

MINUTES

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMMING STUDY GROUP
Wednesday, October 8th, 2014

Grand Valley Metro Council

678 Front Ave NW

Schweitzer called the meeting to order at 9:34 am. The Committee members, staff, and guests present introduced themselves.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Terry Schweitzer (<i>Chair</i>)		City of Kentwood
Ron Carr		City of Grandville
Tim Cochran		City of Wyoming
Scott Conners		City of Walker
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Wayne Harrall	<i>Proxy for Mike DeVries</i>	County of Kent
		Grand Rapids Township
		GRFIA
Roy Hawkins		City of Wyoming
Russ Henckel	<i>Proxy for Bill Dooley</i>	City of Wyoming
		MDOT
Steve Redmond		City of East Grand Rapids
Joe Slonecki		Village of Sand Lake
Roger Towsley		KCRC
Steve Warren		City of Hudsonville
Patrick Waterman	<i>Proxy for Dan Strikwerda</i>	
Chris Zull		City of Grand Rapids

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Erin Haviland	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Sandy Ayers	Village of Caledonia
Tim Bradshaw	City of Kentwood
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township

APPROVED

Bill Dooley
Ken Feldt
Mark Howe
Brett Laughlin
Brad Sharlow
Tom Stressman
Dan Strikwerda
Conrad Venema

*Proxy for
Rod Ghearing*

Phil Vincent

APPROVED

ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A

City of Wyoming
City of East Grand Rapids
City of Lowell
OCRC
MDOT
City of Cedar Springs
City of Hudsonville
ITP-The Rapid

City of Rockford

II. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

III. 2015 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) FY2015 PROGRAMMING

Robinson stated that in 2015 things are going to be done a little differently. He stated that Mike Smith from MDOT noted that GVMC had submitted wrong for 2014 TAP projects. Agencies submitted directly to Local Agency Programs (LAP) which is doing things backwards. A constructability review needs to be conducted by Mike Smith first, and then once projects are awarded by the MPO submit to LAP. The suggestion is that the communities submit their projects for the constructability review first. Schweitzer asked who the communities submit their constructability reviews to. Robinson responded to submit the projects through the State of Michigan. Applications are online, just for the TAP projects. Robinson noted that Mike Smith’s suggestion was to get the projects into MGS in order to get the constructability review completed first. Once this has been completed, the TPSG Committee members who submitted project candidates found constructible, will narrow down the list of projects to fit within the amount of funding allocated to GVMC. Then GVMC will issue the communities a conditional commitment for 2015. The condition is that the community must be able to get their project in to obligate by May/June. The Non-Motorized Committee developed the list of potential TAP projects that were listed projects in the Non-Motorized plan and are able to be obligated in 2015. Mike Smith also suggested developing a list of almost double the amount funds available to GVMC. This is the reason behind why the list shows roughly \$1.3 million in potential projects. Some will be removed; some may drop out due to the natural selection process. Some of the projects will not be able to turn around fast enough to get the funding needed to complete it. This years (2015) obligation authority will run out much earlier this year, possibly end of May-June. Robinson stated that agencies submit all road projects early. Schweitzer stated that there was a recommendation from the Non-Motorized Committee to bring forward the projects for consideration. At least one of the submitted projects has already moved to 2016. Robinson stated that if the communities can have their projects started in the MGS system, there is a really good chance of the review process being completed early. Conners asked if the May 31, 2015 deadline might be extended. Schweitzer stated that agencies focus should be on the

May 31, 2015 date. Schweitzer stated that the projects selected by the Non-Motorized Committee (to be considered by the TPSG Committee) had not been prioritized. Several committee members questioned whether the list of projects go to Technical and then to Policy, or should the TPSG Committee prioritize it first. Robinson stated that with this committee maybe a nomination would work and possibly go to the Technical or Policy Committees after a conditional commitment is issued. Itani stated that the committee use the preliminary list, then go through and prioritize that list, then decide which projects meet the requirements and can turn around in the timeframe given. Itani asked Robinson for clarification about how much the double amount would be. Robinson responded that there was approximately \$668,000 available, double being just over \$1.3 million. Itani stated that some of the projects listed could receive MDOT TAP funding. Robinson stated that according to Mike Smith it is much too late for 2015 MDOT TAP funding; those projects might be picked up in 2016. Itani suggested taking a couple of weeks for MDOT to determine what projects are constructible and narrowing the list after that. Robinson stated that during the constructability reviews Mike Smith can give an idea of how the application looks and any concerns he might have such as some hidden problem or issue that would delay the project. Connors stated the issue is that time is running out. No time to wait, this committee needs to make the decision on which projects to move forward with. Zull commented that the committee should prioritize the list and still go through the constructability review. Schweitzer stated there was value in that process and the idea would be to set this up so that we do not run into similar issues moving forward in the 2016-2017 years. Robinson stated that Grand Rapids has been a good player when it comes to always having a project; it would be good to have projects in the hopper. Waterman stated that they will probably yield the Hudsonville projects, and they can be removed from the 2015 project list.

Harrall stated that the Alpine project is very constructible, probably would not be funded with MDOT TAP funds because it is just a sidewalk but it is needed. Schweitzer asked Harrall if this could be obligated by April, to which Harrall stated that it wasn't likely but maybe by early 2015. Henckel explained that the Wyoming project has one conflict south of 56th street. Wyoming will need to construct a sanitary sewer, servicing Westside of parcels right under the trails. He noted that the city will pull a half mile section out of the submitted project which will cause the cost to go down a little; the original estimate was a very rough estimate. The rest of the trail will need resurfacing, widening and adding signage and markings. Connors stated that Walker can do their project; they were just given engineering money unofficially to make it happen immediately. Schweitzer asked if the April letting was feasible. Connors stated that might be a stretch. DeVries stated that one Grand Rapids projects is on a trunk line, Plainfield, 3 Mile to I-96. Of the three projects Grand Rapids submitted; this is the toughest due to all the businesses. The Lake Michigan Drive project looks good; not much work left. Harrall stated the projects for Gaines Township should rank high for MDOT TAP funding; there are a couple right of way restrictions. It is a good enhancement to the existing Paul Henry Trail. In the description it will be stated that this would be a good candidate for MDOT TAP funding. Schweitzer stated that the current options are to submit the list as it is or submit the current list in a specific order. Schweitzer questioned what to do with the rest of the projects; should there be another call for projects

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ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A**

for 2016-2017. Conners stated that those jurisdictions with projects requesting 2015 TAP funding, could get back together in a few weeks, but that everyone needs to get their reviews in the meantime.

Schweitzer entertained a motion to move forward with the entire list of TAP-funded projects.

MOTION by Conners, SUPPORT by Harrall, to move the entire list of TAP-funded projects forward. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Schweitzer stated the next order of business is what to do with the projects that are out and the ones at the bottom of the page for 2016-2017 funding. Carr suggested recommending some of those to be funded with MDOT TAP funding. Schweitzer stated the committee should recommend the Byron project be nominated to be submitted to the State for MDOT TAP funding right now, and entertained a motion to do so.

MOTION by Carr, SUPPORT by Harrall, to recommend that the Byron Township project be submitted for state TAP funding. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Schweitzer asked the committee what to do with the projects that are not going to make the cut for the 2015 TAP funding. DeVries mentioned to meet again for 2016 projects. Conners stated to start the process for the 2016-2017 funding as early as December.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Schweitzer asked whether there were any updates; hearing none he moved for adjournment.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Schweitzer adjourned the October 8, 2014 TPSG Committee meeting at 10:41 am.