

**MINUTES**

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
POLICY COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, October 20, 2010  
Kent County Road Commission  
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Varga, Vice Chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.

**I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Voting Members Present**

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

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Kevin McCurren	GGR Bicycle Coalition
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Norm Sevensma	WMEAC-RWBC
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff
Don Stypula	GVMC Staff
Tom Tilma	GGR Bicycle Coalition
Steve Warren	KCRC
Mike Zonyk	GVMC Staff

**Voting Members Not Present**

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Larry Bruursema	OCRC
Dick Bulkowski	Kent County Commissioner
Christine Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Dick Davies	Cannon Township
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta

Mike DeVries  
 Jeff Dood  
 Ken Feldt  
 George Haga  
 Bryan Harrison  
 Dennis Hoemke  
 Bob Homan  
 Jim Koslosky (*Chair*)  
 Ken Krombeen  
 Jim Miedema  
 Audrey Nevins  
 Richard Pastoor  
 Steve Peterson  
 Jack Poll  
 Chuck Porter  
 Don VanDoeselaar  
 Toby VanEss

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 the August 18, 2010 minutes.

**MOTION by Hilton, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to approve of the August 18, 2010 Policy Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sevensma asked if there were any items in the updated Long Range Transportation Plan that would address the theory of global warming. Stypula replied that there is some language about global warming in the new transportation bill proposed by Congressman Oberstar that would require MPOs to look into greenhouse gas emissions, reduce emissions in metropolitan areas, etc. However, he doesn't expect the bill to progress during the lame duck session of Congress. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

**IV. FY2011-2014 TIP AMENDMENTS**

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson explained many changes to the yet-to-be-approved FY2011-2014 TIP that were requested by several jurisdictions. These changes included the following:

**FY2011**

- Delete Hall Street from Kalamazoo to Eastern – City of Grand Rapids.
- Delete Eastern Avenue from 52nd to 60th (former ACC Project) – City of Kentwood.
- Delete GVMC's "Planning Studies" (Pavement Management System, Congestion Management System, GIS Maintenance).
- Add a new project: Fulton Street from the Grand River to Division. The cost breakdown is \$260,085 Federal, \$89,915 local and \$350,000 total. **This project will be pending public involvement, EJ and consultation.**
- Change the limits on Hall Street from Madison to Eastern to Madison to Union and reduce the cost.
- Move 28th Street Kraft to I-96 ramps from FY2014 to FY2011 – KCRC.

- The remaining STP Urban Federal funds: redistribute to all projects. This will increase the Federal percentage to 74.31%.
- Add Burton Street at Conrail Railroad (BHT Federal fund source) Bridge grant – City of Grand Rapids.
- Add Alger Street at C&O Railroad and Market Avenue at Conrail Bridge for guardrail upgrades (Safety Project Grant) – City of Grand Rapids.
- Add 68th Avenue from Fillmore Street to M-45 (EDDF Funded) – OCRC.
- Hope Network requested to add the following requests to the FY2011-2014 TIP utilizing 5310 funds:

	Federal Share	State Share	Total Request
<b>Hope Network</b>			
2 Diesel Cutaway Buses	\$ 116,800	\$ 29,200	\$ 146,000
6 Low Floor Cutaway	\$ 600,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 750,000
3 Hybrid Electric Buses	\$ 273,600	\$ 68,400	\$ 342,000
55 MDTs	\$ 320,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 400,000
1 Interactive Voice Response	\$ 113,600	\$ 28,400	\$ 142,000
1 Metrics Software	\$ 156,000	\$ 39,000	\$ 195,000
1 MT Scheduling Software	\$ 67,200	\$ 16,800	\$ 84,000
1 Dashboard Software	\$ 104,800	\$ 26,200	\$ 131,000
1 Fleet management Software	\$ 68,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 85,000
40 On-Board Camera Systems	\$ 64,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 80,000
1 Bus Shelter	\$ 200,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 250,000
1 Bus wash	\$ 200,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 250,000
Call Center Upgrade Equipment	\$ 16,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 20,000
Driver Training Equipment	\$ 4,800	\$ 1,200	\$ 6,000
Maintenance Tools	\$ 16,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 20,000
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$2,320,800</b>	<b>\$ 580,200</b>	<b>\$2,901,000</b>

- American Red Cross also requested to add several capital project requests utilizing 5310 funds, including the following:

<b>American Red Cross</b>			
2 Wheelchair Conversion Vans	\$ 72,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 90,000
4 Seven Passenger Vehicles	\$ 92,800	\$ 23,200	\$ 116,000
2 Laptop Computers	\$ 1,600	\$ 400	\$ 2,000
1 Two-way Radio Base Station	\$ 2,000	\$ 500	\$ 2,500
5 Two-way Radio's for Vehicles	\$ 2,400	\$ 600	\$ 3,000
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 170,800</b>	<b>\$ 42,700</b>	<b>\$ 213,500</b>
<b>Total Request</b>	<b>\$2,491,600</b>	<b>\$ 622,900</b>	<b>\$3,114,500</b>

