

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, January 19, 2011
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Koslosky, Chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

McBurrows introduced Lenze as MDOT’s new representative on the Technical Committee.

Holtrop introduced Grifhorst as the new Policy Committee representative from the OCRC and Waterman, who was representing the City of Hudsonville on behalf of VanDoeselaar.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Jim Koslosky (<i>Chair</i>)		GRFIA
Jerry Alkema		Allendale Township
Alex Arends		Alpine Township
Dan Carlton		Georgetown Township
Mark DeClercq		City of Grand Rapids
Eric DeLong		City of Grand Rapids
Mike DeVries		Grand Rapids Township
Jeff Dood		City of Rockford
Tim Grifhorst		OCRC
Don R. Hilton, Sr.		Gaines Township
Jim Holtrop		Ottawa County
Rich Houtteman		City of Kentwood
Taiwo Jaiyeoba	<i>Proxy for Peter Varga</i>	The Rapid
		The Rapid
Ken Krombeen		City of Grandville
Dal McBurrows		MDOT
David Pasquale		City of Lowell
Richard Pastoor		City of Wyoming
Chuck Porter		Courtland Township
Darrel Schmalzel		City of Walker
Steve Warren	<i>Proxy for Jon Rice</i>	KCRC
		KCRC
Patrick Waterman	<i>Proxy for Don VanDoeselaar</i>	City of Hudsonville
		City of Hudsonville

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Dewey	GVMC Staff
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Erick Kind	MDOT
Ray Lenze	MDOT

Gayle Porter
Darrell Robinson
Norm Sevensma
Jim Snell
George Yang
Mike Zonyk

GVMC Staff
WMEAC-RWBC
GVMC Staff
GVMC Staff
GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Dick Bulkowski
Christine Burns
Dick Davies
Sharon DeLange
Ken Feldt
George Haga
Bryan Harrison
Dennis Hoemke
Bob Homan
Jim Miedema
Audrey Nevins
Steve Peterson
Jack Poll
Jon Rice
Don VanDoeselaar
Toby VanEss
Peter Varga

Kent County Commissioner
City of Cedar Springs
Cannon Township
Village of Sparta
City of East Grand Rapids
Ada Township
Caledonia Charter Township
Algoma Township
Plainfield Township
Jamestown Township
Byron Township
Cascade Township
City of Wyoming
KCRC
City of Hudsonville
Tallmadge Township
The Rapid

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Varga entertained a motion to approve the December 15, 2010 minutes.

MOTION by Schmalzel, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to approve of the December 15, 2010 Policy Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sevensma stated that he read in the paper that Ottawa County is expanding a bike path from Spring Lake to Marne and asked if this project would be paid for with the recreational millage. Holtrop stated that he would investigate this and get back to Sevensma.

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Koslosky noted that he is the current chair of the Policy Committee, and Varga is the current vice chair. Both have served one-year terms, and traditionally, the chair and vice chair serve two consecutive one-year terms.

Koslosky entertained a motion to nominate himself to serve another one-year term as chair of the Policy Committee.

MOTION by Pastoor, SUPPORT by Alkema, to nominate Koslosky to serve another one-year term as chair of the Policy Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Koslosky entertained a motion to elect Varga to serve another one-year term as vice chair.

MOTION by Koslosky, SUPPORT by Pasquale, to elect Varga to serve another one-year term as vice chair of the Policy Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. FY2011-2014 TIP CHANGES

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Robinson explained that MDOT and the KCRC are requesting changes to the FY2011-2014 TIP.

MDOT was requesting to move a current illustrative project to FY2011 of the FY2011-2014 TIP. The project is on I-196 west bound over the Grand River for preliminary engineering at a total cost of \$600,000. Kent provided additional details about this project.

Robinson added that the KCRC was requesting an administrative modification to the FY2011 project West River Drive from the Rogue River to M-44 to change the project length to 0.58 miles.

Koslosky entertained a motion to amend the FY2011-2014 TIP as identified.

MOTION by Pastoor, SUPPORT by Hilton, to amend the FY2011-2014 TIP to reflect the changes requested by MDOT and the KCRC, as identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. PAVEMENT CONDITION SURVEY RESULTS

Snell presented the “Regional Pavement Condition Survey Report” to the Committee. The report includes PASER data. PCI data will be developed next month. Snell stated that the under investment in the core transportation infrastructure combined with the loss of buying power for local municipalities has resulted in the worst pavement conditions since GVMC started doing surveys 15 years ago. He also explained that many “Band-Aid fixes” of the past, which were not designed to be long-term fixes, have reached their limits. Snell added that the Pavement/Asset Management Committee will be tasked with discussing how to improve pavement conditions with available funding. Snell also noted that the federal aid system is 1,600 miles long. If it was in pristine condition, it would be worth an estimated \$3.15 billion dollars. However, in its current state, it is only worth approximately \$2.075 billion. Discussion ensued.

