

MINUTES

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMMING STUDY GROUP
Thursday, April 15, 2010
Kent County Road Commission 1500 Scribner Ave NW

Harrall, Chair of the TPSG Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Wayne Harrall (<i>Chair</i>)		County of Kent
Patrick Bush		City of Grand Rapids
Tim Cochran		City of Wyoming
Scott Conners		City of Walker
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Tim Haagsma	<i>Proxy for Mike DeVries</i>	Gaines Township
		Grand Rapids Township
Brett Laughlin		OCRC
Terry Schweitzer		City of Kentwood
Dan Strikwerda		City of Hudsonville
Steve Warren		KCRC

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Roger Belknap	KCRC
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Erick Kind	MDOT
Steve Redmond	MDOT
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Sandy Ayers	Village of Caledonia
Mike Bouwkamp	City of Rockford
Christine Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Ron Carr	City of Grandville
Sandra M. Cornell-Howe	MDOT
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Dan DesJarden	City of Lowell
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Bill Dooley	City of Wyoming

APPROVED

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**APPROVED
ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A
ITP-The Rapid**

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Harrall entertained a motion to approve the February 10, 2010 Transportation Programming Study Group meeting minutes.

MOTION by Laughlin, SUPPORT by Schweitzer, to approve the February 10, 2010 Transportation Programming Study Group Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. FY2008-2011 TIP AMENDMENT

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson informed the committee that, due to bid savings on the City of East Grand Rapids' Lakeside Drive project, approximately \$370,807 in STP-Urban funds needed to be reprogrammed. Robinson stated that, since funding cannot be added to projects that are already obligated, the Committee could look at projects that were currently unobligated and consider adding additional funds to these projects. The projects that were unobligated in the FY2010 TIP included: Pettis Avenue from Honey Creek to M-21 (KCRC), Belmont Avenue from Jupiter to Post (KCRC), 32nd Avenue from Highland Drive to Hudson Trails Drive (City of Hudsonville), 8th Avenue from M-45 to Ironwood (OCRC), and Van Buren Street from 22nd to 44th St (OCRC). Robinson asked the Committee members from the KCRC, the OCRC, and the City of Hudsonville for updates and additional information on these projects.

Harrall also provided an update on the KCRC's 6 Mile project, which is underfunded by approximately \$200,000. Although the project has already been obligated, it may be possible for the project to be deobligated and later reobligated with the additional funding. However, there was uncertainty as to whether this could be done without any of the project's funds being lost. Itani stated that it would take some time to investigate this issue. Discussion ensued.

Strikwerda requested that the committee consider allocating funding toward the City of Hudsonville's 36th Avenue project. Itani suggested making this project first priority to receive the remaining funding. Discussion ensued.

Robinson added that the Committee could consider raising the federal match for the Pettis Avenue project or the 8th Avenue project as well, since they are both underfunded. Harrall requested that if the KCRC's Pettis Project was given additional funding, that the Committee not be specific on the amount, since the total cost of the project was unknown. He added that he could send the specific amount needed for the project to Robinson the following day.

Following this, Itani suggested that the funds remaining after funding was allocated toward the City of Hudsonville project and the Pettis project be given to the OCRC.

Harrall entertained a motion to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP by reallocating the remaining \$370,807 in funding.

APPROVED

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ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A

MOTION by Haagsma, SUPPORT by Schweitzer, to allocate \$110,466 in federal funds for the City of Hudsonville's 36nd Avenue project, 80% of the total cost of the Pettis project in federal funds to the KCRC, up to \$40,000 (with Harrall to provide the total cost of the project to Robinson on 4/16/2010), and the remainder of the funding to the OCRC. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment B**, Redmond stated that MDOT is requesting to increase the amount of funding for a trunkline bridge rehabilitation project on US-131 under 32nd St. from \$202,000 to \$581,000. Kind provided additional information about this project.

Harrall entertained a motion to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP to accommodate this request.

MOTION by Cochran, SUPPORT by Laughlin, to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP to increase the amount of funding for MDOT's trunkline bridge rehabilitation project located on US-131 under 32nd Street from \$202,000 to \$581,000. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Itani brought three items before the Committee. First, he explained that his job is to leverage as many federal dollars as possible. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult for communities to provide the local match for projects. Currently, most of the projects in the TIP have a local match of greater than 20%. In light of this, Itani asked the Committee if they would be open to rethinking the strategy of programming projects with local matches higher than 20%. Second, Itani stated that several jurisdictions are precertified with MDOT to use federal funds for PE work. He explained that other jurisdictions may want to do this as well. Third, Itani explained that, because of the state of the economy, many Metro Council members are asking why they belong to the MPO. As an MPO, the process needs to continue. Therefore, Itani stated that he is looking to develop an approach that will help everyone. He suggested that member communities be required to pay for projects proportionally based on the amount of funding received, or that if they charge PE to projects, some of the money saved could go toward MPO dues. He explained that MPO dues should come from road funds, not from general funds.

Conners stated that it would be the most fair to raise the match to 80/20. DeVries suggested setting percentage matches project by project. In this case, communities that are members of Metro Council have to provide a much lower local match than those who are not. Itani explained that currently, the Metro Council does not have a policy on this issue. However, he is urging them to develop one. Warren stated his concern that if a road commission has a project in a township that doesn't belong to the MPO, the road commission would have to bear the burden of the additional cost. Discussion ensued.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Harrall departed before the end of the meeting, naming Schweitzer as temporary chair. As such, Schweitzer adjourned the April 15, 2010 TPSG Committee meeting at 10:00 am.