- ITP The Rapid has requested the following changes to the FY2011-2014 TIP:

<b>Projects</b>	<b><u>Original Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Amendment Requested</u></b>
<b>Section 5307</b>		
Paratransit Replacement Vehicles (3)	456,000	163,508
Paratransit Expansion Vehicles	228,000	0
Replacement 40' Buses (10)	0	4,351,770
Service Vehicles	90,000	0
Associated Capital Maintenance Items	1,061,080	586,885
Preventive Maintenance	1,000,000	1,625,000
Bus Tire Lease	120,000	225,000
A&E	500,000	50,000
Shop Equipment	39,564	33,933
Office Furniture/Equipment	15,000	12,500
Facility Equipment	350,000	0
Computer Hardware	34,930	161,125
Computer Software	34,930	312,500
Misc. Support Equipment	55,000	0
ADA Vehicle Equipment	103,000	150,000
Wealthy Facility Renovation	4,329,180	938,120
Rehab Admin Maint Facility	467,000	181,361
Storage	25,000	0
ITS	800,000	1,250
Radio Equipment	5,000	0
Misc. Contingency	106,000	62,500
Project Admin	80,000	100,000
Capital Cost of Contracting	600,000	No Change Requested
Passenger Shelters	100,000	62,500
Bus Stop Signs	5,000	12,500
Information Displays	800,000	6,250
Security Surveillance	238,000	88,382
Planning	523,350	793,150
<b>Section 5309</b>		
DABRT	19,303,000	No Change Requested
Expansion 40' Buses	0	768,900
Wealthy Operation Center	0	862,632
Terminal	0	750,000
Amtrak Rail Relocation	0	750,000
ITS	0	2,800,000
<b>Section 5339</b>		
Streetcar Study	0	3,125,000

- The City of Lowell, in conjunction with Lowell Charter Township, Vergennes Township and the Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA), was awarded Enhancement funding for a non-motorized trail at a total cost of \$1,065,000. This project needs to be listed in the TIP to be funded.
- Staff is recommending adding the (GVMC approved) FY2011 CMAQ program to the FY2011 – 2014 TIP. The FY2011 CMAQ program is in the final stages of approval at MDOT and is pending approval at FHWA.
- MDOT requested several changes to the FY2011-2014 TIP. Changes included the following:

### **FY 2011 – Trunkline Project Additions/Modifications**

<b>JN</b>	<b>Route</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Work Description</b>	<b>Total Cost Est.</b>
102914	US-131	@ Post Rd.	Resurface Carpool Lot	\$41,000*
109762	I-96	Cascade Rd WB On-Ramp	Ramp Reconstruction	\$300,000+
109765	M-11	@ Ivanrest & Byron Ctr. Ave's.	Intersection Reconstruction	\$1,251,000+
102951	Various	Areawide	Roadside Facility Signing Upgrade	\$88,000
87397	US-131	I-196 to Ann St.	Replace Freeway Lighting	\$1,000,000
106262	M-45	@ Campus Dr. GVSU / Allendale	Add Turning Lanes (Michigan Institutional Roads Program)	\$435,000
106272	US-131	Under 100 <sup>th</sup> St.	Bridge Deck and Substructure Repairs	\$410,000
106669	I-96	Under Whitneyville Rd.	Bridge – Deep Overlay, Paint, & Substructure Repairs	\$850,000
87156	US-131	Under 36 <sup>th</sup> St.	Bridge Replacement	\$4,510,000

\* In 2011-14 TIP, cost change only.

+ In 2011-14 TIP, changed year only

### **FY 2011 – CMAQ Projects**

<b>JN</b>	<b>Route</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Work Description</b>	<b>Total Cost Est.</b>
109666	I-96	@ Cascade Rd.	Extend WB on-ramp	\$900,000
111078	M-11	Hall St. to Riverbend Dr. Vic.	Add/Extend Center LT lane	\$585,000
111261	M-50	@ I-96 Vic.	Expand Carpool Parking Lot	\$327,000
110085	US-131	44 <sup>th</sup> St. to 36 <sup>th</sup> St.	Add NB weave/merge lane between ramps	\$900,000
111293	MDOT	Regionwide	ITS Control Room	\$450,000

	WM TMC		Operations	
111292	MDOT ITS	Regionwide	ITS Device Operation and Maintenance	\$587,500

**FY2012**

- Delete 17 Mile Road US-131 Ramps to West Street – KCRC.
- Move East Paris Avenue from Cascade to Kentwood City Limit from FY2014 to FY2012 - KCRC.
- Add 6th Street Bridge over the Grand River (MCS State fund source) to FY2012 – City of Grand Rapids.
- Add 68th Street over Plaster Creek (BHT Federal fund source) Bridge grant – KCRC.