Itani added that the pavement results we have right now also include the infusion of federal funds from the ARRA program. Over the next few years, the lack of funding to maintain the system will show up even more.

Koslosky stated that this information needed to be passed on to Metro Council so that the newly elected state and federal officials could be informed about what communities are facing with regard to their roads and what it would take to fix the system. Warren said that he represents the County Road Association on the State’s Asset Management Council and that, since 2004, the Asset Management Council has used PASER to develop a report similar to what Snell presented on a statewide basis. He added that this PASER data has gone to the legislature every year since then. Since GVMC’s report is also based on PASER data, Warren noted that it would reinforce the data presented by the Asset Management Council.

DeLong stated that it would be beneficial to have GVMC develop a one-page executive

summary of the “Regional Pavement Condition Survey Report” for the legislature.

Koslosky entertained a motion to make transportation funding a priority in sending a very strong message through Metro Council to our newly elected officials.

MOTION by DeLong, SUPPORT by Warren, to make transportation funding a priority and send a very strong message through Metro Council to our newly elected officials that something must be done to improve the state of our transportation system.

Hilton noted that on Monday, January 24, the Metro Council’s Legislative Committee is holding a special meeting with representatives from the area. Since attendance among legislators is expected to be good, he suggested that the report or executive summary be distributed and explained at this meeting. DeVries, who serves on the Committee, verified that the summary could be passed out then. DeClercq asked if there would be time to present this summary rather than simply passing it out. DeVries responded that Rick Root, the Legislative Committee chair, would need to make that decision, but noted that transportation funding is one of the Legislative Committee’s highest priorities. Discussion ensued.

Snell agreed to develop the executive summary and stated that he would forward it on to the group.

Koslosky returned the motion in question to the floor. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VII. LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN COMMENTS AND SURVEY RESPONSES

Speaking on **Item VII: Attachment A**, Dewey explained that the draft Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is complete. The public comment period for the document is from January 1 to January 30, 2011. Dewey stated that she is encouraging the public to submit comments on the document through press releases, postings on www.gvmc.org, a radio campaign advertising the 8 public meetings taking place in mid-January, and through an article published in the [Grand Rapids Press](#). An article would also appear in the [Rapid Growth Newsletter](#) tomorrow. The draft LRTP document is posted on GVMC’s web site and a hard copy of the document is available at nearly every municipality in Kent and Ottawa Counties, all area libraries, ITP/The Rapid Central Station, the GRFIA, the KCRC, MDOT, TSC, and GVMC offices.

Dewey also noted some highlights about the document, explaining that the LRTP is a \$3.9 billion plan over the next 25 years and that every dollar has been expended; that there is \$2 billion in unfunded illustrative projects; that there are 128 expansion projects in the LRTP, and of these, 22% are going from 2-3 lanes; and that the overall sentiment of the document is that the current system on the ground should be maintained, not expanded.

During the LRTP development process, Dewey stated that staff has received six written comments and has collected comments as part of the eight “Kick-off” meetings in October, 2010, as well as from the Consultation Meeting on December 16, 2010. These comments, as well as a copy of the Citizen Survey and its results, were included in the agenda packet for committee review. Dewey noted that the greatest number of survey respondents wanted to see increased funding for maintaining the existing transportation system, which was followed by respondents who wanted to see expanded transit service and additional nonmotorized facilities. However, the survey results may be skewed, since the respondents

were self-selected.

Lastly, Dewey encouraged the Committee members to look over the comments in detail, as well as the LRTP itself, and to let her know if they had any comments to improve the document. At the February meeting, Dewey would be presenting the comments to the committee that were received during the January public comment period.

Koslosky asked what the gap was between the known funds for the LRTP and the list of unfunded projects. Dewey responded that this amount is likely \$1-\$2 billion, but added that this amount is difficult to estimate since some projects don't have cost estimates with them and some project costs are not inflated into the future because it is not known when the project will be constructed.

Warren suggested that the results of the citizen survey be included in the executive summary that was to be written by Snell and submitted to the legislators. Discussion ensued.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

DeLong asked for an update on the revision of the nonmotorized section of the Policies and Practices document, which was remanded back to the Technical Committee for further review and discussion at the last Policy Committee meeting. Itani responded that this item will go to the Technical Committee for discussion in February. DeLong asked that there be an update on this item at the February Policy Committee meeting.

Arends noted that Dave Agema is the new chairman of the Transportation Committee and recommended that he be informed about transportation funding issues if he attends Monday's meeting. Discussion ensued.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Koslosky entertained a motion to adjourn the January 19, 2011 Policy Committee Meeting.

MOTION by Holtrop, SUPPORT by Schmalzel, to adjourn the January 19, 2011 Policy Committee Meeting at 10:12 am. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.