

MINUTES

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMMING STUDY GROUP  
Wednesday, December 4, 2013  
Grand Valley Metro Council 678 Front Ave NW

Zull called the meeting to order at 9:33 am. The Committee members, staff, and guests present introduced themselves.

**I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Voting Members Present**

Chris Zull ( <i>Chair</i> )		City of Grand Rapids
Ron Carr		City of Grandville
Tim Cochran		City of Wyoming
Scott Conners		City of Walker
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Bill Dooley		City of Wyoming
Rod Ghearing		ITP-The Rapid
Wayne Harrall	<i>Proxy for</i>	County of Kent
	<i>Mike DeVries</i>	Grand Rapids Township
Russ Henckel	<i>Proxy for</i>	City of Wyoming
	<i>Bill Dooley</i>	City of Wyoming
Brett Laughlin		OCRC
Paul Lott		MDOT
Terry Schweitzer		City of Kentwood
Phil Vincent		City of Rockford
Steve Warren		KCRC

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Tim Haagsma	Gaines Township
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Erick Kind	MDOT
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff

**Voting Members Not Present**

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Sandy Ayers	Village of Caledonia
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Ken Feldt	City of East Grand Rapids
Roy Hawkins	GRFIA
Mark Howe	City of Lowell
Tom Stressman	City of Cedar Springs
Dan Strikwerda	City of Hudsonville

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Zull entertained a motion to approve the August 14, 2013 Transportation Programming Study Group (TPSG) meeting minutes.

**MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Harrall, to approve the August 14, 2013 TPSG meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. PROGRAMMING OF STPU AND CMAQ FUNDS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Itani stated that the purpose of today’s meeting was to program \$598,054 in STPU funds in FY2014, \$40,000 in CMAQ funding in FY2014, and \$280,000 in CMAQ funding in FY2017.

Robinson added that there is a spreadsheet in the agenda that shows the available projects. He noted that this is not the most official list. However, the efile, which is the most official list, is not as readable and presentable, which is why he chose this file. He asked that if the Committee members noted any differences between the lists to please notify him. He also explained that the FY2015 and FY2016 EDFC project lists do show extra funding; however, he stated that the Committee had requested to carry over that funding to FY2017 for an EDFC project that was left overprogrammed.

**FY2014 STPU Funding**

Zull suggested that the Committee start by discussing the STPU funding for FY2014. Robinson explained how the \$598,054 in funding became available, and Zull asked for proposals for projects. Schweitzer suggested 52<sup>nd</sup> St. from Kalamazoo to Eastern and noted that the City of Kentwood could obligate the project in a timely fashion. He also explained that this project had a PASER rating of 3 and that the City of Kentwood would need to fund the project at a larger local match to fit the funding that’s available.

Warren asked the Committee to consider moving the KCRC’s 10 Mile from Courtland to Meyers Lake project from FY2017 to FY2014. The project is currently funded with STP-Flex funding. He noted that by moving this project to FY2014, it would create an opening in FY2017 to add in their Belmont Avenue relocation project. (This project was previously denied CMAQ funding and is currently unfunded.) Warren explained that the 10 Mile project is important to the KCRC and to Kent County because it would coordinate needed road improvements with the addition of Luton Park and a corresponding new parking area off of 10 Mile. He further noted that, at a past Committee meeting, the Committee had agreed to consider the Belmont Avenue project if funding became available in the future. Harrall added that the total cost of this project is \$700,000, and that the project would utilize \$560,000 in STP funding if funded at an 80/20 federal/local match, or the majority of the funding available in FY2014. The project could also utilize some CMAQ funding. Robinson commented that the projects in FY2014 are programmed at a 74/26 federal/local match. Discussion ensued.

**ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A**

Laughlin asked that the Committee consider the OCRC's 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Fillmore to M-45 resurfacing project as a replacement. He proposed \$482,000 in funding, but would be willing to take whatever funding was available—less or more. Discussion ensued.

DeVries added that the City of Grand Rapids had a \$250,000 (\$185,000 federal) resurfacing project in FY2017—Michigan St. from College to Eastern—which is important with the redevelopment taking place along the corridor. A \$30 million hotel/office building is expected to be built over the next couple of years at College and Michigan, and there is a \$16 million residential and mixed use development at the corner of Michigan and Eastern slated for completion in mid-2015. Moving this project up would allow it to be completed before the two buildings open. He noted that Michigan St. has a PASER rating of 5 and is a high priority corridor and a principal arterial. Discussion ensued.

Zull explained that four projects had been proposed for consideration. Discussion about the projects ensued.

Connors stated that the Committee had talked about clustering different benefits together, such as private development benefits, bus stop assistance, sidewalk and bike trail improvements, etc., and suggested selecting the project that benefits the greatest number of people. Warren added that there is a private developer, Wynalda Litho, in Plainfield Township with a large piece of property. However, if there's no pending road project, then there's no incentive for Plainfield Township to come together with Wynalda Litho to discuss the development plan for relocating the road. Discussion ensued.

Zull asked Laughlin for clarification on the OCRC's 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue project. Laughlin provided additional details about the project, noting that it was two miles long but that the scope of the work could be changed to just one mile to fit available funding.

Zull asked Schweitzer for additional details on the City of Kentwood's 52<sup>nd</sup> St. project, which Schweitzer provided, noting that the project was primarily preventative maintenance. Dooley asked DeVries if he could wait on his project, and DeVries responded that waiting would complicate construction. Discussion ensued.

