

MINUTES

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMMING STUDY GROUP
Thursday, March 21, 2013

Grand Valley Metro Council

678 Front Ave NW

Zull called the meeting to order at 9:07 am. The Committee members, staff, and guests present introduced themselves.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Chris Zull (*Chair*)
Tim Cochran
Scott Conners
Rick DeVries
Bill Dooley
Ken Feldt
Wayne Harrall

*Proxy for
Mike DeVries*

Jan Hoekstra
Fred Keena

*Proxy for
Brett Laughlin*

Dennis Kent
Terry Schweitzer
Tom Stressman
Phil Vincent

City of Grand Rapids
City of Wyoming
City of Walker
City of Grand Rapids
City of Wyoming
City of East Grand Rapids
County of Kent
Grand Rapids Township
ITP-The Rapid
OCRC
OCRC
MDOT
City of Kentwood
City of Cedar Springs
City of Rockford

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Faber
Steve Hartman
Abed Itani
Erick Kind
Joan Konyndyk
Darrell Robinson
Jim Snell
George Yang
Mike Zonyk

GVMC Staff
Hope Network
GVMC Staff
MDOT
Hope Network
GVMC Staff
GVMC Staff
GVMC Staff
GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema
Sandy Ayers
Ron Carr
Sharon DeLange
Mike DeVries
Roy Hawkins
Mark Howe
Brett Laughlin

Allendale Township
Village of Caledonia
City of Grandville
Village of Sparta
Grand Rapids Township
GRFIA
City of Lowell
OCRC

APPROVED

Dan Strikwerda
Steve Warren

APPROVED

ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A
City of Hudsonville
KCRC

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Zull entertained a motion to approve the February 13, 2013 Transportation Programming Study Group (TPSG) meeting minutes.

MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Conners, to approve the February 13, 2013 TPSG meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. PROGRAMMING OF CARRYOVER FUNDS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A** of the agenda, Itani informed the Committee that he recently received a letter from MDOT stating that they found a way to give allocation authority for the \$53 million in obligational authority, meaning that \$3.7 million in carryover funding was available to the MPO. Itani explained that projects submitted in FY2013 would be guaranteed funding, whereas FY2014 projects would be first come, first serve.

Itani recommended that the Committee begin selecting projects from the FY2011-2014 illustrative list or FY2014 of the current TIP because completely new projects would need to go through the consultation, public involvement, and EJ process, which would take at least 6 weeks and make it potentially difficult to meet upcoming deadlines. However, Itani stated that if the Committee were to select a new project, Staff was willing to go through the process. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Itani stated that, last May, the Policy Committee promised ITP that if additional funding became available, it would go toward their Amtrak station relocation project. Hoekstra explained that she was requesting \$800,000. This funding could either be allocated toward the Amtrak station relocation project or toward the purchase of three buses, which was her preference. Itani stated that it would be easier to put the funding toward buses.

Itani explained that there are 321 miles of roadway that are deficient. Snell distributed a handout showing how road projects had fared since 2006. The decline in PASER ratings demonstrated a clear need to preserve the investments that had already been made. Snell stated that next to nothing had been done to maintain the investments that had been made and that the longer the wait, the more costly the repairs become in the future. The cost to maintain these facilities is projected to be \$3.7 million. Discussion ensued.

Robinson explained that he had placed all of the projects submitted so far on a spreadsheet, and a copy of this spreadsheet was submitted to the Committee for review. Zull asked if there were any additional proposals. Harrall asked to add the KCRC's 4 Mile Road from Plainfield to Dean Lake and 10 Mile from Wolverine to Courtland resurfacing projects to the list for consideration. Because the projects were already funded in FY2014, Itani encouraged Harrall to leave them in FY2014, since moving them forward would create a hole in the new TIP and delay its approval. Harrall also asked the Committee to consider

funding a new project: 3 Mile Road between Grand Rapids city limits and the East Beltline. Hartman proposed that Hope Network receive \$142,000 to purchase expansion buses and to replace aging communication equipment. Itani stated that he would need to research if this project qualifies for funding. Feldt asked that two new projects be considered: Reeds Lake Blvd. and Lake Drive from Hall St. to the East City limits. Snell stated that Reeds Lake Blvd. is not on the federal aid system and is therefore not eligible for federal funding. Keena suggested moving the OCRC's 44th St. project from FY2014 of the current TIP to FY2013 and then adding their 68th Ave project. Robinson stated that funding the 68th Ave project would require backfilling the TIP later. Vincent, Dooley, and DeVries provided additional details about their projects, which they had submitted previously.

