

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, January 16, 2008
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Pasquale, Chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Pasquale introduced new member Christine Burns, the manager of the City of Cedar Springs, to the committee.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Dave Pasquale (<i>Chair</i>)	City of Lowell
Marta Brechting	Alpine Township
Christine Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Dick Davies	Cannon Township
Rick DeVries	City of Grand Rapids
Jeff Dood	City of Rockford
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Ken Krombeen	City of Grandville
Dal McBurrows	MDOT
Sandi Frost Parrish	Kent County Commission
Jon Rice	KCRC
Darrel Schmalzel	City of Walker
Keith VanBeek	City of Kentwood
Peter Varga (<i>Vice-Chair</i>)	The Rapid
Steve Warren <i>Proxy for Jon Rice</i>	KCRC

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Dewey	GVMC Staff
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Jim Fetzer	The Rapid
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	MDOT-Grand Region
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff
George Yang	GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

James Beelen	Allendale Township
Larry Bruursema	Ottawa County
Pat Bush	City of Grand Rapids

Bill Cousins
Sharon DeLange
Mike DeVries
Ken Feldt
George Haga
Bryan Harrison
Dennis Hoemke
Bill Holland
Jim Koslosky
Jim McIntyre
George Meek
Jim Miedema
Audrey Nevins
Rich Pastoor
Jack Poll
Don VanDoeselaar
Bill Wiersma

Cascade Township
Village of Sparta
Grand Rapids Township
City of East Grand Rapids
Ada Township
Caledonia Charter Township
Algoma Township
Georgetown Township
GRFIA
Courtland Township
Plainfield Township
Jamestown Township
Byron Township
City of Wyoming
City of Wyoming
City of Hudsonville
Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Pasquale entertained a motion to approve of the November 28, 2007 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes.

MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to approve of the November 28, 2007 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Itani informed the committee that Pasquale, the current chair, and Varga, the current vice chair, have completed their two year terms. According to the committee bylaws, a new chair and vice chair must be elected. Itani continued to state that the tradition in the past has been to elect the current vice chair as chair of the Policy Committee and to accept nominations for a new vice chair.

Pasquale entertained a motion to elect Varga as chair of the Policy Committee.

MOTION by Hilton, SUPPORT by Rice, to elect Varga as chair of the Policy Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Pasquale asked the floor for nominations for the next vice chair of the Policy Committee and entertained a motion for Brechting to be elected to this position.

MOTION by Hilton, SUPPORT by Varga, to elect Brechting as the vice chair of the Technical Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. ITP FY 2008-2009 AMENDMENTS

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Robinson spoke to the committee regarding several amendments that ITP is requesting to the FY 2006-2008 and FY 2008-2011 TIPs. The first amendment is to update Section 5307 Program fund amounts for FY 2008. The second is to amend both TIPs to include capital project requests from Hope Network, Senior Neighbors, the American Red Cross, and the United Methodist Community House (UMCH) for FY 2009. The projects include the purchase of new vehicles and some computer or GPS equipment. They are to be funded with section 5310 funds. ITP also needs to amend their Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with the addition of a line item for \$250,000 to develop a new Long Range Plan.

Varga added that some of these projects are more routine than others. He stated that the Grand Valley Metro Council and GRATA board completed a Long Range Plan back in 1998. While this plan has been a useful guidebook for the past decade, it has now fulfilled its purpose and a new Long Range Plan is needed. This is the reason for the amendment to the UPWP.

VanBeek asked if the Senior Neighbors would be using iPhones with GPS as a vehicle locating system. Fetzer answered that the use of the iPhones is two-fold. It does determine the vehicle's GPS location and serves as a communication device for dispatching. Hilton questioned the price variation between vans and busses that were listed in ITP's memo. Fetzer responded that the different agencies all purchase unique types of vehicles. Questions, comments and discussion ensued.

Pasquale entertained a motion to approve the amendments as identified by Staff.

MOTION by Holtrop, SUPPORT by Krombeen, to amend the FY 2006-2008 and FY 2008-2011 TIP(s) to include (1) an update to the Section 5307 Program funds amounts (FY 2008) and (2) an addition of Capital Project Requests for Section 5310 funds (FY 2009). The motion also includes amending the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to add a new line item entitled "Long Range Plan Development" with \$250,000 to fund the project. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. 2035 LRTP AMENDMENT and 2008-2011 TIP AMENDMENT

Dewey updated the committee that, due to the addition or deletion of projects to the 2035 LRTP, some major cost changes, and significant changes in project concept, scope, or limits since the 2035 LRTP was adopted, an amendment must be made. The specific project changes are outlined in **Item VI: Attachment A**.