Zull summarized that the Committee so far had proposed to move the KCRC's 10 Mile project from FY2017 to FY2014, the City of Grand Rapids' Michigan project from FY2017 to FY2014, and both would have a local match increased. The Belmont project would be added to FY2017. This would leave no money on the table for additional projects. Harrall noted that he'd like to garner some CMAQ funding to supplement the Belmont project.

Laughlin stated that Ottawa County received significantly less than their "target value" in projects in the TIP, which he asked the Committee to consider. Discussion ensued.

Warren asked if there was a way to add the City of Grand Rapids' project to FY2015 by adjusting the matches. Warren added that lowering the match amount would also open up some funding for the OCRC in FY2014. Discussion ensued.

In order to spread the funding around, Itani proposed allocating \$250,000 to Kent County, \$200,000 to Ottawa County, and approximately \$150,000 to the City of Grand Rapids and increasing the local match for the projects in FY2014. Warren stated that this would cut the KCRC's project by more than half. Discussion ensued.

Conners suggested funding the KCRC and City of Grand Rapids' projects in FY2014, and then adding the OCRC project in FY2017. Robinson agreed that by FY2017, more funding could be available, or some CMAQ funding could help offset the cost of the Belmont project. Discussion ensued.

Zull entertained a motion to amend the FY2014-2017 TIP.

**MOTION by Warren, SUPPORT by Laughlin, to move up the KCRC's 10 Mile project (both pieces listed in the TIP) to FY2014, the Michigan St. project to FY2014 (for \$165,000), and allocate \$200,000 to the OCRC for their project in FY2017. The KCRC would take the remaining available funding for their Belmont project in FY2017. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **FY2014 CMAQ**

Robinson reminded the Committee that, for FY2014, there was \$40,000 available.

Itani asked if any of the Committee members had project recommendations for FY2014. There were no recommendations for new CMAQ projects for that year, and Itani stated his suggestion to add to an existing project.

Haagsma proposed adding to the ITS Communication project. Zull also suggested adding to the City of Grand Rapids' College and Michigan project which was underfunded. Kent asked if the City of Grand Rapids was clear on the work it was going to do for their College and Michigan project. Zull responded that the Michigan St. Corridor Plan did make recommendations, which included the purchase of right of way for some of the improvements for the benefit of College and Michigan. He noted that the right of way may not be purchased specifically at these intersections. Kent stated that the City of Grand Rapids must have a specific improvement identified to purchase right of way with CMAQ funds. Itani stated that because this is a high priority corridor for the MPO, the MPO will allow right of way to be purchased with CMAQ funds in this instance. Discussion ensued.

Itani also noted that ITP's Clean Air Action Days project was underfunded.

Itani expressed his concern that the City of Grand Rapids would not be able to use the remaining CMAQ funding for their project because they haven't started the process yet. He also noted that the description for the College and Michigan project needs to match the work. Kent agreed. Zull stated that the City of Grand Rapids would work to update this soon. Discussion ensued.

Zull entertained a motion to program the \$40,000 in CMAQ funding in FY2014.

**MOTION by Dooley, SUPPORT by Conners, to allocate the \$40,000 in CMAQ funding in FY2014 to the City of Grand Rapids' College and Michigan project. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **FY2017 CMAQ**

Robinson stated that, for FY2017, there was \$280,000 available because the City of Grand

**APPROVED**

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**ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A**

Rapids' V2V project originally programmed for CMAQ funding that year was determined ineligible. Zull stated that V2V communications is not yet a proven technology, and therefore, the CMAQ Committee wouldn't approve it in the TIP until it was.

Haagsma stated that he thought the KCRC could find \$80,000 in eligible work for their Belmont project. Discussion ensued.

Dooley stated that there is high congestion at the southbound off ramp at 131 at 54<sup>th</sup> St., and that they would like to reconstruct the off ramp to move traffic through that area more efficiently. However, the project has some complicating issues, such as needing to get FHWA's approval to construct a drive across a piece of right of way. Dooley stated that the cost would be approximately \$250,000 (\$200,000 federal).

Since the City of Grand Rapids lost its V2V project, Zull requested to upgrade their point to point signal communication network to a mesh network. He noted that this would include 75 intersections throughout the downtown area with the intent to implement congestion mitigation timings, special event timings, and emergency road closure timings with the interconnected traffic signals. The cost for phase one of this project is \$280,000.

Zull stated that there were three projects to be considered and noted that all are likely CMAQ eligible.

Itani said that if MDOT agrees to advance construct the City of Wyoming's project in FY2016 or FY2017, to be repaid in FY2018, all of the project requests can be included.

Zull entertained a motion to program the available FY2017 CMAQ funding.

**MOTION by Harrall to allocate \$200,000 to the City of Grand Rapids for their fiber optic signal project and \$80,000 to the KCRC for their Belmont project in FY2017.**

Conners asked to amend the motion to include advance construct funding for Wyoming's project. Harrall agreed to the amended motion.

**MOTION by Harrall, SUPPORT by Conners, to allocate \$200,000 to the City of Grand Rapids for their fiber optic signal project, \$80,000 to the KCRC for their Belmont project, and to advance construct the City of Wyoming's 54<sup>th</sup> and 131 project with repayment in FY2018. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

Schweitzer asked for an update on the state funding for proposed projects. Itani stated that there is no additional funding at this point.

Harrall stated that Caledonia Township is interested in submitting a TAP grant application to the state for the Cherry Valley Area. He asked if it was ok to proceed with submitting the project as long as it's on the non-motorized list. Itani stated that he would need to do some research before answering that question and would get back with him.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**APPROVED**

**APPROVED**  
**ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A**

Zull adjourned the December 4, 2013 TPSG Committee meeting at 10:48 am.