

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 7th, 2015
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Zull, chair of the Technical Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:34 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
Scott Conners		City of Walker
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Jim Ferro		Ada Township
Rod Ghearing		ITP-The Rapid
Wayne Harrall	<i>Proxy for</i>	Kent County
	<i>Mike DeVries</i>	Grand Rapids Township
	<i>Tim Haagsma</i>	Gaines Township
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for</i>	MDOT
	<i>Mark Howe</i>	City of Lowell
Paul Lott		MDOT
Terry Schweitzer (<i>Vice Chair</i>)		City of Kentwood
Joe Slonecki		East Grand Rapids
Rick Sprague		KCRC
		Cannon Township
Tom Stressman		City of Cedar Springs
Roger Towsley		Village of Sand Lake
		Cannon Township
Steve Warren		KCRC

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Danielle Coles	FHWA
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Erin Haviland	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Roger Marks	C2AE
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Norm Sevensma	WMEAC-RWBC
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff
Rachel Tupica	FHWA
Steve Waalkes	MCA

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Ken Bergwerff	Jamestown Township

Dan Carlton
Ron Carr
Timothy Cochran
Mike DeVries
Bill Dooley
Bill Fischer
Tim Haagsma
Roy Hawkins
Dennis Hoemke
Jim Holtrop
Mark Howe
Brett Laughlin
Audrey Nevins Weiss
Steve Peterson
Chuck Porter
Dan Strikwerda
Toby VanEss
Phil Vincent

Georgetown Township
City of Grandville
City of Wyoming
Grand Rapids Township
City of Wyoming
Plainfield Township
Gaines Charter Township
KCDA/GRFIA
Algoma Township
Ottawa County
City of Lowell
OCRC
Byron Township
Cascade Charter Township
Courtland Township
City of Hudsonville
Tallmadge Township
City of Rockford

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Zull entertained a motion to approve the November 5th, 2014 Technical Committee minutes.

MOTION by Arends, SUPPORT by DeVries, to approve the November 5th, 2014 Technical Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sevensma asked if there was a Plan B for increased transportation funding if the sales tax increase does not happen. Itani stated there is no Plan B. Kent offered to explain the tax bill, noting that MDOT is still wading through 6 different bills. The most notable changes would be eliminating the sales tax on fuel and replacing the current flat \$.19 cents/gallon tax with a new wholesale-based tax somewhere around \$.41/gallon, increases in registration fees for new cars, and a one percentage increase in the state sales tax. He noted that currently, sales tax on gasoline does not, for the most part, go to transportation. The new wholesale tax would go entirely to transportation. The increase in the state sales tax will replace the revenue lost from the sales tax from gas to the general fund, school aid fund, etc. Discussion ensued.

Warren added that a big piece of this tax increase would go to MDOT debt service. Kent stated that this increase would be phased in over a period of three years. Warren noted that in their haste to approve the legislation, they left out wording on what would happen with new money. This might require the legislature to amend what was passed to make sure that paying off the debt service applies to new money and not all money. Discussion ensued.

IV. FY2014-2017 TIP AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson explained that ITP and the City of Grand Rapids requested to amend/modify the FY2014-2017 TIP.

ITP requested to modify the cost of their Bus Tire Lease project, increasing the amount by \$112,000. The original budget of \$300,000 now will be \$412,000. In addition, the Lake Michigan Drive Park and Ride Lot project was not obligated in FY14 so ITP is asking it be moved to FY2015.

The City of Grand Rapids also had several requests, which included the following:

- Moving the Turner Avenue Bridge over Indian Mill Creek project from FY2014 to FY2015 in the TIP. (The project was scheduled to be obligated in FY2014 but the obligation authority ran out.) Since the Turner Avenue Bridge project was so small, they also requested to combine it with another bridge preventative maintenance project that has already received funding—the Walker Avenue Bridge over Indian Mill Creek project. While the project was awarded for FY2016, MDOT staff have stated that the work can be done in any year prior to and including the fiscal year it was awarded. The action by GVMC would be to show in the FY2015 TIP a project titled Turner Avenue and Walker Avenue Bridges over Indian Mill Creek.
- Adding a TED-Category A grant in connection with a large expansion of Founders Brewing to the TIP as a locally significant project. The description of the project would be the reconstruction of Bartlett Street from Market Avenue to Grandville Avenue, Finney Avenue from Goodrich Street to Williams Street, and Williams Street from Market Avenue to Grandville Avenue.

DeVries provided additional information about the City of Grand Rapids' requests. In regards to the TED-Category A grant, Itani stated that since the project wasn't regionally significant and because no federal funds were involved, it didn't need to be added to the TIP. Harrall recommended that the City of Grand Rapids follow up with Keith Cooper at MDOT about moving the FY2016 Walker Avenue Bridge project forward to ensure it can be advanced. Zull asked if MDOT had any additional input regarding the TED-Category A grant. Kent stated MDOT did not require the project to be included in the TIP, but that it could be included for information purposes if the Committee chose to do so. Tupica stated that as long as no federal funding is associated with the project, and if the Committee feels that it is not regionally significant, the project does not need to be added to the TIP.

MOTION by Conners, SUPPORT by Ghearing, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the amendments/modifications to the FY2014-2017 TIP requested by ITP- The Rapid and the City of Grand Rapids, with the notations that the TED-Category A Founders Brewery Expansion Project does not need to be added to the FY2014-2017 TIP since it is not regionally significant, and that DeVries follows up with MDOT about moving the funding for the Walker Avenue Bridge project forward one year. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. **METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Snell gave an update on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. It will go to the GVMC Technical Committee for review/approval on February 4th, 2015. The draft has been thoroughly reviewed, and the final draft will be completed by a week from Friday, January 9th, 2015. The final version will be placed on the web at that time. The document has changed significantly since its first draft. Comments and feedback will still be accepted through the approval process. Itani stated that Lott put together a MTP review team to provide feedback on GVMC's 2040 MTP. Itani added that

those comments, as well as the comments from FHWA, are currently being addressed. Most are small items, such as formatting issues. Tupica asked if the document will be emailed. Snell replied that he will send the link. Discussion ensued.

VI. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Robinson passed out a handout on TAP Projects. A subcommittee of the TPSG Committee selected three projects from the list in order to keep it financially constrained. These projects include:

- Alpine Township's M-37 Sidewalks from Lamoreaux Dr. to North of York Creek project
- The City of Wyoming's Widen & Resurface Interurban Trail project
- The City of Grand Rapids' Plainfield Avenue from 3-Mile Rd. to I-96 sidewalk project.

The next steps are for the MPO to issue a conditional commitment. They can be added to the TIP at any time as illustrative projects, since they are not yet official projects. Once the projects are approved by the MPO, they become official projects. The projects not selected have been pushed down to be grouped with other future projects to be chosen from at the next programming meeting. Harrall asked if the Committee needed to take action to include these projects in the TIP. If so, Harrall stated it would be best to take those steps now.

Zull entertained a motion to add these three projects to the TIP.

MOTION by Harrall, SUPPORT by Arends, to add these TAP Projects to the TIP pending GVMC conditional commitment and approval. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Harrall asked for an update on a bridge project TIP amendment that was submitted shortly before the holidays. Lott explained that it was being worked on, and hoped that it would be completed today. Discussion ensued.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Stressman, to adjourn the January 7th, 2015 Technical Committee meeting at 10:05 am. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.