

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, November 18, 2009
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Koslosky, Vice Chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. He also informed the Committee that the airport's new intermodal transit center was formally opened on November 17. Discussion ensued.

Jaiyeoba introduced himself to the Committee.

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

Jim Koslosky (<i>Vice Chair</i>)		GRFIA
Dan Carlton		Georgetown Township
Dick Davies		Cannon Township
Rick DeVries	<i>Proxy for Mark DeClercq</i>	City of Grand Rapids
		City of Grand Rapids
Jeff Dood		City of Rockford
Ken Feldt		City of East Grand Rapids
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
Jon Rice	<i>Proxy for Sandi Frost Parrish</i>	KCRC
		Kent County
Darrel Schmalzel		City of Walker
Don VanDoeselaar		City of Hudsonville

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Chris Glass	GR Chamber of Commerce
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Erick Kind	MDOT
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Norm Sevensma	WMEAC-RWBC
Don Stypula	GVMC Staff
Steve Warren	KCRC

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema
Alex Arends
Larry Bruursema
Christine Burns
Pat Bush
Mark DeClercq
Sharon DeLange
Mike DeVries
George Haga
Bryan Harrison
Dennis Hoemke
Bob Homan
Jim Miedema
Audrey Nevins
Sandi Frost Parrish
Rich Pastoor
Steve Peterson
Jack Poll
Chuck Porter
Toby VanEss
Peter Varga

Allendale Township
Alpine Township
OCRC
City of Cedar Springs
City of Grand Rapids
City of Grand Rapids
Village of Sparta
Grand Rapids Township
Ada Township
Caledonia Charter Township
Algoma Township
Plainfield Township
Jamestown Township
Byron Township
Kent County Commissioner
City of Wyoming
Cascade Township
City of Wyoming
Courtland Township
Tallmadge Township
The Rapid

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Koslosky entertained a motion to approve of the September 16, 2009 Policy Committee meeting minutes.

MOTION by Holtrop, SUPPORT by Glass, to approve of the September 16, 2009 Policy Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sevensma asked the Committee about the priority of an ARRA sidewalk project located at the intersection of Kalamazoo and 28th Street. Discussion ensued.

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

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, as well as two handouts, Robinson informed the Committee about several TIP amendments.

The first several amendments were the result of the City of Walker surrendering significant amounts of CMAQ and EDFC funding. Robinson explained that the TPSG Committee had already met to determine how to reallocate this funding, and the Technical Committee had already approved the TIP amendments resulting from the TPSG Committee at their last meeting. These requests are outlined below.

The first TIP amendment request, from the Ottawa County Road Commission (OCRC), was to fund a project on 20th Avenue at Baldwin Street at a cost of \$238,000 in federal funds. A portion of the surrendered FY2010 CMAQ funds would go toward funding this

project. Robinson explained that this project was located in FY2009 and was not obligated before MDOT's obligational authority ran out.

The second request, from the City of Grand Rapids, was to fund a project entitled ITS Traffic Signal Communications, Traffic Operations Center Upgrades at a cost of \$150,000 federal. This project would also utilize a portion of the surrendered FY2010 CMAQ funds and was also located in FY2009 but was not obligated before Obligational Authority ran out at MDOT.

The third request, from the Kent County Road Commission, was to fund a new project at the intersection of Cascade, Spaulding, and Hall Street using \$126,458 in surrendered FY2010 CMAQ funds and to add the project to the FY2008-2011 TIP. The KCRC also requested to add a new reconstruct and widening project on Northland Drive from M-57 to Indian Lakes Road to the FY2008-2011 TIP. This project would use \$2,072,000 in surrendered FY2010 EDFC funds.

Robinson also explained several additional TIP amendment requests that were not related to the City of Walker's surrender of CMAQ and EDFC funding. These included the following:

First, the KCRC requested to add a STP-Enhancement Project in Byron Center on 84th Street to FY2010 in the FY2008-2011 TIP. The second request, from the City of Lowell, was to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP in FY2010 to combine the Bowes Road projects and to make a change in scope of the micro seal portion. The third request, from the City of Walker, was to add a STP-Enhancement project for the construction of 4 miles of HMA trail, timber boardwalks, and other trail amenities to the FY2008-2011 TIP.

