

MINUTES

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMMING STUDY GROUP
Wednesday, December 16, 2009
Kent County Road Commission 1500 Scribner Ave NW

Conners, Chair of the TPSG Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Scott Conners	<i>(Chair)</i>	City of Walker
Roger Belknap	<i>Proxy for</i>	KCRC
	<i>Steve Warren</i>	KCRC
Ron Carr		City of Grandville
Tim Cochran		City of Wyoming
Sandra M. Cornell-Howe		MDOT
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Ken Feldt		City of East Grand Rapids
Tim Haagsma		Gaines Township
Russ Henckel	<i>Proxy for</i>	City of Wyoming
	<i>Bill Dooley</i>	City of Wyoming
Brett Laughlin		OCRC
Terry Schweitzer		City of Kentwood
Dan Strikwerda		City of Hudsonville

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Wayne Harrall	County of Kent
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	MDOT-Grand Region
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
Patrick Bush	City of Grand Rapids
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Dan DesJarden	City of Lowell
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township

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Bill Dooley
Steve Peterson
Steve Warren

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City of Wyoming
Cascade Township
KCRC

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Conners entertained a motion to approve the October 30, 2009 Transportation Programming Study Group meeting minutes.

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

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. SELECTION OF ARRA PROJECT(S) TO UTILIZE POTENTIAL REDISTRIBUTED ARRA FUNDS

Speaking on **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson informed the Committee that the purpose of today’s meeting was to select a project, or projects, for different funding levels of possible redistributed ARRA funding. He passed out an updated spreadsheet of eligible projects that included an update on the City of Hudsonville’s 36th Avenue from Hudsonville NCL to Van Buren project. To begin, Robinson stated that there are several ARRA projects that have not been obligated to date. As of December 7, Robinson stated that \$3,677,570.73 remained in unobligated ARRA funds in this MPO area. Robinson said that there were three projects that were delayed due to changes that were recently made to them, which is why these projects haven’t yet been obligated. Robinson then asked committee members to provide updates on their unobligated A-list projects as well. Itani clarified that all A-list Stimulus projects will need to be ready before December 20th. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Referring to an additional handout, Cornell-Howe explained the timeline for redistributing ARRA funds, should any remain. According to the letter, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) requires that all allocated funds are obligated by March 2, 2010. The deadline for MDOT Local Agency Programs (LAP) to receive Grade Inspection (GI) packages for approved projects is 4:00 pm on Wednesday, December 30, 2009. If LAP does not receive a complete GI package for each outstanding approved project by this time, the funding for these projects will become available for use by any member of the MPO. The deadline for MDOT LAP to receive GI packages for approved projects, using additional local planning area funds, is 4:00 pm on Friday, January 8, 2010. If approved projects within a MPO have not been submitted by January 8, 2010, then the remaining funds will be made available statewide. The deadline for MDOT LAP to receive GI packages for approved projects using local redistributed funds is 4:00 pm, Friday, January 15, 2010. Both prioritized projects lists (local planning area funds and statewide local system redistribution) must be submitted to the MDOT, Statewide Planning Section by 4:00 pm on December 22, 2009. Cornell-Howe added that on March 2nd, a decision will be made for every state on whether the state spent all their money, is giving the money back, or should the state get more funding. If any funds are remaining in Michigan after MDOT has made every attempt to make sure that the locals have spent the local share of the ARRA money, MDOT will use these

funds for trunkline jobs so that no funds are lost to other states. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Returning to the project selection process, Cornell-Howe stated that Committee members would want to submit projects that they are going to move forward with anyway so that their engineering expenditures are not wasted if no additional ARRA funding is received. For this list, Robinson suggested two B-list projects that have already had their GI's. These projects are the OCRC's Byron Road project from 8th to Kenowa and the City of Kentwood's East Paris Avenue project from 52nd Street to Barden Drive. Discussion, comments, and questions ensued.

Strikwerda explained that he would like to have the City of Hudsonville's project considered first for additional ARRA funding, since Hudsonville has yet to receive an ARRA project. He explained that while the project had previously been rejected by the City Commission, he stated that the City Commission had now approved a resolution to go ahead with the work.

