

**MINUTES**

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, May 12, 2010  
Kent County Road Commission  
1500 Scribner NW      Grand Rapids, MI**

Conners, chair of the Technical Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:31 am. The Committee members, staff, and guests present went around the table and introduced themselves.

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

Scott Conners ( <i>Chair</i> )		City of Walker
Mike Bouwkamp		City of Rockford
Patrick Bush		City of Grand Rapids
Dan Carlton		Georgetown Township
Sandra M. Cornell-Howe		MDOT
Mike DeVries		Grand Rapids Township
Tim Haagsma		Gaines Charter Township
Wayne Harrall		Kent County
Jim Holtrop	<i>Proxy for Dan Strikwerda</i>	Ottawa County
Bob Homan		City of Hudsonville
Piotr Lewak	<i>Proxy for Rick DeVries</i>	Plainfield Township
Steve Peterson		City of Grand Rapids
Kent Rubley	<i>Proxy for Brett Laughlin</i>	City of Grand Rapids
Terry Schweitzer		Cascade Charter Township
Sue Thomas	<i>Proxy for Alex Arends</i>	OCRC
Steve Warren		OCRC
		City of Kentwood
		Alpine Township
		Alpine Township
		KCRC

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Roger Belknap	KCRC
Andrea Dewey	GVMC Staff
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Erick Kind	MDOT
Jon Rice	KCRC
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff
Steve Waalkes	Michigan Concrete Assn.
George Yang	GVMC Staff

APPROVED

APPROVED  
ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A

Mike Zonyk

GVMC Staff

**Voting Members Not Present**

Jerry Alkema  
Alex Arends  
Sandra Ayers  
Mike Berrevoets  
Ron Carr  
Timothy Cochran  
Dick Davies  
Sharon DeLange  
Dan DesJarden  
Rick DeVries  
Bill Dooley  
Ken Feldt  
Steve Groenenboom  
Roy Hawkins  
Dennis Hoemke  
Taiwo Jaiyeoba  
Brett Laughlin  
Jim Miedema  
Audrey Nevins  
Chuck Porter  
Dan Strikwerda  
Toby VanEss

Allendale Township  
Alpine Township  
Village of Caledonia  
City of Cedar Springs  
City of Grandville  
City of Wyoming  
Cannon Township  
Village of Sparta  
City of Lowell  
City of Grand Rapids  
City of Wyoming  
City of East Grand Rapids  
Ada Township  
GRFIA  
Algoma Township  
The Rapid  
OCRC  
Jamestown Township  
Byron Township  
Courtland Township  
City of Hudsonville  
Tallmadge Township

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Connors entertained a motion to approve the March 3, 2010 Technical Committee meeting minutes.

**MOTION by Holtrop, SUPPORT by Harrall, to approve the March 3, 2010 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**IV. PRELIMINARY FY2012-2014 CMAQ PROGRAM**

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson requested that the Technical Committee preliminarily approve the list of projects in the FY2012-2014 CMAQ program. The project lists for the FY2012-2014 CMAQ program were developed during a Transportation Programming Study Group meeting on Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting, the CMAQ projects listed in FY2011 were also reviewed and reaffirmed. Kent distributed a handout that included minor changes to MDOT's CMAQ projects in FY2012-2014, and Robinson explained the changes.

Robinson asked that committee members send their completed CMAQ worksheets and applications to him no later than July 1<sup>st</sup> since they are due to MDOT by July 2nd, and

advised them to follow the directions for completing the worksheet carefully. Discussion ensued.

Conners entertained a motion to preliminarily approve the list of projects in the FY2012-2014 CMAQ program.

**MOTION by Bush, SUPPORT by Warren, to recommend to the Policy Committee preliminary approval of the list of projects in the FY2012-2014 CMAQ program, as presented by Staff. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) AMENDMENT**

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Dewey explained that, as part of the development of the FY2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), an amendment to the current 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is required in order to ensure that both documents are in accordance. Therefore, Dewey requested that the Technical Committee preliminarily approve the 2035 LRTP amendment and recommend the project list changes to the Policy Committee. Final approval of the LRTP amendment would be requested after the air quality conformity results are complete and all the public comments have been reviewed and considered. Lastly, Dewey provided details about the public involvement process for the LRTP amendment. Discussion ensued.

Conners entertained a motion to preliminarily approve the LRTP amendment.

**MOTION by Warren, SUPPORT by Haagsma, to preliminarily approve the FY2035 LRTP amendment and to recommend the project list changes to the Policy Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**VI. 2035 LRTP PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND SELECTION PROCESS**

Speaking on **Item VI: Attachment A**, Dewey explained that, at the March Policy Committee meeting, the committee conditionally approved a refinement to the project selection process aspect of the LRTP. Dewey stated that, based on feedback from this meeting, a revised process diagram had been created for the Committee's review. Under this process, the Policy Committee would be responsible for producing and approving regional MPO vision, goals, and objectives. The Tech Committee would revise and approve the Policies and Practices of the LRTP document to create a framework for assessing needs that will guide subcommittee need prioritization. Six modal-based ad hoc subcommittees using information about transportation needs and analysis tools developed by staff, would prioritize system needs and prepare cost estimates for each mode. The needs list developed will be presented to the Tech Committee to assure the Policies and Practices were appropriately applied before it is passed to the Policy Committee. The Policy Committee would, with this needs information, develop an investment strategy for the transportation system. The Technical Committee would then, using the Policy Committee's investment strategy and the prioritized modal needs from the subcommittees, select projects for inclusion in the LRTP. The Subcommittees would be notified of the Technical Committee project selections and the Technical Committee would then pass the project list onto the Policy Committee for a review of the incorporation of the MPO Goals & Objectives in the projects selected. The project list would then move forward through the traditional Technical and Policy Committee approval process before it is included in the LRTP document.

