

MINUTES

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMMING STUDY GROUP
Friday, December 12, 2008
Kent County Road Commission 1500 Scribner NW

The meeting was called to order by Itani at 9:42 a.m.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Scott Conners	<i>(Chair)</i>	City of Walker
Roger Belknap		KCRC
Mike Berrevoets		City of Cedar Springs (FTCH)
Ron Carr		City of Grandville
Sandra M. Cornell-Howe		MDOT
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Bill Dooley		City of Wyoming
Ken Feldt		City of East Grand Rapids
Wayne Harrall		Kent County Road Commission
Russ Henckel	<i>Proxy for Tim Cochran</i>	City of Wyoming
		City of Wyoming
Jan Hoekstra		The Rapid
Brett Laughlin		OCRC
Terry Schweitzer		City of Kentwood
Dan Strikwerda		City of Hudsonville
Steve Warren		KCRC

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Dewey	GVMC Staff
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Tim Haagsma	Gaines Township
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Erick Kind	MDOT Grand Region
Sarah Koepke	FHWA
Steve Redmond	MDOT
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff

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**APPROVED
ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A**

Voting Members Not Present

Sandy Ayers
Mike Bouwkamp
Christine Burns
Patrick Bush
Tim Cochran
Sharon DeLange
Dan DesJarden
Jerry Hall
Roy Hawkins
Dale Mohr
Steve Peterson
Jared Rodriguez
Vicki Weerstra

Village of Caledonia
City of Rockford
City of Cedar Springs
City of Grand Rapids
City of Wyoming
Village of Sparta
City of Lowell
City of Cedar Springs
GRFIA
Georgetown Township
Cascade Township
GR Chamber
MDOT

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Conners entertained a motion to approve of the April 10, 2007 Transportation Programming Study Group Meeting Minutes.

MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by CARR, to approve the April 10, 2007 Transportation Programming Study Group Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. FY2009-2013 STP-U AND EDF-C TIP PROGRAMMING

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson reviewed FY2009 STP-U and EDF-C projects. He stated that funding levels are lower than they have been in the past. When the FY2008-2011 TIP was programmed, Robinson worked from estimates. While he did plan on seeing shortfalls in funding later on, he did not expect there to be a shortfall in FY2009. Consequently, the FY2009 TIP is overprogrammed by \$476,166 in STP-U funds. For EDF-C funding for FY2009, Robinson stated that there are new estimates of 1.525 million. Of that amount, \$550,622 is available to program. Cornell-Howe clarified that funding for FY2009 is still an estimate. No actual numbers will be available until February of FY2009. Itani stated that GVMC would program less in the future to ensure that the TIP is constrained. Discussion ensued.

Robinson went on to discuss FY2010. He stated that what is currently programmed in the TIP leaves a 22,000 shortfall in STP-U funds. Itani suggested that the Committee skip over FY2010, since it is essentially programmed, and move on to STP-U funding for FY2011. Robinson clarified that, for FY2011, \$324,000 in STP-U

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funding is available for programming. He listed the FY2011 STP-U projects in the TIP to determine if all were still accurate. Warren stated that the limits of the 4 Mile Road project from Baumhoff to east of Bristol were incorrect. Itani asked if Cabela's was still coming to Walker. Conners replied that, based on the economy, he didn't believe that any new businesses would be coming to the area in the immediate future. Itani stated that he needed to know within the next six months if Cabela's is going to come to Walker so that the available funding could be spent more appropriately if the store wasn't coming to the area.

Itani asked the committee for proposed ways to spend the remaining \$324,000. Warren suggested the Pettis Avenue project from Honey Creek to M-21. Itani stated that either new projects could be added to the TIP, or the match could be readjusted. Robinson clarified that the current match is 70/30 but could go up to 80/20. Dooley suggested the Plymouth Road project from Franklin to Robinson Road. Itani stated that the hospital is going to expand, and therefore this project would meet an economic development and infrastructure objective. Warren added that the Kent County Road Commission maintains 40% of the federal aid network in Kent County and expressed his dissatisfaction that they only receive 30% of available STP funding. Warren declared that the merits of various projects should be discussed and asked what the match percentage would be if the remaining funding was allotted to the projects already in the TIP. Dooley stated that it would be approximately 74/26.

