

**MINUTES**

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

Koslosky, Chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:34 am. He thanked Varga for chairing the last Policy Committee meeting.

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

Jim Koslosky ( <i>Chair</i> )	<i>Proxy for Eric DeLong Bryan Harrison Steve Peterson</i>	GRFIA City of Grand Rapids Caledonia Charter Township Cascade Township Alpine Township Georgetown Township City of East Grand Rapids Gaines Township City of Kentwood
Alex Arends		MDOT
Dan Carlton		City of Lowell
Ken Feldt		MDOT
Don R. Hilton, Sr.		City of Walker
Rich Houtteman		The Rapid
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for David Pasquale</i>	Grand Rapids Township
Dal McBurrows		KCRC
Darrel Schmalzel		Kent County Commissioner
Peter Varga	<i>Proxy for Mike DeVries</i>	Plainfield Township
Steve Warren	<i>Proxy for Dick Bulkowski Bob Homan Jon Rice</i>	KCRC

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Andrea Dewey	GVMC Staff
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Norm Sevensma	WMEAC-RWBC
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff
Don Stypula	GVMC Staff
George Yang	GVMC Staff
Mike Zonyk	GVMC Staff

**Voting Members Not Present**

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
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Larry Bruursema  
 Dick Bulkowski  
 Christine Burns  
 Dick Davies  
 Mark DeClercq  
 Sharon DeLange  
 Eric DeLong  
 Mike DeVries  
 Jeff Dood  
 George Haga  
 Bryan Harrison  
 Dennis Hoemke  
 Jim Holtrop  
 Bob Homan  
 Ken Krombeen  
 Jim Miedema  
 Audrey Nevins  
 David Pasquale  
 Rich Pastoor  
 Steve Peterson  
 Jack Poll  
 Chuck Porter  
 Jon Rice  
 Don VanDoeselaar  
 Toby VanEss

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Koslosky entertained a motion to approve of the February 17, 2010 Policy Committee minutes.

**MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Arends, to approve of the February 17, 2010 Policy Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sevensma asked the Committee for an update on the extension of SAFETEA-LU. Varga provided a report on this. Discussion ensued.

**IV. FY2011-FY2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) DRAFT APPROVAL**

Speaking on **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson stated that he was seeking draft approval from the committee on the FY2011-2014 TIP. The TPSG Committee had met on February 10 to program STP-U and EDF-C funds for FY2011 to FY2014, and the Rural TPSG Committee had also recently met to program STP-Rural funds for these years. Also included with the FY2011-2014 TIP was an illustrative list of projects, which would be utilized should additional stimulus funds be received, and additional project lists from ITP and MDOT-Grand Region. Kent provided additional information about the MDOT-Grand Region project list.

Robinson also explained that, once the draft FY2011-2014 TIP is approved, Staff would begin the Environmental Justice review, Public Involvement process, and perform an air quality analysis.

Koslosky entertained a motion to approve the draft FY2011-2014 TIP.

**MOTION by Warren, SUPPORT by Varga, to recommend to the Metro Council Board approval of the draft FY2011-2014 TIP, as presented.**

Hilton asked the Committee about the status of the 100<sup>th</sup> St. bridge at US 131 project, and finding that it had been delayed until an out year of the TIP due to funding issues, asked that the project be moved to an earlier year. Discussion ensued.

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

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN (PPP) DRAFT APPROVAL**

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Dewey explained that the MPO is required to maintain a Public Participation Plan, which determines how the MPO interacts with the public. The last PPP was approved in 2006, the same time as the last LRTP. During the last review of the PPP, Dewey added an appendix to the document that provides basic guidelines for evaluating the effectiveness of public participation tools. Due to the changes suggested to the PPP, a public comment period of 45 days is required before the final PPP may be adopted, which will run from March 22 to May 5. Dewey asked that the Committee members submit comments to her regarding the PPP before March 22, and requested that they approve the draft PPP.

Koslosky entertained a motion to approve the draft PPP, as presented.