Schweitzer stated that he would like the City of Kentwood's East Paris Avenue from 52nd Street to Barden Drive project to be considered second for additional ARRA funding.

Harrall explained that he had two priority projects that he would like to have added to the list. The first of these priorities was 6 Mile Road from M-37 to Pine Island Dr. Harrall explained that, according to engineer's estimates, the project is at least \$200,000 short of what is needed to complete the project. He suggested that remaining ARRA funding could be used to fund part of this shortfall. Harrall stated that his second priority was the KCRC's 17 Mile Road project from US 131 to West Street.

Laughlin affirmed that the OCRC's Byron Road project from 8th to Kenowa is also ready to go.

The Committee reached a general consensus on ranking all of the submitted projects with the following priorities, with the first project listed to be given the first right of refusal to accept the funds, and so on down the list:

1st priority went to the City of Hudsonville's 36th Avenue from Hudsonville NCL to Van Buren project.

2nd priority was given to the City of Kentwood's East Paris Avenue from 52nd Street to Barden Drive project.

3rd priority was given to the OCRC's Byron Road project from 8th to Kenowa.

4th priority went to the KCRC's 6 Mile Road from M-37 to Pine Island Drive project.

For the remainder of the projects, Connors suggested using community size as the principal factor in determining project priority. With this in mind, 5th priority was determined to be the City of Grand Rapids' Cherry Street from Market Avenue to Grandville Avenue project.

6th priority was given to the City of Wyoming's Burlingame Avenue Bridge over Buck Creek project.

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7th priority went to the City of Walker’s Leonard Street from Wilson to West City Limits project.

8th priority was given to the City of Grandville for their Century (Mall Ring Road) from Potomac to Century project.

9th priority went to the City of East Grand Rapids for their Lake Drive from Breton to Conlon project.

10th priority went to the KCRC’s 17 Mile Road from US-131 to West Street project.

11th priority went to the OCRC for their 44th Street from 8th Avenue to Kenowa Avenue project.

12th priority was given to the City of Grand Rapids for their Hall Street from Madison Avenue to Eastern Avenue project.

13th priority was given to the OCRC for their Byron Road project from 48th to 24th.

14th priority was given to the City of Grand Rapids for their Coit Street from Kendalwood Street to North Park Street project.

15th priority went to the OCRC for their Byron Road project from 24th Avenue to 8th Avenue.

Cornell-Howe stated that at the January Technical Committee meeting, procedures should be started to add this list of prioritized projects into the TIP as an illustrative list. These procedures should also call for giving staff or the Policy Committee administrative modification authority to move these projects into the body of the TIP.

Connors entertained a motion to prioritize the list of projects to receive additional ARRA funding, should it be available, as identified above.

MOTION by Laughlin, SUPPORT by Feldt, to prioritize the list of submitted potential ARRA projects as identified, with the first project to receive the first right of refusal should additional funding be received.

Cornell-Howe suggested that this motion also include direction to the Technical Committee to proceed with including this list as an illustrative list in the TIP. Laughlin and Feldt agreed to amend the motion as Cornell-Howe proposed, and it was revised as follows:

MOTION by Laughlin, SUPPORT by Feldt, to recommend to the Technical Committee prioritization of the submitted list of potential ARRA projects as identified, with the first project to receive the first right of refusal, should additional funding be received, along with a recommendation that the Technical Committee move to add these projects as an illustrative list into the FY2008-2011 TIP. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Itani stated that the House recently passed a bill for a second round of stimulus funding for transportation that would amount to \$35 billion dollars. However, the Senate is not expected to look at the bill until after Christmas. Cornell-Howe added that this bill includes more

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reporting requirements as well as strings attached to the funding. Discussion ensued.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Itani stated that if there is another stimulus package that includes funding for transportation, Committee members may want to consider allowing federal funding to be used for engineering and other costs associated with preparing projects. Discussion ensued.

Itani commented that FHWA legislation will expire on December 18th. Discussion ensued.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Conners adjourned the December 16, 2009 TPSG Committee meeting at 10:20 am.