

MINUTES

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
**TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMMING STUDY GROUP**  
Wednesday, November 2, 2011  
Grand Valley Metro Council 678 Front Ave NW

Harrall, chair of the TPSG committee, called the meeting to order at 9:31 am. The Committee members, staff, and guests present introduced themselves.

**I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Voting Members Present**

Wayne Harrall (*Chair*)  
Roger Belknap  
Ron Carr  
Tim Cochran  
Scott Conners  
Rick DeVries  
Tim Haagsma  
Russ Henckel

*Proxy for  
Bill Dooley*

Jan Hoekstra  
Brett Laughlin  
Ray Lenze  
Terry Schweitzer  
Dan Strikwerda  
Steve Warren  
Chris Zull

County of Kent  
City of Cedar Springs  
City of Grandville  
City of Wyoming  
City of Walker  
City of Grand Rapids  
Gaines Township  
City of Wyoming  
City of Wyoming  
ITP-The Rapid  
OCRC  
MDOT  
City of Kentwood  
City of Hudsonville  
KCRC  
City of Grand Rapids

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Andrea Faber  
Alan Hartley  
Abed Itani  
Dennis Kent  
Steve Peterson  
Steve Redmond  
Darrell Robinson

GVMC Staff  
ITP-The Rapid  
GVMC Staff  
MDOT  
Cascade Township  
MDOT  
GVMC Staff

**Voting Members Not Present**

Jerry Alkema  
Sandy Ayers  
Mike Bouwkamp  
Sharon DeLange

Allendale Township  
Village of Caledonia  
City of Rockford  
Village of Sparta

**APPROVED**

Dan DesJarden  
Mike DeVries  
Bill Dooley  
Ken Feldt

**APPROVED**

**ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A**

City of Lowell  
Grand Rapids Township  
City of Wyoming  
City of East Grand Rapids

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Harrall entertained a motion to approve the January 12, 2011 Transportation Programming Study Group meeting minutes.

**MOTION by Laughlin, SUPPORT by Schweitzer, to approve the January 12, 2011 Transportation Programming Study Group Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**IV. FY2012 CMAQ PROJECT REPLACEMENT/PROGRAMMING**

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson explained that there was \$117,509 in CMAQ funding available for programming. This additional funding was due to the 2010 census results, which showed an increase in population in GVMC’s MPO area, and the Hope Network deciding to drop a diesel bus for consideration for CMAQ funds.

Robinson also noted that ITP-The Rapid was awarded a \$600,000 Alternative Analysis (AA) grant which will need to be added to the illustrative list in the TIP. Hoekstra provided additional clarification about the status of this project.

Harrall asked if proposed new projects would need to go through an air quality analysis. Itani clarified that any new project that has not yet been submitted for eligibility determination would need to go through the air quality process. Lenze added that the Committee will want to get the projects started early. Itani noted that the extension of SAFETEA-LU expires March 31<sup>st</sup> and recommended that the Committee send in projects as early as possible so that they can get obligated. Discussion ensued.

Itani explained that CMAQ is eligible for 100% federal funding in FY2012 and asked that the Committee consider changing the 80/20 project match amounts for unobligated projects in order to use up the remaining CMAQ funding.

Hoekstra brought to the Committee’s consideration a request to take the funding from their 8 expansion vans project and the free fare on Clean Air Action Days project and put that funding into a park and ride on the Lake Michigan corridor for FY2012 only, which would help reduce emissions. Itani asked if the Rapid would continue to fund free bus rides on Action Days. Hoekstra noted that the Rapid would have funding available for bus rides on Action Days in FY2012. Lenze noted that the Rapid must secure right-of-way prior to the project receiving funding or risk losing funding to the area. Hoekstra clarified that the Rapid has three years to use the funds. Itani suggested that the Rapid wait until FY2013 to fund the park and ride. Discussion ensued.

## APPROVED

## APPROVED ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A

Haagsma also brought a project before the Committee for consideration. This project—68<sup>th</sup> St. at Kalamazoo—would involve adding a west bound right turn lane. Currently, the right lane backs up with people trying to get onto M6. Conners asked if there was an estimate for this project. Haagsma responded that there was an estimate for the project, but that it was not detailed. Discussion ensued.

Hoekstra also noted that the Rapid has a CMAQ project in FY2011 that is underfunded by \$120,000. She asked that the Committee consider putting the additional CMAQ funding toward this project, which was to purchase two clean diesel buses which cost \$400,000 each. Itani suggested that the Rapid take the funding from the funding set aside for the carpool lot.

