

MINUTES

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMMING STUDY GROUP
Friday, February 6, 2009
City of Wyoming City Hall 1155 28th Street SW

Conners, Chair of the TPSG Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:38 am. Those present introduced themselves to the Committee.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Scott Conners	<i>(Chair)</i>	City of Walker
Roger Belknap		KCRC
Patrick Bush		City of Grand Rapids
Ron Carr		City of Grandville
Tim Cochran		City of Wyoming
Mike DeVries		Grand Rapids Township
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Brian Donovan	<i>Proxy for Ken Feldt</i>	City of East Grand Rapids
		City of East Grand Rapids
Bill Dooley		City of Wyoming
Brett Laughlin		OCRC
Terry Schweitzer		City of Kentwood
Dan Strikwerda		City of Hudsonville
Steve Warren		KCRC

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Tim Haagsma	Gaines Township
Wayne Harrall	Kent County Road Commission
Roy Hawkins	GRFIA
Russ Henckel	City of Wyoming
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	MDOT-Grand Region
Erick Kind	MDOT-Grand Region
Dave Pasquale	City of Lowell
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Don Stypula	GVMC Staff
George Yang	GVMC Staff
Mike Zonyk	GVMC Staff

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Voting Members Not Present

Sandy Ayers
Mike Berrevoets
Mike Bouwkamp
Christine Burns
Sandra M. Cornell-Howe
Sharon DeLange
Dan DesJarden
Ken Feldt
Jerry Hall
Jan Hoekstra
D. Dale Mohr
Steve Peterson
Jared Rodriguez
Vicki Weerstra

Village of Caledonia
City of Cedar Springs (FTCH)
City of Rockford
City of Cedar Springs
MDOT
Village of Sparta
City of Lowell
City of East Grand Rapids
City of Cedar Springs
The Rapid
Georgetown Township
Cascade Township
GR Chamber
MDOT

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Conners entertained a motion to approve of the January 30, 2009 Transportation Programming Study Group Meeting Minutes.

MOTION by DeVries, SUPPORT by Laughlin, to approve the January 30, 2009 Transportation Programming Study Group Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. PRIORITIZATION OF ILLUSTRATIVE/ECONOMIC STIMULUS PROJECTS

Stypula began the discussion by providing the Committee with an update on the stimulus package. The bill is expected to be signed by the President on February 16. Stypula also informed the Committee that the Policy Committee is now authorized to approve TIP amendments for stimulus projects, which will expedite the approval process.

Conners suggested that the Committee look at the project list with close attention to fair distribution of funds, since the stimulus package is a one-time occurrence. Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Itani went over the illustrative/economic stimulus project list and stated that some of the projects may not qualify to receive stimulus funds. He declared that the list includes rural projects and enhancement projects under separate headings. Rural projects were expected to receive \$891,000 in funding, and at this point, it is unknown if any funding will be received for enhancement. Warren responded that he was disappointed that the rural

projects were not incorporated into the urban list of stimulus projects, since rural projects also qualify for urban funding. He stated that the Kent County Road Commission is responsible for maintaining 50% of the rural area roads, and to cut out rural stimulus projects from receiving urban stimulus funding was unfair, especially when the stimulus funding expected for rural projects was significantly less than the urban funding. Itani clarified his reasoning for listing the rural stimulus projects separately. He stated that there is 39 million dollars worth of needed projects in the urbanized area and recommended that the Committee choose to take care of the urbanized area first before spending that funding on rural projects. Discussion ensued.

Conners suggested that the jurisdictions present go around the table and discuss the projects they had submitted for the illustrative/economic stimulus list as well as their top priority projects. Conners, Hawkins, Laughlin, Schweitzer, Pasquale, Donovan, Strikwerda, Warren, Carr, Dooley and Henckel, DeVries, and Kent identified their projects for the Committee.

Discussion arose regarding a project identified by Hawkins to reconstruct John J. Oostema Blvd. from Patterson to Airport Terminal Drive. Hawkins had requested \$1.8 million to complete the project. Itani stated that he sensed that since the project is a regional facility that it may be a priority project for the Committee. The Kent County Road Commission would have to sponsor this project. Warren stated that it may not be necessary to commit \$1.8 million to this project and that they may be able to do a structural overlay. Harrall provided additional information about the project. Hawkins stated that nondestructive testing had found that there were problems with the base materials on the road. He expressed his concern that the road would deteriorate quickly. Harrall suggested that those involved with the project sit down and determine exactly what needs to be done. Discussion ensued.

Dooley suggested that the Committee set aside \$500,000 for the project. DeVries stated that if this project qualifies for resurfacing, it should be given an appropriate dollar amount. Bush suggested using the project for backfill in the TIP. Hawkins expressed the need for this project to either receive stimulus funds or be placed in the TIP. Itani suggested giving the project \$900,000, or half the estimated amount. Conners reiterated the ways the Committee had discussed handling the project: giving it either \$500,000 or \$900,000 and placing the project as a phase II project on the stimulus list or using it for backfill in the TIP. Itani suggested allocating \$750,000 for the airport project, since the cost was unknown, and if the \$500,000 estimate came up short, the airport would be responsible for the rest of the funding. Discussion ensued.