Homan asked if, for public participation, information about public meetings could be included in the quarterly newsletters of various communities. Conners suggested that future public participation meetings be held at local cities and townships. Itani added that GVMC is continually trying to improve its public outreach process. Discussion ensued.

Warren suggested that the subcommittees have parameters to keep “needs” from being confused with “wants.” Itani responded that needs would be based on modes and that a set of rules would be developed to determine needs. Dewey welcomed Committee members to submit to her recommendations for members of the subcommittees that she is forming. Discussion ensued.

## **VII. 2035 LRTP GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Referring to **Item VII: Attachment A**, Dewey explained that at the last Policy meeting, the Committee preliminarily approved the LRTP goals and objectives, but requested that the Technical Committee review the goals and objectives as well. Therefore, she asked that the Technical Committee approve the revised LRTP goals and objectives. Dewey stated that the performance measures for the goals and objectives would be approved at a later date, and asked that the committee review them.

Conners suggested adding “educating state and federal legislators to create more sustainable funding” to goal two. Warren stated that he would like to see more flexibility added to the goals and objectives that would allow projects to be selected for economic development reasons. Itani stated that tools will need to be developed to debate this issue before a decision is made. Dewey added that a rule could be developed for economic development in the Policies and Practices document.

Conners questioned how goal four--“Land Use and Transportation”—would be addressed by the subcommittees. Itani explained the Socio-Economic (SE) data collection process and stated that this was the main connection between the LRTP and the Local Land Use Master Plans. He added that a subcommittee could address how to strengthen the connection between land use and transportation and added that staff can change the approach to the land use issue by looking at shorter time increments. Discussion ensued.

Conners entertained a motion to approve the revised LRTP goals and objectives.

**MOTION by Homan, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the revised LRTP goals and objectives, as presented by Staff. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Referring to a handout, Warren explained that the KCRC board decided at their May 11 meeting to cancel the Belmont Avenue (Jupiter Avenue to Post Drive) project, which resulted in \$899,000 in STP-Urban funding remaining for another project or projects in the area. In light of this, Warren requested to delete the Belmont Avenue project from FY2010 in the TIP, and to advance the Lincoln Lake Avenue from 3 Mile Rd to 5 Mile Rd project from FY2011 to FY2010. Warren also proposed to advance the 17 Mile Rd from US131 to West St project from the illustrative list into FY2010 of the TIP. The final requested change was to the limits of the Lincoln Lake Avenue project in the

FY2011-2014 TIP to Lincoln Lake from McPherson St. to 3 Mile Rd. Warren explained that the Lincoln Lake projects are considered rural projects, and it has not been the practice of the committee to use STP-urban funding in the rural area. Discussion ensued.

Conners entertained a motion to amend the TIP by deleting the Belmont Avenue project.

**MOTION by Homan, SUPPORT by Schweitzer, to recommend to the Policy Committee amending the TIP to delete the Belmont Avenue project. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Conners entertained a motion to amend and adjust the TIP.

**MOTION by Bush, Support by Warren, to recommend to the Policy Committee adjusting the TIP to advance the Lincoln Lake project from 3 Mile to 5 Mile from FY2011-rural to FY2010 STP-Urban, to amend the TIP to advance the 17 Mile Road from US 131 to West St. project from the illustrative list in FY2010, and for Staff to modify the TIP by changing the limits of the FY2011 Lincoln Lake project to McPherson St. to 3 Mile.**

Rubley expressed his concern that the group was setting a precedent that when a jurisdiction drops a project, they could replace it with their own project. Itani explained that this was simply a special circumstance and that, with the lateness of this request, no other projects were available to utilize the remaining funding. He added that the committee practice to not use STP-urban funding in the rural area should be waived to prevent the loss of funding. Discussion ensued.

Conners returned the motion in question to the floor. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Faber stated that the ozone forecasting season has begun. To celebrate, a luncheon was held on Friday, May 7 at Carrabba's. Approximately 40 people were in attendance, including several media representatives.

Itani provided an update on funding ITS projects through set-asides. While ITS projects can be funded with set asides through FY2010 and possibly FY2011, the SAFETEA-LU extension allowing for this expires on December 31. Cornell-Howe added that the new energy bill includes a provision that CMAQ projects could be funded at 100%. Itani asked committee members to see if they can reduce the scope of their FY2011 CMAQ projects in order to take advantage of this. Discussion ensued.

Itani informed the Committee that GVMC's recertification will take place on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. A public meeting regarding this will be held on June 1<sup>st</sup> from 7-9 pm. Robinson added that there is a public involvement meeting to address environmental justice, air quality conformity, and the Long Range Plan Amendment on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm.

Rice provided an update on MDOT's budget.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Conners adjourned the May 12, 2010 Technical Committee meeting at 11:00 am.