

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17TH, 2007
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Pasquale, Chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Faber was introduced as the replacement for Brink, who retired. Dingman announced that he has accepted a job with the Federal Highway Administration and will be leaving GVMC on November 9. This is his last Policy meeting.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Dave Pasquale	<i>(Chair)</i>	City of Lowell
Pat Bush		City of Grand Rapids
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Jim Fetzer	<i>Proxy for Peter Varga</i>	The Rapid
Roger Haynes		City of Wyoming
Don Hilton, Sr.		Gaines Township
Jim Holtrop		Ottawa County
Jim Koslosky		GRFIA
Dal McBurrows		MDOT
Rich Pastoor		City of Wyoming
Jon Rice	<i>Proxy for Kent County</i>	KCRC
Darrel Schmalzel		City of Walker
Keith Van Beek		City of Kentwood
Steve Warren	<i>Proxy for George Meek</i>	Plainfield Township

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Dewey	GVMC Staff
Chris Dingman	GVMC Staff
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	MDOT-Grand Rapids
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Norm Sevensma	WMEAC-RWBC
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Rob Beahan
James Beelen
Marta Brechting
Larry Bruursema
Christine Burns
Dick Davies
Sharon DeLange
Mike DeVries
Jeff Dood
Ken Feldt
George Haga
Bryan Harrison
Dennis Hoemke
Bill Holland
Ken Krombeen
Jim McIntyre
George Meek
Jim Miedema
Audrey Nevins
Sandi Parrish
Don Van Doeselaar
Peter Varga (*Vice-Chair*)
Bill Wiersma

Cascade Township
Allendale Township
Alpine Township
Ottawa County
City of Cedar Springs
Cannon Township
Village of Sparta
Grand Rapids Township
City of Rockford
City of East Grand Rapids
Ada Township
Caledonia Charter Township
Algoma Township
Georgetown Township
City of Grandville
Courtland Township
Plainfield Township
Jamestown Township
Byron Township
Kent County
City of Hudsonville
The Rapid
Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Pasquale entertained a motion to approve of the August 15th, 2007 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes.

MOTION by Haynes, SUPPORT by Fetzer, to approve of the August 15th, 2007 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sevensma informed the committee that the October edition of National Geographic features an article on what U.S. transportation could be like in 50 years. According to the article, by 2057, cars may achieve a fuel efficiency of 60 mpg. Furthermore, by this time, Americans may ride their bikes to work on sunny days and drive small, fuel efficient cars to train stations like Europeans currently do.

IV. TIP/LONG RANGE PLAN AMENDMENT POLICY

Regarding **Item IV: Attachment A**, Dingman spoke to the committee on the Tip/Long Range Plan Amendment Policy. The policy was written in response to FHWA's and

ITEM II:
ATTACHMENT A

MDOT’s request that MPOs thoroughly explain their processes for TIP and PLAN revisions. The policy included in the attachment is based on the protocol GVMC has used when making TIP or PLAN amendments and administrative modifications in the past but defines the process more thoroughly. This policy has been submitted to the Transportation Programming Study Group (the old TIP committee) for their review. Their comments are included at the end of the document. Itani added that this policy stems out of SAFETEA-LU, which is new federal transportation that requires MPOs to more clearly define administrative modifications from adjustments and to outline the circumstances that would trigger them.

MOTION by Holtrop, SUPPORT by Haynes, to recommend the approval of the TIP/Long Range Plan Amendment Policy as identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. TIP/LONG RANGE PLAN INFORMATION ITEMS

Dingman continued to update the committee on three TIP/Long Range Plan information items. To begin, he broached the committee on the need for advance construction jobs to be adjusted for inflation. For those who received loans for their advance construction projects and want to convert them for 2008, the act of conversion will happen internally within MDOT. Those who did not receive a loan need to send a letter to their local agency’s program representative requesting that the funds be converted. Letters can be sent anytime after October 1st. Funds should be available for conversion as of November or December. Questions can be directed to Dingman, Itani, or Cornell-Howe.

Second, Dingman spoke to the committee about the 2008 Project Planning Guide (see attachment). If committee members do a GI by a certain date, they’ll be able to advertise, let, and obligate their projects based on the timeline that appears across the page. In keeping with the timely turnaround that Dingman has seen this year, he encouraged committee members to get their 2008 projects out the door as soon as possible.

Lastly, with SAFETEA-LU being passed, there are new requirements about indexing inflation relative to project costs when moving them forward. After mid-December, whenever a TIP or PLAN amendment is made, the projects must be indexed to inflation. Dingman asked local agencies to take inflation costs into account when submitting project costs to the GVMC. GVMC also needs to provide some amount of justification in terms of what information the agencies are using when they determine the inflation number. GVMC staff will index all projects beyond 2011 for inflation.

VI. PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM UPDATE

Snell handed out a map that detailed the miles he has covered in the van this year. Other than a few touch-ups, he is done with pavement surveys for this season and is already well into the process of processing the data. Snell will present on his findings at the next Technical and Policy Committee Meetings in November. This year, the final data will be in Ride number, PASER number and traditional PCI number.

VII. TRAFFIC COUNT PROGRAM UPDATE

Robinson updated the committee on the Traffic Count Program. He stated that the Grand Valley Metro Council typically reimburses jurisdictions to do traffic counts. While GVMC has been doing traffic counts for several years, the reimbursement factor is relatively new. So far, four agencies have completed their traffic counts. They are: the City of Walker, the City of Grand Rapids, Ottawa County Road Commission and the City of Wyoming. Many more jurisdictions are also nearing the end of their traffic counting efforts. Traffic counts from 2006 are currently located on GVMC's web site. Snell added that he had put together an extensive prototype of how the data will look. Because the prototype is a work in progress at this point, Snell asked for committee feedback on what the members liked and disliked about it. Discussion, questions and comments followed.

VIII. OZONE ACTION! PROGRAM UPDATE

Speaking on **Item VIII: Attachment A**, Dewey gave the committee a recap of the Ozone Action! Season. Ozone Action! came to a close on September 30. There were six ozone action days throughout the Ozone Action! season, which is the same number as 2006, and down from a high of 11 in 2005. Throughout the course of the season, Dewey distributed materials at six high profile events, participated in an interview that aired on channel 25 throughout July and August, oversaw a radio campaign that included 14 radio stations, and participated in additional publicity endeavors. Dewey also had a display that rotated through 11 jurisdictions and companies where it stayed for a minimum of four days. Dewey asked the committee for recommendations of environmental or health-related events that would be appropriate times and places for her to advertise Ozone Action!

While ozone monitors have shut down for the season, the DEQ will continue to monitor particulate matter throughout the winter. Itani said that he received a letter last month from the EPA saying that they were considering adopting more stringent air quality standards for PM 2.5. If these standards are adopted, Kent and Ottawa counties would no longer be in compliance with the standard. Questions, comments and discussion followed.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Chris thanked everyone around the table for working with him over the past eight years. He hopes to continue working with many of the committee members in his new position.

Rice asked about the resolution involving transportation funding. Stypula responded that the proposal will go to the GVMC board, who will be asked to approve the resolution on November 1st. Questions, comments and discussion followed.

Itani reminded the committee that a new fiscal year has begun. He asked that those with STP-funded projects (not advance construct) send them to him as soon as possible.

APPROVED

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X. **ADJOURNMENT**

Pasquale entertained a motion to adjourn the Policy Committee meeting.

MOTION by Haynes, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to adjourn the Policy Committee Meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Pasquale adjourned the meeting at 10:14 a.m.