After a brief recess, Robinson showed the Committee the illustrative/economic stimulus list he had created based on the priorities of the jurisdictions. Phase I included \$14,173,000 in projects and Phase II included \$3,382,800 in projects. Robinson stated that the project list would need to be cut down to 13.1 million. He sorted the list by jurisdiction to aid the Committee in deciding which projects to

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eliminate.

Robinson stated that Cedar Spring's project was shovel-ready, but being that there were no representatives from Cedar Springs at the meeting, the Committee decided to remove the project from the list. Laughlin volunteered to take off the OCRC's 44th Street Project from the list and either move it into phase II or consider it for backfill in the TIP. Schweitzer volunteered to remove the East Paris project from 52nd to Barden off of the list.

Conners explained that he didn't want to just select phase I projects, since that would mean communities such as Kentwood that only have phase II projects wouldn't receive any of the funding. Itani agreed that the Committee cannot penalize communities that only have phase II projects. However, Itani also clarified that the Committee needs to decide if they are going to choose the projects deemed to be the best for the community as a whole or if the funding needs to be doled out based on the size of various jurisdictions. Conners responded that, based on how the money became available, none of the Committee members can go back to their boards and say that they received no stimulus money. The Committee reached a general consensus that every jurisdiction should receive an appropriate "fair share" of the stimulus money.

Donovan stated that if the City of East Grand Rapids projects could stay on the stimulus list, he would not submit any projects for backfill into the TIP.

Hawkins stated that he would like to change the airport project to resurface/reconstruct and the funding total to \$500,000. He continued that he wanted to leave the project in phase II of the economic stimulus list, if possible. If not, by the time projects were considered for TIP backfill, he should have a better idea of the cost.

After determining that the City of Hudsonville's projects totaled over \$200,000, and that their target was \$140,000, Strikwerda volunteered to take an additional project off the list.

Warren volunteered to remove the KCRC's Clyde Park Project from the stimulus list with the stipulation that the project would be considered as a backfill project in the TIP.

Carr volunteered to remove the City of Grandville's Century Road project.

Dooley volunteered to divide the City of Wyoming's Prairie Parkway project into two pieces and changed the limits of the Burlingame project. .

Bush volunteered to remove the City of Grand Rapids' 1st Street project from the list.

Robinson determined that, after making these cuts, the list of stimulus projects was

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still 1.3 million over where it needed to be.

Connors asked all of the jurisdictions with phase I projects to verbally commit to meeting the phase I deadline. All confirmed that they could.

Connors asked Donovan if he would be willing to take one of the City of East Grand Rapids' projects off the list and use it as backfill in the TIP. Donovan stated that the City of East Grand Rapids' Plymouth project could move to FY2010 of the TIP. Bush stated that the City of Grand Rapids would give up backfill in the FY2010 TIP to make this work.

Connors stated that if the airport project was to be included on the economic stimulus list, all of the communities would need to come in under target. Discussion, comments, and questions ensued.

Dooley stated that he'd like to leave the limits of the Burlingame project as they were, and likely still not spend \$950,000.

Itani stated if the target amount was reduced by \$300,000, that would take the list of projects to 13.6 million dollars. \$500,000 could be used for the airport, and everybody's total funding amount would be reduced proportionally to come up with that remaining \$500,000. Bush suggested leaving the project on the bottom of the stimulus list for now, and Harrall agreed to leave the project on the stimulus list as the last priority. Discussion ensued.

DeVries suggested that the airport spend the stimulus money they receive on fixing the road. Bush stated that the airport project should become the bubble project, meaning that if there was enough funding, the project would go forward. If not, it wouldn't. Itani reiterated that the stimulus list must be 13.1 million and no more. Warren agreed that the project should be "on the bubble," and to reducing project estimates to accommodate that project.

Dooley suggested that the airport project's amount be reduced to \$300,000, and that all other estimates be adjusted by \$300,000 total. This would mean a cut of 4.7% per project.

Connors entertained a motion to approve of the projects on the illustrative/economic stimulus list discussed by the committee.

MOTION by Dooley, SUPPORT by Donovan, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the illustrative/economic stimulus list with the changes discussed by the Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DeVries asked if their percentage reduction could be applied to one of their projects instead of all of them. Robinson responded that if any Committee members wanted to apply their percentage reduction to certain projects, to let him know and he would

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accommodate that request.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

None

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Conners entertained a motion to adjourn the February 6, 2009 TPSG Committee Meeting.

MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Donovan, to adjourn the February 6, 2009 TPSG Committee meeting at 12:30 pm. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.