**MOTION by Hilton, SUPPORT by Arends, to recommend to the Metro Council Board approval of the draft PPP, as presented by Staff.**

Warren noted that the KCRC has their own public participation process, and in the past, GVMC's and the KCRC's duplicated efforts have confused the property owners who received the letters. Warren suggested that a method be developed for mailings that works more closely with the agency completing the project. Koslosky stated that this was simply a matter of coordinating language within the letters. Discussion ensued.

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

**VI. 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) PROCESS & VISION APPROVAL**

Speaking on **Item VI: Attachment A**, Dewey informed the Committee that the update to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) has begun. With the update, Dewey explained that Staff is proposing that the Policy Committee reexamine its process, and particularly its goals and objectives, to assure that the Plan's projects directly reflect regional goals. In order to satisfy federal requirements for SAFETEA-LU, Dewey stated that 10 issue areas would need to be addressed. Therefore, Staff's recommendation,

which was detailed in a flow chart included with the agenda packet, was to establish groups/sub-committees for these 10 issue areas. The sub-committees would then be charged with developing objectives and performance areas for their issue area and identifying the needs and associated costs for projects. Under this process, the Policy Committee would be responsible for determining a funding level for each of the issue areas based on regional goals laid out by the Policy Committee. The funding levels determined by the Policy Committee, combined with revenue estimates, would be used in turn by the sub-committees to prioritize and recommend projects to the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee would then be responsible for project selection based on the funding level established by the Policy Committee and using the prioritized project lists set forth by each sub-committee. The Policy Committee would have a final say over the project list before it moves forward. Dewey also explained the Long Range Transportation Plan Development Timeline. The diagram and associated materials are conceptual in nature and staff is expected to review and update both the diagram and the project selection process for further consideration by the Policy Committee.

Warren questioned the timing of this proposal, asking if the Committee would be better served by waiting to address this issue until after the new transportation bill is passed. Itani explained that this approach is similar to the current regulations in the transportation bill in the House. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Dewey drew the Committee's attention to a draft vision statement for the LRTP included in the agenda packet, which read as follows: "Establish a sustainable multimodal transportation system for the mobility and accessibility of people, goods, and services; it will provide an integrated system that is safe, environmentally sound, socially equitable, economically viable, and developed through cooperation and collaboration."

Koslosky entertained a motion to approve the draft vision statement for the LRTP.

**MOTION by Houtteman, SUPPORT by Varga, for the Policy Committee to adopt the vision statement for the LRTP, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Koslosky entertained a motion to approve the draft flow chart of the LRTP development process, as identified by Staff.

**MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Carlton, to approve the draft flow chart as a conceptual process for the LRTP Project Identification and Selection process.**

McBurrows stated that there should be more members in attendance before this matter is officially voted on. Koslosky recommended that committee members who were not in attendance carefully review the memorandum and send their comments to GVMC staff as soon as possible.

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

## **VII. PAVEMENT/ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM UPDATE**

Using past and present pavement management data detailed in several handouts, Snell updated the Committee about the current status of the Pavement Management System. Snell explained that since 2006, pavement data appears to have generally improved.

However, this is due to ARRA and Build Michigan funding, along with the inclusion of MDOT data, which began in 2006. Snell added that underneath the “band-aid fixes” on the roads, the system is still crumbling. He expected this to be reflected in 2010’s pavement ratings. Lastly, Snell explained that the Asset Management Committee has been discussing changes to how pavement data is collected and the kind of system used to store the data. They’ve also spent time looking into Roadsoft, a free program that stores pavement data and can transfer it into a mapping system. Discussion, comments, and questions ensued.

#### **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Varga stated that SAFETEA-LU has been extended until September 31<sup>st</sup>.

Koslosky drew the Committee’s attention to MDOT’s “The Fix on 196” handout, as well as a quarterly publication from the Gerald R. Ford International Airport.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Koslosky adjourned the March 17, 2010 Policy Committee meeting at 11:07 am.