Zull asked that the Committee consider allocating additional funding for the City of Grand Rapids' College and Michigan intersection project, since the project will likely cost more than what was planned. Lenze stated that FHWA has been looking at this project and cannot obligate it until the right-of-way is secured. Zull responded that the City of Grand Rapids is working on this. Lenze asked if the City of Grand Rapids can complete the project design this year and build the project next year. He noted that the City of Grand Rapids is putting a lot of money in jeopardy of being lost. Itani added that it will be prudent to commit funding for this project in FY2013 and suggested that the Committee develop a contingency plan so that projects could be substituted so that funding is not lost if the City of Grand Rapids is not able to complete their project on time. Zull noted that the design on the project has not started yet. Kent added that MDOT has a weave/merge lane project and that they could possibly transfer local funds to their project and pay the Committee members back in FY2013. However, this is something that he would need to discuss internally. Discussion ensued.

Robinson suggested continuing the discussion about the Michigan/College project at another meeting and continuing to address the additional \$117,000 at this meeting. Harrall recommended that the TPSG Committee meet before or after the Tech Committee meeting in December to discuss this further. Itani asked the City of Grand Rapids to discuss the Michigan/College project internally and decide by the end of November if they can meet the project deadline. He also asked Kent to investigate at MDOT whether local funds could be transferred to an MDOT project in FY2012 and be repaid in FY2013. Harrall and Schweitzer recommended that communities look at their FY2013 projects and see if anything can be moved up. Haagsma added that the 4 Mile and Alpine project could be moved up to FY2012 from FY2013. Robinson noted that, due to the new TIP amendment schedule, TIP amendments will not be submitted until February. Discussion ensued.

Harrall returned the discussion to addressing the remaining \$117,509 in CMAQ funds. He noted that there were two options: to add funding to the Rapid's underfunded bus project or to fund the KCRC project at 68<sup>th</sup> St. and Kalamazoo. Harrall asked for Committee members interested in spending the remaining \$117,509 to cover the Rapid's underfunded bus project to raise their hand. No committee members raised their hands in support of Hoekstra's proposal. Carr asked if using the remaining CMAQ funds to cover an underfunded project would set a precedent, especially since no one else can do this. Itani added that everyone should play by the same rules. Carr suggested increasing the 80/20 match. Discussion ensued.

Harrall entertained a motion to keep the 80/20 split and add the KCRC's project to the TIP.

APPROVED

APPROVED  
ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A

**MOTION by Conners, SUPPORT by Laughlin, to recommend to the Technical Committee keeping the 80/20 match and adding the KCRC's 68<sup>th</sup> at Kalamazoo project to the TIP. MOTION CARRIED.** Hoekstra opposed.

Itani added that the Committee will still need to act on the Rapid's request to use vanpool and Clean Air Action Day funding to fund a park and ride on the Lake Michigan Corridor. Conners and Laughlin agreed to amend the motion as follows:

**MOTION by Conners, SUPPORT by Laughlin, to recommend to the Technical Committee keeping the 80/20 match, adding the KCRC's 68<sup>th</sup> at Kalamazoo project to the TIP, and allowing the Rapid to use vanpool and Clean Air Action Day funding for FY2012 to fund a park and ride lot on the Lake Michigan Corridor. MOTION CARRIED.**

Harrall entertained a motion to include the Rapid's \$600,000 AA grant in the illustrative list of the TIP.

**MOTION by Cochran, SUPPORT by DeVries, to add the Rapid's \$600,000 alternative analysis (AA) grant for the Laker Line BRT project to the illustrative list in the FY2011-2014 TIP. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

Cochran asked what the population growth was for the MPO area. Itani responded that it was approximately 40,000.

Robinson noted that he, along with Kent and Andrea Dewey, have been looking at revising the policies and practices for programming projects document in order to bring it in line with the new TIP amendment schedule and the precedents established by the Committee. Once this is affirmed, Robinson commented that he would bring it through the Committees. Itani added that FHWA has published a document outlining what constitutes a TIP amendment, adjustment, etc., and what staff can approve vs. what needs to go through the Committee. Itani said that this document will be used as a blueprint when revising the policies and practices document. He noted that it is important that the process be flexible enough that if there is an emergency, staff can make a decision to move a project forward. Discussion ensued.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Conners adjourned the November 2, 2011 TPSG Committee meeting at 10:22 am.