

MINUTES

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

Warren, chair of the Technical Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:32 am.

Per Warren’s request, those present introduced themselves to the committee, including their name and the organization that they were representing.

**I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Voting Members Present**

Steve Warren ( <i>Chair</i> ) <i>Proxy for</i>		KCRC
	<i>Bob Homan</i>	Plainfield Township
Patrick Bush		City of Grand Rapids
Scott Conners ( <i>Vice Chair</i> )		City of Walker
Sandra M. Cornell-Howe		MDOT
Ken Feldt		City of East Grand Rapids
Tim Haagsma		Gaines Township
Wayne Harrall		Kent County
Russ Henckel	<i>Proxy for</i>	City of Wyoming
	<i>Bill Dooley</i>	City of Wyoming
Jan Hoekstra	<i>Proxy for</i>	The Rapid
	<i>Jim Fetzer</i>	The Rapid
Jim Holtrop		Ottawa County
Ken Klomparens		GRFIA
Brett Laughlin		OCRC
Gerald Mears		City of Wyoming
Dan Strikwerda		City of Hudsonville

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Matt Block	MDOT
Andrea Dewey	GVMC Staff
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Art Green	MDOT
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Sarah Koepke	FHWA

**APPROVED**

Philip Quartey  
Darrell Robinson  
Vicki Weerstra  
George Yang

**Voting Members Not Present**

Sandra Ayers  
James Beelen  
Mike Berrevoets  
Marta Brechting  
Ron Carr  
Dick Davies  
Sharon DeLange  
Dan DesJarden  
Mike DeVries  
Rick DeVries  
Bill Dooley  
Jim Fetzer  
Steve Groenenboom  
Don Hilton, Sr.  
Dennis Hoemke  
William Holland  
Dick Johnston  
Jim McIntyre  
Jim Miedema  
Audrey Nevins  
Steve Peterson  
Terry Schweitzer  
Bill Wiersma

**APPROVED  
Item II: Attachment A**

City of Wyoming  
GVMC Staff  
MDOT  
GVMC Staff

Village of Caledonia  
Allendale Township  
City of Cedar Springs  
Alpine Township  
City of Grandville  
Cannon Township  
Village of Sparta  
City of Lowell  
Grand Rapids Township  
City of Grand Rapids  
City of Wyoming  
The Rapid  
Ada Township  
Gaines Charter Township  
Algoma Township  
Georgetown Township  
City of Rockford  
Courtland Township  
Jamestown Township  
Byron Township  
Cascade Charter Township  
City of Kentwood  
Tallmadge Township

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Laughlin noted one correction to the minutes. Warren entertained a motion to approve the March 5, 2008 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes with the correction made by Laughlin.

**MOTION by Holtrop, SUPPORT by Conners, to approve the March 5, 2008 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes with the aforementioned correction. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**IV. FY 2008-2011 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS**

Speaking on **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson informed the committee that the City of Wyoming and the Interurban Transit Partnership (ITP) are requesting to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP.

The City of Wyoming's request was to advance construct two segments of 44<sup>th</sup> Street and the US-131 interchange currently listed in FY2009 using EDF-C funds in FY2008. Robinson explained that EDF-C funds cannot generally be used for advance construction. However, an exception has been allowed. Cornell-Howe explained that Category C is made up of federal funds and M Funds (state funds), so only the federal funds can be advance constructed. Discussion continued.

ITP's request was to amend the FY2008 TIP to include several changes and cost updates due to FTA apportionments being released. Robinson explained that the requested changes will not affect the financial constraint of the TIP. Discussion, comments, and questions ensued. Warren recommended addressing both items with one TIP amendment.

Warren entertained a motion to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of amending the FY2008-2011 TIP to include the projects as identified by Staff.

**MOTION by Harrall, SUPPORT by Bush, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the FY2008-2011 TIP as identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. ITP FY 2008 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) AMENDMENT**

Speaking to **Item V: Attachment A**, Itani informed the committee that ITP is requesting to amend the UPWP for FY2008 by adding \$250,000 in Section 5307 funding for a feasibility study. The study will continue to focus on NEPA and design work on the South Division Bus Rapid Transit project. Questions, comments, and discussion ensued.

Warren entertained a motion to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of amending the UPWP for FY2008 to include the project as identified by staff.

**MOTION by Mears, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of amending the UPWP for FY2008 as identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**VI. US-131 AT 44<sup>TH</sup> STREET PROJECT**

Henckel spoke to the committee on the status of the US-131 at 44<sup>th</sup> Street project, which is scheduled to be let in October with construction following in 2009. Block and Green provided the committee with additional information about the project. Mears asked if ramps would be closed during construction. Green responded that intermittent ramp closings will be a part of this project. Discussion, comments, and questions ensued.

Warren asked if any construction on US-131 is scheduled to occur during the construction of the 44<sup>th</sup> Street interchange. Block responded that the pier construction and ramp tie-in will occur, causing temporary or intermittent lane closures on US-131 during construction, but no great changes will occur. Green added that most of the US-131 construction from 28<sup>th</sup> Street to Wealthy will be completed this year. Discussion ensued.

**VII. MICHIGAN TRANSPORTATION FUNDING TASK FORCE**

Kent showed a PowerPoint presentation to the committee regarding the latest developments of the Michigan Transportation Funding Task Force (TF2). Each committee member received a hard copy of the presentation. The Task Force was created through Public Act 221 of 2007 to “review the adequacy of surface transportation and aeronautics service provision and finance” in Michigan. This applies to roads, transit, and aviation.

Kent discussed the composition of the Task Force and the Citizens’ Advisory Committee, and their duties. One of the more pressing issues the committee is trying to address is that of potential alternate sources of funding to replace or supplement the existing state gas tax. Preliminary findings and recommendations are due on October 31, 2008. There is a TF2 meeting in Grand Rapids at the ITP office on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

In addition, there are two commissions, created through SAFETEA-LU, reviewing national transportation needs and funding options. The first commission found that an additional \$225 to \$338 Billion per year (compared to \$86 Billion per year currently being spent) should be invested to address the national transportation needs. This would involve increasing current fuel taxes by 25 to 40 cents per gallon per year; and then long term, finding alternatives to the gas tax. However, this will be difficult to implement because the price of gas is so high already. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Warren added that there is an upcoming meeting dedicated to education of the task force on state and federal funds. The meeting will take place on April 21 and he encouraged the committee members to attend. He also added that roads are deteriorating at a rapid rate. Between 2005 and 2007, 10,000 miles went from the fair category (where they needed preservation improvements) to the poor category (where they needed total reconstruction). Discussion, comments and

questions ensued.

Kent passed out a 2008 road construction map for the Grand Region to all of the committee members.

**VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Laughlin added that he is looking to apply for Category F funds for a project in the TIP for FY2010 (a resurfacing job between 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and M-11). The funding will be used to bring the road up to all-season standards. Discussion, comments, and questions ensued.

Warren added that the legislature is debating a supplemental budget for FY2008 and deciding if the cuts in Category C are going to be maintained. A conference committee is deciding if that 3.5 million cut out of Category C is going to be maintained or restored. This funding directly impacts two projects.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Warren adjourned the meeting at 10:10 am.