Corridor in Grand Rapids Township. The new trail will link other trail projects on Ada Drive and Leonard Street. The total project cost will be \$900,000 with \$331,500 being funded from the Enhancement Program. Currently there is a line item for Enhancement Projects in the GPAs that has enough money to cover this project. Therefore, an amendment is not needed for the TIP. Harrell commented that work has already begun on clearing trees. Sevensma asked if this work would have been necessitated had the trail been made adjacent to the road. Harrall responded the location of the path was determined during the application process and that the separation of the path from traffic was encouraged for safety reasons. Klomprens asked why the match percentage on the attachment was so much higher than the match percentage for other projects. Additional discussion continued.

VIII. FY 2008-2011 GENERAL PROGRAM ACCOUNTS (GPA)

Speaking on **Item VIII, Attachment A**, Robinson informed the committee that the General Program Accounts (GPAs) need to be updated. The State usually provides a GPA early in the TIP process, but once more information is gathered and known, they send a new, updated list of GPA funds. For FY 2009-2011, the GPAs have no dollars associated with them because it is too far out in the future and too many variables could change between now and then.

The GPAs have been sent to the Metro Council Board, which will take action to approve them on Thursday, January 10. These funds will be spent within the area covered by GVMC. Questions, comments, and discussion continued.

IX. TIP/LRTP PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETINGS

Referring to **Item IX: Attachment A**, Dewey updated the committee on the public participation process to amend the TIP and the LRTP. It began on December 14 and is concluding on January 14. The Public Participation Process is needed because the LRTP had nine projects with scope, funding or year/timing changes and one new project added. The TIP had three projects added, three deleted, and two had scope changes. In addition, the changes to the LRTP triggered a new air quality conformity analysis. These changes are available for the public to comment on. Next Tuesday, January 8, there will be two public meetings at the Wyoming Public Library. The meetings will be from 3-5:30 pm and from 6-7:30 pm. After this is concluded, Dewey will incorporate the public's comments into the LRTP for it to be moved to Policy Committee and then Metro Council. All of the changes are available online. Additional questions, comments and discussion followed.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Schweitzer asked for an update on Maupin's particulate matter presentation from the November meeting. Itani responded that he has yet to hear anything. The EPA has 90 days to determine which counties will be included in the non-attainment area. Itani recommended that at least Ottawa County be included in the designated area in order to help Kent County mitigate the impact of the power plants that are contributing to our non-attainment. Itani added that it is very likely that Ottawa County and Kent County will be included in the same non-attainment area because the territory of Grand Valley Metro Council covers all of Kent County and part of Ottawa. It is very unlikely that the EPA would split the area covered by an MPO into separate attainment and non-attainment areas.

Dewey added that there was a meeting involving representatives from area MPOs and the private sector on December 5, 2007 to discuss air quality issues. While Grand Valley Metro Council's stance was that the non-attainment boundary should be as large as possible, the consensus of the group was that

Approved

**Approved
Item II: Attachment A**

the boundary for particulate matter should be as small as possible. Additional discussion ensued.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Warren adjourned the meeting at 10:06 a.m.