Dewey also stated that the project list needed to be adjusted to reflect inflation in order to meet a new federal requirement that took effect after December 11, 2007. For the first four years of the LRTP (2008-2011), the local jurisdictions incorporated their own inflation rate and applied it to their projects. For the outlying years, GVMC staff used inflation rates derived from MDOT. From 2012-2018, GVMC used an inflation rate of 4%, and from 2019-2035, an inflation rate of 3.8% was used. These inflation rates were averaged for each time frame and

compounded upon each other for the later years of the Plan. As a result, some of the preservation funds from the outlying years were reduced in order to maintain the current list of improve/expand projects.

The changes to the LRTP were significant enough to warrant both a new air quality analysis and a public involvement process. Itani worked with the MPOs in Holland and Muskegon to coordinate the air quality analysis, which found that the LRTP is well under air quality limits set by the EPA and listed in the Federal Register. The public comment period began on December 14 and concluded on January 14. Two public meetings were held on January 8 at the Wyoming Public Library, but no one from the public chose to attend. The comments received were attached to the memo in **Item VI: Attachment A**. They were minimal.

Itani explained that the money that was used to account for inflation needed to come from somewhere, and the fund selected to cover inflation was a fund that had been set aside for preservation projects. This will likely impact the number of preservation projects that can be completed in the future. However, Itani also said that the state and feds are currently discussing transportation funding, which could lead to more funding being received to mitigate this issue.

Itani addressed the poor turnout at the public involvement meeting and stated that he was not surprised at the low attendance. In regard to the amendments at hand, Itani stated that both the LRTP and the TIP must be amended because the TIP also serves as the first four years of the LRTP. Questions, comments, and discussion ensued.

Pasquale entertained a motion to amend the 2035 LRTP and the 2008-2011 TIP to include the amendments previously identified by Staff.

MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Brechting, to approve the 2035 LRTP and the 2008-2011 TIP to include the amendments included in Item VI: Attachment A. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VII. 2007 OBLIGATED PROJECTS LIST

Robinson informed the committee that, in adherence with the new transportation planning regulations, the FY 2007 Obligated Projects List has been posted on GVMC's web site (www.gvmc.org). He thanked the committee for doing an excellent job obligating the projects and welcomed comments or questions.

VIII. TIP TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS

Referring to **Item VIII: Attachment A**, Robinson informed the committee that the Kent County Road Commission, on behalf of Grand Rapids Charter Township, was awarded an enhancement project. It is for a 10-foot-wide, bituminous, non-motorized trail that will be located along the Forest Hill/Crahen Avenue Corridor in Grand Rapids Township. It will link trail projects on Ada Drive and Leonard Street. The cost will be \$900,000 with \$331,500 being funded from the Enhancement Program. Currently there is a line item for Enhancement Projects in the GPAs that has enough money to cover this project. Therefore, an amendment is not needed for the TIP. Questions, comments, and discussion

ensued.

IX. FY 2008-2011 GENERAL PROGRAM ACCOUNTS (GPAs)

Referring to **Item IX: Attachment A**, Robinson spoke on the status of the General Program Accounts (GPAs). According to Robinson, the GPA amounts are not generally known at the time of TIP development. There are numbers in the TIP that reflect GPA amounts, but for the most part, they are incorrect. The latest GPAs are included as part of the aforementioned attachment. Robinson pointed out that the line item entitled "Enhancements (local)," which is listed under FY 2008, will be enough to cover enhancement projects that have been awarded. Therefore, a TIP amendment will not be necessary for enhancement projects until these funds are exhausted. Robinson also reported that the GPAs have been approved by Metro Council. Varga asked why the two enhancement line items (trunkline and local) are identical. Robinson responded that these GPAs are essentially estimates, or targets.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Itani informed the committee that we are still waiting on the Feds to approve the FY 2008-2011 TIP. There were some formatting and other minor issues that are keeping the Feds from approving the TIP. Because of this, all of the projects amended since September are still sitting at the Federal Highway Administration. CMAQ program funds are also tied up there. However, Itani has spoken with the Feds and made an agreement with them. The Feds will look at the TIP and move it along the approval process so long as it is financially constrained. If the TIP is not approved by February 1, 2008, there will be no TIP and none of the projects will be able to move forward. Therefore, we are working day and night to get it approved before January 31, 2008. Itani suggested to the committee to send him projects immediately if they have projects that they need to have obligated.

Itani thanked Pasquale for his service as chair to the committee.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Pasquale entertained a motion to adjourn the Policy Committee meeting.

MOTION by Rice, SUPPORT by Krombeen, to adjourn the Policy Committee meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 am.