

**MINUTES**

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, September 2, 2009  
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.

Warren asked that the Committee members go around the table and introduce themselves to the committee.

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

Steve Warren (Chair)		KCRC
Alex Arends		Alpine Township
Mike Bouwkamp		City of Rockford
Patrick Bush		City of Grand Rapids
Dan Carlton		Georgetown Township
Scott Conners		City of Walker
Sandra M. Cornell-Howe		MDOT
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Tim Haagsma		Gaines Charter Township
Wayne Harrall		Kent County
Russ Henckel	<i>Proxy for Bill Dooley Tim Cochran</i>	City of Wyoming City of Wyoming City of Wyoming
Jan Hoekstra	<i>Proxy for Taiwo Jaiyeoba</i>	ITP-The Rapid ITP-The Rapid
Jim Holtrop		Ottawa County
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for Dan DesJarden</i>	MDOT City of Lowell
Steve Peterson		Cascade Charter Township
Kent Rubley	<i>Proxy for Brett Laughlin</i>	OCRC OCRC
Terry Schweitzer		City of Kentwood

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Andrea Dewey	GVMC Staff
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Sandra Otey	Cascade Charter Township
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Norm Sevensma	RWBC-WMEAC
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff
Don Stypula	GVMC Staff

APPROVED

Steve Waalkes

George Yang  
Mike Zonyk

**Voting Members Not Present**

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

APPROVED  
ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A

Michigan Concrete Paving  
Assn.  
GVMC Staff  
GVMC Staff

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Kent noted one correction to the minutes. Warren entertained a motion to approve the August 5, 2009 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes with Kent’s correction.

**MOTION by Conners, SUPPORT by Haagsma, to approve the August 5, 2009 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes with Kent’s correction. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sevensma asked the Committee if funding for the Midwest High Speed Rail Initiative would reach West Michigan and if there was anything that could be done to encourage rail funding. Discussion ensued.

**IV. FY2008-2011 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENTS**

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson informed the Committee about several FY2008-2011 TIP amendment requests from the City of Kentwood and Staff. The City of Kentwood’s request was to Advance Construct two programmed FY2013 projects in

FY2011. The projects are Forest Hills Avenue from Burton Street to I-96 with \$400,000 Federal, \$900,000 Non-Federal and Forest Hills Avenue from I-96 to North City Limits with \$1,411,830 Federal, \$688,170 Non-Federal. This action was requested to coordinate work being done by the Kent County Road Commission and a non-motorized trail on this corridor. Schweitzer and Harrall provided additional information.

Robinson also explained Staff's request to amend the FY2010 project list to add a potential \$350,000 Service Development New Technology (SDNT) grant from MDOT (\$280,000 federal, \$35,000 CTF, and \$35,000 local). Dewey added that the SDNT grant request is for a potential Phase II to the current SDNT grant for the Kent County Transit Needs Assessment study. The project would explore the relationship between transit demand, land use, urban form, housing, and energy use to show what development criteria must be in place for sustainable transit systems of varying types. While the grant has yet to be awarded, the Federal Transit Administration requires TIP inclusion for projects to be considered for funding. Discussion ensued.

Warren entertained a motion to amend/modify the FY2008-2011 TIP to include these amendment requests.

**MOTION by Arends, SUPPORT by Schweitzer, to recommend to the Policy Committee amending the FY2008-2011 TIP to include the amendment requests from the City of Kentwood and Staff, as identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### V. **ARRA PROJECTS UPDATE**

Speaking on **Item V: Attachment A** and a handout, Robinson stated that the remaining amount of ARRA funding was \$453,657 for 2009. Robinson explained that this number was derived after subtracting the City of Rockford's Main Street project for \$128,000 and adding in \$112,237 from the City of Hudsonville's project, since that community decided not to proceed with their ARRA project. Itani added that there was roughly \$4.2 million left in unobligated projects, and he stated that if the trend continues and project bids for these projects also come in lower than the estimates, there might be even more ARRA funding that is left over. Itani added that the Committee members should obligate the projects as soon as possible so that they can take advantage of any extra funds, if they remain. Cornell-Howe added that all ARRA projects must have Grade Inspection packages in to Local Agency Programs and a Grade Inspection scheduled by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Discussion ensued.

In order to determine if additional ARRA funding may be available after additional ARRA projects are obligated, Robinson asked several committee members for status updates on their ARRA projects. After receiving responses on project statuses, Robinson determined that, based on project schedules, no additional funding will be available in time to program it and obligate an additional project. Any remaining funds would be lost.

Harrall added that the Committee could opt to overprogram in anticipation of additional funds being left over, which would prevent additional funds from being lost. He added that if projects are bid in December or January, they won't know until February if there is additional funding on the table. By this time, it would be too late for the Committee to select an additional project. Warren suggested that the Committee members speak on the various projects on the B-list to determine whether or not they would be able to have

the project ready in the specified time frame and to discuss the merits of the project.

