

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, February 17, 2010
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Varga, Vice Chair of the Policy Committee, opened a public meeting at 9:30 am to receive comments on amendments to GVMC's Long Range Transportation Plan. Itani explained the public participation process to the Committee. Discussion ensued.

Being that no comments were received from the public regarding these amendments, Varga entertained a motion to close the public meeting.

MOTION by Holtrop, SUPPORT by Rice, to adjourn the public meeting to receive comments on amendments to GVMC's Long Range Transportation Plan at 9:34 am. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Varga called the Policy Committee Meeting to order at 9:34 am.

Holtrop introduced DeLong, the new representative from the City of Grand Rapids, to the Committee. Redmond introduced Leitelt from WMRPC.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**Voting Members Present**

Peter Varga (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	<i>Proxy for Jim Koslosky</i>	The Rapid GRFIA
Dan Carlton		Georgetown Township
Eric DeLong		City of Grand Rapids
Don R. Hilton, Sr.		Gaines Township
Jim Holtrop	<i>Proxy for Don VanDoeselaar Larry Bruursema</i>	Ottawa County City of Hudsonville OCRC
Rich Houtteman		City of Kentwood
Dal McBurrows		MDOT
David Pasquale		City of Lowell
Jon Rice	<i>Proxy for Dick Bulkowski</i>	KCRC Kent County Commissioner
Darrel Schmalzel		City of Walker
Steve Warren	<i>Proxy for Bob Homan</i>	KCRC Plainfield Township

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Dewey	GVMC Staff
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff

Dennis Kent
Erick Kind
Paul Leitelt
Steve Redmond
Darrell Robinson
Norm Sevensma
Mike Zonyk

MDOT
MDOT
WMRPC
MDOT
GVMC Staff
WMEAC-RWBC
GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema
Alex Arends
Larry Bruursema
Dick Bulkowski
Christine Burns
Dick Davies
Mark DeClercq
Sharon DeLange
Mike DeVries
Jeff Dood
Ken Feldt
George Haga
Bryan Harrison
Dennis Hoemke
Bob Homan
Jim Koslosky
Ken Krombeen
Jim Miedema
Audrey Nevins
Rich Pastoor
Steve Peterson
Jack Poll
Chuck Porter
Don VanDoeselaar
Toby VanEss

Allendale Township
Alpine Township
OCRC
Kent County Commissioner
City of Cedar Springs
Cannon Township
City of Grand Rapids
Village of Sparta
Grand Rapids Township
City of Rockford
City of East Grand Rapids
Ada Township
Caledonia Charter Township
Algoma Township
Plainfield Township
GRFIA
City of Grandville
Jamestown Township
Byron Township
City of Wyoming
Cascade Township
City of Wyoming
Courtland Township
City of Hudsonville
Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Varga entertained a motion to approve of the January 20, 2010 Policy Committee minutes.

MOTION by Pasquale, SUPPORT by Hilton, to approve of the January 20, 2010 Policy Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sevensma asked the Committee for an update on whether Grand Rapids had been selected to receive a \$50 million earmark for nonmotorized transportation that had been discussed at a previous meeting. Dewey clarified that this proposed earmark was part of a campaign for the next transportation bill, which hasn't been passed yet. Discussion ensued.

IV. FY2008-2011 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENTS

Speaking on **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson informed the Committee that the Rapid and MDOT are requesting to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP. The Rapid was requesting to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP for FY2010 and FY2011 to update Activity Line items in preparation of the FY2010 and FY2011 Section 5307/5309/5339/CMAQ grant applications. Varga provided additional information about the Rapid's requests.

Robinson explained MDOT's requested FY2008-2011 TIP amendment to the Committee. This TIP amendment included converting several I-196 projects, for PE phase and related costs, from 100% state funds to federal aid, and including these projects in the TIP. Kent provided additional information. Discussion ensued.

Varga entertained a motion to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP to include the identified amendments.

MOTION by DeLong, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to recommend to the Metro Council Board amending the FY2008-2011 TIP to include the TIP amendments from the Rapid and MDOT.

Sevensma inquired about the Amtrak rail relocation project. Discussion ensued.

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

V. TRAFFIC COUNT UPDATE

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Zonyk provided the committee with an overview of the 2009 traffic count program. He explained that, of the requested counts for 2009, GVMC received an 85% return rate. Collection results are now posted on GVMC's web site. There is also an IMS site, hosted by REGIS, where Committee members can view the counts geographically. 2010 traffic counts are currently being collected. Zonyk concluded by thanking the Committee members for their participation. Discussion ensued.

VI. REMOVAL OF M-44 DESIGNATION

Speaking on **Item VI: Attachment A**, Redmond explained that every year, MDOT reviews the state map with their Lansing cartographers. During the most recent review, the dual designation of M-37 and M-44 for the East Beltline from M-11 to I-96 raised concerns. Because of this, Redmond informed the committee that MDOT is proposing to eliminate the dual M-37/M-44 designation on the East Beltline from M-11 to I-96. Elimination of the dual designation would move the beginning of M-44 to I-96, and the corridor south of I-96 would be designated as only M-37. This change is planned to take effect before the 2011 State Map is printed. As part of MDOT's public participation efforts, Redmond asked Committee members to contact him if they had comments or concerns about this change. Discussion ensued.

VII. GRAND REGION NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL MAP

Redmond stated that one of the efforts MDOT has made in the area of non-motorized transportation is to develop bike path maps for all 7 MDOT regions. Once these maps are in their final forms, hopefully this spring, they will be printed and distributed, and also posted on MDOT's web site. Redmond explained that MDOT has partnered with the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission (WMRPC) for this project, and contacted numerous additional agencies to obtain data.

Redmond stated that some tweaking remains to be done before the maps are in their final form and ready to be printed. He stated that he would e-mail the maps to committee members, and asked committee members to send him comments on the maps within 30 days. Discussion, comments, and questions ensued.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Kent updated the Committee about the US 31 Holland to Grand Haven bypass project. Discussion ensued.

Itani informed the committee that the Jobs for Main Street bill is now in the Senate. Currently, it appears that there may not be additional stimulus money for transportation. However, FHWA and MDOT have informed the MPO that a list of projects should still be developed in case additional stimulus funding is received. This list has been developed and will be presented to the Technical Committee in March as an illustrative list to add to the FY2011 TIP.

Itani added that the SAFETEA-LU extension expires at the end of February. Because MDOT was only given 2/3 obligational authority with this extension, MDOT will run out of funding by the end of July. In light of this, Itani encouraged Committee members to send any projects that are ready to go to MDOT as soon as possible. Varga stated that the Senate proposal on reauthorization extends funding until December 31, 2010, which means that the same funding problems that arose this year could also happen next year. He encouraged Committee members to write their senators about this issue.

McBurrows stated that MDOT will ask MPOs to submit their work programs to MDOT in August, and that a call for FY2012-FY2014 CMAQ projects would be coming out the following week. Discussion ensued.

Itani stated that GVMC will be going through recertification on June 2nd, 2010. Discussion ensued.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Varga adjourned the February 17, 2010 Policy Committee meeting at 10:35 am.