

MINUTES

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
**TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMMING STUDY GROUP**  
Wednesday, January 12, 2011  
Grand Valley Metro Council 678 Front Ave NW

Conners called the meeting to order at 9:32 am. The Committee members, staff, and guests present introduced themselves.

**I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Voting Members Present**

Scott Conners		City of Walker
Jerry Alkema		Allendale Township
Tim Cochran		City of Wyoming
Mike DeVries		Grand Rapids Township
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Bill Dooley		City of Wyoming
Terry Schweitzer		City of Kentwood
Conrad Venema	<i>Proxy for Taiwo Jaiyeoba</i>	ITP-The Rapid
		ITP-The Rapid
Steve Warren		KCRC
Chris Zull		City of Grand Rapids

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Tim Haagsma	Gaines Township
Russ Henckel	City of Wyoming
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff

**Voting Members Not Present**

Sandy Ayers	Village of Caledonia
Mike Bouwkamp	City of Rockford
Christine Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Ron Carr	City of Grandville
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Dan DesJarden	City of Lowell
Ken Feldt	City of East Grand Rapids
Wayne Harrall ( <i>Chair</i> )	County of Kent
Taiwo Jaiyeoba	ITP-The Rapid
Brett Laughlin	OCRC

**APPROVED**

Ray Lenze  
Dan Strikwerda

**APPROVED**

**ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A**  
MDOT  
City of Hudsonville

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Conners entertained a motion to approve the September 22, 2010 Transportation Programming Study Group meeting minutes.

**MOTION by Cochran, SUPPORT by DeVries, to approve the September 22, 2010 Transportation Programming Study Group Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**IV. FY2011 CMAQ PROJECT REPLACEMENT**

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson explained that the City of Grand Rapids' FY2011 CMAQ project at the intersection of Michigan St. and College was not ready to move forward at this point. Therefore, he recommended that the Committee postpone this project until FY2012 and FY2013, with the City of Grand Rapids to receive \$960,000 in federal funds in FY2012 and \$280,000 in FY2013. Robinson stated that he had received several proposals for redistributing the \$920,000 in federal funds originally designated for this project.

The first proposal, Robinson explained, was from the City of Grand Rapids. In addition to moving the Michigan St. at College project to FY2012 and FY2013, the City of Grand Rapids also proposed to move the following projects:

- The Traffic Management Center project would shift from FY2013 to FY2011
- The Traffic Signal System Communications project, which was a FY2011 ITS Set-aside project (not funded), would move to FY2011 and be funded with regular CMAQ funding
- ITP would move their replacement buses project from FY2012 to FY2011

Zull noted that the intersection of College and Michigan is over capacity, even in spite of the work on the College Bridge, I-196, etc. Currently, \$300,000 has been raised to conduct a corridor study from Michigan Street from the River to the East Beltline, which will begin tomorrow. After this study is complete, Zull stated that the City of Grand Rapids would have a better picture of how to best improve this intersection.

Itani asked if the City of Grand Rapids had another project that could replace the ITS project that they were proposing to remove from the ITS set asides project list that would fall under the operations and maintenance category. Zull responded that there were many projects that could replace this project, but was not sure that they would qualify for operations and maintenance. Itani encouraged Zull to explore this further. Discussion ensued.

Dooley informed the Committee about the City of Wyoming's Gezon Parkway from Burlingame to West of Clyde Park project. He explained that this is a brand new project due to Gordon Foods Service deciding to build a new facility on Gezon parkway that is expected to be open for business in 15 months. In order to deal with the additional traffic, the City of

## APPROVED

## APPROVED ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A

Wyoming wants to add a left turn lane on Gezon Parkway. Dooley explained that the City of Wyoming is currently investigating the possibilities for funding this project and proposed that the Committee consider funding this project with the \$920,000 in remaining CMAQ funds in FY2011. Itani stated that he was concerned about the length of the project and added that if the Committee does decide to allocate CMAQ funds toward this project, Staff will need to talk to FHWA about project eligibility. Dooley responded that the length of the turn lane can be reduced, if necessary.

Haagsma explained the third proposal, from the KCRC, which involved bringing the White Creek Avenue at 17 Mile Road project forward from FY2014 to FY2011.

Connors provided an overview of the fourth proposal, which would move the City of Walker's Three Mile Road from Wilson to Kinney project from FY2014 to FY2011. Connors explained that this project was necessary due to a school on Three Mile that is causing a tremendous amount of traffic congestion.

Lastly, Venema stated that the Rapid was proposing that two replacement buses be funded with the remaining CMAQ funds. Both buses would be new projects in the TIP.

Schweitzer asked if all of these projects are able to meet the March deadline. Robinson responded that, in order to receive the 100% federal funding for CMAQ projects, projects must be obligated by March 4, since that is the date that the current transportation bill expires. While it is possible that the deadline could be extended, Robinson recommended that the Committee select the project(s) that were the simplest because the March 4 deadline is quickly approaching and because the approval process for CMAQ projects can be lengthy. Discussion ensued.

Dooley asked if CMAQ funds could be used to address projected congestion and stated that if this isn't possible, that he didn't want the committee to consider the City of Wyoming's project. Kent responded that if the left turn lane on Gezon Parkway was shortened, it would probably be easier to make the case for the project. However, there are no guarantees. Robinson added that the purpose of CMAQ funding is to reduce emissions, so the City of Wyoming would need to demonstrate that this project would reduce emissions in order for it to qualify. Discussion ensued.

Warren stated that he was in favor of the City of Grand Rapids' proposal. Zull noted that if the Committee accepts the City of Grand Rapids' proposal, there would still be a gap in the ITS set asides. Discussion ensued.

Connors entertained a motion to approve the City of Grand Rapids' proposal.

**MOTION by Warren, SUPPORT by Dooley, to recommend approval to the Technical Committee of the City of Grand Rapids' proposal to postpone their Michigan St. at College project until FY2012 and FY2013, and to move forward the Traffic Management Center project from FY2013 to FY2011 and the Replacement Buses project from FY2012 to FY2011, and to move the Traffic Signal System Communications project from FY2011 ITS set-aside to regular FY2011 funding.**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

APPROVED

APPROVED  
ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Referring to a memo, Kent informed the Committee that MDOT was requesting to amend/modify the FY2011-2014 TIP due to a change in the I-196 WB over the Grand River project. Kent explained that this project, which was expected to ultimately cost \$20 million, would replace the bridge deck and extend the ramp from WB to SB US-131. While MDOT does not currently have the \$20 million to complete the project, the TIP amendment/modification was necessary in order to allocate \$600,000 toward the project and move forward with preliminary engineering. Discussion ensued.

Conners entertained a motion to approve this TIP amendment, as identified.

**MOTION by Cochran, SUPPORT by DeVries, to recommend approval to the Technical Committee of the TIP amendment/modification requested by MDOT, as identified.**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Robinson also commented that, according to the new schedule, the next round of TIP amendments will go to Metro Council on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. He requested that the Committee send any new TIP amendments to him by January 24 so that they can be included in the February Tech agenda.

Itani asked the Committee members to start working on eligibility determination documentation as well. Discussion ensued.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Conners adjourned the January 12, 2011 TPSG Committee meeting at 10:19 am.