Harrall stated that if the 6 Mile Road project from M-37 to Pine Island Drive was selected, a GI could be completed by December 30<sup>th</sup>. However, since the cost of the project was more than the available ARRA funds, the project limits would need to be shortened to M-37 to Division if no additional ARRA funding was received.

DeVries added that the Madison Avenue project from Burton to Cottage Grove St. could meet the obligation date. He added that the limits of the project could be cut back, since the cost of the project was more than the remaining ARRA funds.

Henckel added that Prairie Parkway from Burlingame to Michael should be removed from the B-list, since the project had already been completed. He asked to add the City of Wyoming's C-list project—Burlingame from 28<sup>th</sup> to Prairie—for \$100,000 to the B-list. Itani explained that this could not easily be done, since, unlike the B-list projects, the C-list projects are not in the TIP. To move a new project into the TIP would require an amendment, which would require running air quality analyses and holding public meetings, etc.

Rubley added that the OCRC could meet the deadline for the Byron Road project from 8<sup>th</sup> To Kenowa. However, he preferred to change the limits to 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, if possible.

Schweitzer stated that he would need to verify whether the East Paris Avenue project from 52<sup>nd</sup> Street to Barden Drive was ready to go. Conners added that the City of Walker may have difficulty financing the design aspect of their Leonard Street B-list project. Discussion ensued.

Itani added that the Committee can opt to go back to the TIP, find a project that can be obligated by the deadline, and split the funding between STP-Urban and ARRA funding. Cornell-Howe added that once funds are combined in a manner such as this, the funding percentage becomes 80/20 for all pieces of federal funding. Bush questioned what to do with projects that come in with bids that are higher than the estimates, resulting with the jurisdiction having to provide a local match. Bouwkamp stated that Rockford's project is approaching this point. Cornell-Howe responded that the only option in such a situation is to withdraw the project.

Conners suggested simply using the remaining ARRA funding for a project on the B-list. Henckel proposed the City of Grand Rapids' Madison Avenue project. DeVries stated that going forward with this project would leave him \$60,000 short of the project cost. Therefore, he said that he would rather defer.

Harrall stated that the KCRC can do the 6 Mile Road project for the funding available, but stated that the project limits would need to be tailored to fit the available funding. Itani asked for clarification from MDOT on what would need to be done to move this project from the B-list to the A-list and change the limits. Cornell-Howe responded that an administrative modification would need to be made to the TIP to move the project from the B-list to the A-list, and as long as the limit changes are inside the public involvement purposes, that is all that should be needed. Discussion ensued.

Warren entertained a motion to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP to move the 6-Mile Road

project forward, with the limits to stay the same as proposed.

**MOTION by Bush, SUPPORT by Schweitzer, to recommend to the Policy Committee moving the 6 Mile Road from M-37 to Pine Island project from the B-list to the A-list in the FY2008-2011 TIP, with the limits to stay the same unless ARRA funds are less than the estimated project cost, and the understanding that any leftover ARRA funds go towards meeting the project estimate. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Robinson added that one of the KCRC ARRA rural projects came in \$83,761 below the TIP estimate. He added that there was also \$60,000 in ARRA funds left on the table from an earlier meeting. This left \$143,761 in total remaining ARRA rural funds. Robinson commented that the Village of Sand Lake had a STP-rural project for FY2009 that may not go this year. Warren clarified that this project was the KCRC's Cannonsburg Road project.

Warren entertained a motion to add the remaining \$143,761 in ARRA rural funds into the Cannonsburg Road project in the FY2008-2011 TIP.

**MOTION by Harrall, SUPPORT by Bush, to recommend to the Policy Committee adding the remaining ARRA rural funds totaling \$143,761 into the KCRC's Cannonsberg Road project from Meyers Lake to Giles. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **VI. OBLIGATION STATUS UPDATE**

Robinson stated that, regarding the STP-Urban program, there was an allocation of \$7,951,630. To this date, over \$8 million in projects have been obligated. Itani explained that this happened because STP-Urban comes from one first come, first served pot of funding. Cornell-Howe asked the Committee members to make sure that every project is obligated as soon as possible, since MDOT will soon run out of obligational authority. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

#### **VII. PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT SURVEY UPDATE**

Snell distributed a handout to the committee that detailed the roads that Staff has already covered in the van on the federal aid system. Thus far, Staff has covered approximately 700 miles, which leaves 900 miles left to go. Snell stated that the pavement management survey should be completed by mid or late October, and the data will be available to the Committee members shortly after that. Robinson provided an update on PASER for this season. Discussion ensued.

#### **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Dewey reminded the Committee members that subregional meetings will begin in September and stated that invitations have already been sent out. She asked the Committee members to contact her if they had any questions about this.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Warren adjourned the September 2, 2009 Technical Committee meeting at 10:26 am.