Schweitzer suggested that the Committee continue with what's already been programmed and update the TIP over the next two years. Schweitzer also commented on the fact that there was not an active chair leading the meeting. Robinson asked the Committee if it was necessary to have a chair. Dooley stated that, in the past, the chair of the Technical Committee chaired TPSG. He continued that being chair of this committee was a disadvantage since it limited the individual from thoroughly engaging in the debate. Warren stated that the chair should be the vice chair of the Technical Committee and therefore nominated Conners to fill that position.

Warren expressed his opinion that there should be more "jurisdictional equity" in the project selection process. Itani stated that it is the job of the Committee to determine projects and that GVMC will not tell them what to choose. Discussion ensued. Schweitzer stated that a method of determining an apple-to-apple comparison between projects was needed. Warren suggested using a "good," "fair," or "poor" rating for projects instead of a PCI rating. Dooley stated his belief that the PCI ratings were an objective place to begin in determining eligible projects. Discussion ensued.

Itani stated that if the Committee wanted Staff to come up with a different project rating mechanism, it would take some time. Carr suggested that when the Committee proposes a project, that they propose it for several years. Warren advocated for Committee members to re-rank their projects. Discussion ensued.

APPROVED

APPROVED
ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A

Conners entertained a motion to reallocate the remaining funding between the FY2011 STP-U projects that have already been programmed and to add structure to any subsequent TPSG meetings.

MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Harrall, to reallocate the remaining \$324,000 in FY2011 STP-U funds and redistribute the match to 74/26, and for any subsequent TPSG meetings to be more structured. MOTION FAILED. CORNELL-HOWE ABSTAINED.

In support of the motion were Warren, Schweitzer, Laughlin, Carr, Hoekstra, and Conners. In opposition of the motion were Feldt, Berrevoets, DeVries, Henckel, Harrall, and Strikwerda.

Itani stated that Staff can take length and VMT, and figure out project cost by mile. That would take the deterioration rate out of the equation. Warren suggested looking at projects submitted with PCI ratings below 45 and then re-ranking projects below 70 for resurfacing. He declared that multiplying the deterioration rate on PCI causes a fluctuation in ranking that shouldn't be there. Lastly, he asked that any special factors about a project be listed.

The Committee took a brief recess from 11:10 am to 11:15 am.

Warren stated that the project limits are not correct for the 4-Mile project. Cornell-Howe added that if the project limits are changed, a TIP amendment would be required. Discussion ensued.

The discussion on how to spend the remaining \$324,000 for FY2011 STP-U funding was returned to the floor. Warren stated that the KCRC would be seeking to amend the TIP in January to use the remaining funding. Dooley asked that before the next Tech Committee Meeting the Committee have better information on the status of the 4-Mile project, as it is vague how funding for the project is being spent. Discussion continued.

Conners entertained a motion to table discussion on this issue until after the January Tech Meeting, when a clearer picture of the 4-Mile project is available.

MOTION by Cornell-Howe, SUPPORT by Carr, to table discussion on how to spend the remaining \$324,000 in FY2011 STP-U funding until after the January 7, 2009 Tech Committee Meeting, when additional information on the 4-Mile project is available. MOTION CARRIED.

Feldt did not support this motion.

Dooley suggested lumping projects into reconstruction and resurfacing, thereby creating a large pool. Itani responded that Staff will take the current list for FY2010-2013 projects and develop a new indicator to determine the projects that will make

APPROVED

APPROVED
ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A

best use of funds. He stated that he will pool all the resurfacing jobs together and look at reconstruction jobs separately. There will be a column added for comments that Committee members can fill out and send back to GVMC.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Itani stated that the next TPSG meeting will take place on Friday, January 9 at 9:30 am at the Kent County Road Commission.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Connors adjourned the December 12, 2008 Transportation Programming Study Group meeting at 12:42 pm