MDOT provided several additional TIP amendment requests. These requests included (1) adding three trunkline bridge rehabilitation projects to the FY2008-2011 TIP for FY2010, (2) amending the FY2008-2011 TIP to include an AMTRAK Station Relocation project planned for the GVMC MPO area in FY2010, and (3) adding General Program Accounts (GPAs) to the FY2008-2011 TIP in FY2010 for local highway safety and bridge. Referring to an additional handout, Robinson also stated that MDOT was requesting to amend the MPO TIP to include the State Trunkline Program Development/Scoping GPA for a total cost of \$320,000 as well. Kent provided additional information about this project. Discussion ensued.

Referencing one last handout, Robinson explained the City of Grand Rapids' request to increase the ARRA funding for the Scribner Avenue from US 131 off ramp to Webster St. project from \$130,000 to \$200,000, and to decrease the ARRA funding for the Fuller Avenue from Knapp St. to Plainfield Avenue project from \$1,074,482 to \$1,004,482.

Koslosky entertained a motion to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP.

MOTION by Pasquale, SUPPORT by Rice, to amend the FY2008-FY2011 TIP to include the TIP amendment requests from the OCRC, the City of Grand Rapids, the KCRC, the City of Lowell, the City of Walker, and MDOT, as identified by Staff. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. FEDERAL FUNDING SCENARIOS

Koslosky entertained a motion to bring the motion on federal funding scenarios that had been tabled at the September 16, 2009 Policy Committee meeting back to the floor.

MOTION by Hilton, SUPPORT by Feldt, to return the following tabled motion from the September 16, 2009 Policy Committee Meeting to the floor: MOTION to recommend to the Metro Council Board that the Board request that the federal legislators look at legislation that would allow local systems from donor states to be able to use 100% federal funds for projects at their option.

Speaking on **Item V: Attachment A**, Robinson showed the Committee four different federal funding scenarios for FY2011, 2012, and 2013 using STP-Urban funds. The first scenario showed the original funding splits which were set several months ago when the TIP was developed. These splits were approximately 67% federal and 33% local. The next three funding scenarios showed funding splits of 80%, 90%, and 100% federal and 20%, 10%, and no local match, respectively. Robinson explained that changing the federal match above 67% would result in a substantial deficit, meaning that projects would need to be removed from the TIP in order to keep it financially constrained. Discussion ensued.

Itani explained that this issue had initially arisen when the TPSG Committee was developing the TIP. During this process, it was discovered that many jurisdictions did not have the money to provide a local match to move their projects forward. Itani stated that the MPO cannot change the match from 80% to 100% federal, but it can ask the legislature to waive the 20% local match requirement and give the members the flexibility to decide how to use the federal funds. Discussion ensued.

Rice stated that the MPO should be programming projects at 80/20 instead of at lower funding percentages. He suggested that the Committee consider adopting a policy of keeping the match at 80/20 and then asking various jurisdictions to reduce the scope of their projects if necessary to meet this funding split. Itani responded that the Committee may want to take a position on the issue of funding percentages and then apply it to the new TIP. Itani also mentioned that the new transportation bill may have up to \$175 billion more funding than the previous bill, which means that more STP funding will likely be available to the Committee if the members are able to provide a local match. Discussion ensued.

Koslosky returned the motion in question to the floor. **MOTION CARRIED.** (Krombeen opposed this motion.) Discussion ensued.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Holtrop stated that he had received several comments from constituents about the wisdom of several highway directional signs and sign poles being replaced at the same time. Kind provided additional information. Discussion ensued.

Stypula informed the Committee that there is a growing interest by the Obama Administration in moving forward with a second stimulus package that will only include funding for roads, bridges, and transit. As for State government, Stypula stated that senate republicans are expected to roll out a package of legislation that deals with

government reforms after the holidays. However, no new information is available on transportation funding.

McBurrows informed the committee that at the MPO directors' meeting in Lansing, MDOT staff gave a presentation on section 394 of MDOT's budget. Section 394 provides the details of a study that will be conducted regarding the current statutory formulae for the distribution of state and federal revenue for surface transportation programs. Itani asked McBurrows to send this document to the MPO staff so that it could be sent to the Committee members. Discussion ensued.

Kind stated that MDOT recently opened the I-96 and Baldwin interchange.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Koslosky adjourned the November 18, 2009 Policy Committee meeting at 10:22 am.