Kent described MDOT's M-11 (28th St.) from Patterson Ave. to Kalamazoo Ave sidewalk project to the Committee, and stated that while he respected the Committee's policy to not use STP funds for sidewalks, he explained that this was a special circumstance because there was evidence of use, many bus routes on the corridors, etc. Kind also added additional details about the project.

Conners stated his support of Kent's sidewalk proposal. Itani said that it was his responsibility to ensure that funding was used on the MPO priorities which are to preserve and improve the system. Itani indicated that this project is not a high priority for local funding and wasn't in a transportation plan. He didn't support it at this time. Kent responded that the project had been discussed for several years, but that there was inadequate funding for it. Dooley stated that, while sidewalks are a major issue, he did not support this particular project, and explained several reasons why. Harrall agreed. Kent further explained that the total cost of the project was \$1.5 million. MDOT would fund \$750,000 at an 80/20 split. The remaining \$750,000 would be funded 80/20, with the locals responsible for the 20% share. Schweitzer explained his reasons for supporting the project and added that the City of Kentwood was ready to provide the local match for it. DeVries stated that a large share of this project is in the City of Grand Rapids, but that he was unable to provide a local match to fund it in FY2013. Itani suggested that this project be considered in FY2014 if additional funds become available and that the Non-Motorized Committee develop a prioritization list for projects. Zull encouraged the committee to determine priorities and to start thinking systematically about all of the users of the entire system. Discussion ensued.

As for projects, Itani recommended that the Committee not move forward any new projects in the FY2014-2017 TIP because it would significantly delay the approval process, which eliminated several projects from the original list.

DeVries asked that the Lake Dr. from East Beltline to East City limit project be substituted for their Fuller Avenue from Michigan St. to Race St. project. He also stated that he could commit to their Turner Avenue Ann Street to US-131 SB Ramps project.

Dooley stated that he had an additional project from the current FY2011-2014 TIP—32nd St from Division to Eastern—that he could submit. Hoekstra stated that she could use additional funding to purchase buses. Kent stated that it may be possible to split the limits for the sidewalk project, therefore moving forward the City of Kentwood portion this year, and leaving the City of Grand Rapids portion for FY2014.

Harrall noted that the KCRC didn't have any FY2014 projects from the current TIP to move

up and asked that the Committee support the new project that they were proposing. Itani responded that if the Committee agrees to add this project, GVMC would commit to going through the process to get the project in the TIP. Discussion ensued.

Dooley stated that he could extend the limits of the City of Wyoming's 36th St. project, making the project 2 miles in length. Conners suggested the City of Grand Rapids' Elmridge project. DeVries stated that the limits of the project could be extended. The new limits would be from Richmond to 3 Mile. The Committee agreed to both options.

Itani suggested waiting to develop the FY2014 list of projects. Zull stated that the consensus of the Committee was to allow new projects to be programmed in FY2014. Itani encouraged the Committee members to submit projects for the illustrative list as soon as possible. The final FY2013 list included the following projects (it was noted that no additional public involvement was necessary because these projects had already gone through the process):

- 44th Street 8th Avenue to Kenowa Resurface (OCRC)
- 3 Replacement Buses Regionwide (ITP)
- Lake Michigan Drive Garfield Ave to Seward Ave (Grand Rapids)
- Monroe Avenue Knapp St to North Park Street to Ann Street (Grand Rapids)
- Ivanrest Avenue NCL to 56 Street to SCL (Wyoming)
- 36th Street Byron Center Avenue to Clyde Park Avenue (Wyoming)
- Turner Avenue Ann Street to US-131 SB Ramps (Grand Rapids)
- Lake Drive East Beltline to East City Limit (Grand Rapids)
- 32nd Street Division Avenue to Eastern Avenue (Wyoming)
- Elmridge Avenue Richmond to 3 Mile Road (Grand Rapids)

The projects below were left for consideration for FY2014:

- 3 Mile Road GR ECL to East Beltline (KCRC)
- 2013 Expansion Buses Regionwide (Hope Network)
- Lake Drive Hall to ECL (East Grand Rapids)
- 2013 GPA TBD
- M-11 Patterson Avenue to Kalamazoo Avenue sidewalks (MDOT/GR/Kentwood)

Zull entertained a motion to approve the list of projects.

MOTION by Feldt, SUPPORT by Cochran, to approve the list of projects to receive FY2013 carryover funding, as identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

None

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Zull entertained a motion to adjourn the March 21, 2013 TPSG Committee meeting.

MOTION by Feldt, SUPPORT by Zull, to adjourn the March 21, 2013 TPSG Committee meeting at 11:26 am. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.