**FY2014**

- Add a total of \$630,000 Federal (ACC) Division Avenue 54<sup>th</sup> to 60<sup>th</sup> project from the two projects that moved up in the TIP (see above changes) – City of Kentwood. There is still \$396,479 Federal Advance Construction Conversion in FY2015.

Kent provided additional information about MDOT’s requested TIP amendments. He also noted that in addition to the projects on the list, he needed to increase the cost of the US 131 bridges at Franklin, Hall and Burton project. The project price will increase from \$3.7 to \$5.6 million dollars.

Varga provided further clarification about the TIP amendments requested by ITP-the Rapid and explained that changes will be coming forward to ITP-The Rapid’s entire program. He noted that most of the projects expected to be funded by 5309 funding would be shifted to different funding categories since earmark funding they were hoping to receive did not come to fruition.

Since there were so many changes to the TIP amendments presented to the Committee, Rice asked if a motion was needed at today’s meeting. Itani stated that Robinson would present the correct numbers to Metro Council and recommended that the Committee move forward with approving the TIP amendments. DeClercq clarified that the TIP amendment would be non-binding for ITP. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Varga entertained a motion to approve the requested FY2011 TIP amendments, as presented.

**MOTION by Pasquale, SUPPORT by DeClercq, to recommend approval to the Metro Council board of the requested amendments to the FY2011 TIP, as presented, with this amendment to be non-binding for ITP. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. CAPACITY DEFICIENCY LIST**

Speaking on **Item V: Attachment A**, Snell presented the 2035 Capacity Deficiency Facilities with Proposed Solutions list, generated from the Travel Demand Model, to the Committee. This list highlights identified deficiencies and includes a recommendation for improving each deficient road segment in the next 25 years that was derived through the congestion management process. Snell requested the Committee’s approval to move forward with performing an air quality analysis on this list.

Varga entertained a motion to approve the 2035 Capacity Deficiency Facilities with Proposed Solutions list.

**MOTION by Rice, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to approve the 2035 Capacity Deficiency Facilities with Proposed Solutions list, allowing for staff to make necessary changes, as discussed.**

Kent commented that on entry 121: I-96 from I-196 to Leonard St., the preferred alternative should show the improvements listed in the environmental assessment and in the Long Range Transportation Plan, and not say “further study.” Discussion ensued.

DeLong asked what kind of value the Committee gets for making these investments in the roads. Snell noted that Staff closely monitors the corridors on the list so that if something changes, such as the addition of a development to an area, staff is aware of this.

DeClercq asked if a report on the findings of the air quality analysis will ensue. Snell responded that this would be part of the Plan.

Snell explained that the next step will be a meeting with all the MPOs on the west side of the state to determine which projects will be modeled for air quality. Itani provided additional details about this meeting and the air quality analysis. Discussion ensued.

Varga asked when the model was last updated for transit. Snell replied that it’s been a couple of years. In response, Varga asked that it be updated.

Varga called the motion to question. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**VI. COMPLETE STREETS PRESENTATION**

McCurren, chair of the Greater Grand Rapids Bicycling Coalition, an organization formed to change Greater Grand Rapids into a safe bicycling community and promote the benefits of cycling, informed the Committee about Complete Streets. He explained that in August, 2010, Governor Granholm signed Complete Streets legislation. Complete Streets considers all users of the roadway in planning road design and gives funding preference to communities that have complete streets policies. McCurren explained the many benefits of complete streets, including health, economic, environmental, safety, social, etc. Lastly, he concluded that the Greater Grand Rapids Bicycling Coalition offers many resources to Communities interested in implementing Complete Streets policies in their communities. He offered to sit down with interested individuals to discuss this further. McCurren also announced that there will be a bicycle summit in May, 2011.

Rice noted that while the KCRC supports the concept of Complete Streets, funding is a problem in implementing it. He added that this appears to be another unfunded mandate, and asked if there was a movement within the GGR Bicycling Coalition to establish additional funding. McCurren replied that the Coalition’s ability to impact funding is limited. DeLong added that while funding is low now, this likely won’t always be the case. Eventually, the legislature will need to fix transportation funding, and it’s important to plan for that now. Discussion ensued.

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Varga explained a handout regarding ITP-The Rapid’s transit master plan to the

Committee. He also noted future plans for the Rapid. However, he added that unless there is increased state funding, needs will not be met.

Stypula invited the Committee members to a meeting on October 28 at 10:00 am at the Kentwood library to discuss problems that Michigan's next governor will face. Mitch Bean, the director of the House Fiscal Agency in Lansing, will lead the meeting.

Stypula added that on November 30 there will be a rally in Lansing to get the new transportation bill signed into law. The rally will start at 8:30 am at the Lansing Center.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Varga adjourned the October 20, 2010 Policy Committee meeting at 10:43 am.