

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, March 18, 2015
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Krombeen, chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

The Committee members, guests, and MPO staff introduced themselves. There were two new Committee members in attendance: Terry Brod from Cannon Township and Rod Weersing from Georgetown Township.

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

Ken Krombeen, <i>Chair</i>	City of Grandville
Gail Altman	Jamestown Township
Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Terry Brod	Cannon Township
Mark DeClercq	City of Grand Rapids
Rich Houtteman	City of Kentwood
John Lanum	MDOT
Jim Miedema	OCRC
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Darrel Schmalzel	City of Walker
Joe Slonecki	City of East Grand Rapids
Peter Varga	ITP-The Rapid
Steve Warren, <i>Vice Chair</i>	KCRC
<i>Proxy for Dave Bulkowski</i>	Kent County
Rod Weersing	Georgetown Township

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Faber	GVMC
Rod Ghearing	ITP-The Rapid
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Steve Redmond	MDOT
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff
Mike Zonyk	GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Dave Bulkowski	Kent County
Jamie Davies	City of Rockford
Eric DeLong	City of Grand Rapids
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
George Haga	Ada Township
Bryan Harrison	Caledonia Charter Township

Don R. Hilton, Sr.
Dennis Hoemke
Jim Holtvluwer
Mark Howe
Dal McBurrows
Audrey Nevins-Weiss
Richard Pastoor
Jack Poll
Brian Ryks
Dan Strikwerda
Ben Swayze
Thad Taylor
Roger Towsley
Cameron Van Wyngarden
Toby VanEss

Gaines Township
Algoma Township
Ottawa County
City of Lowell
MDOT
Byron Township
City of Wyoming
City of Wyoming
GRFIA
City of Hudsonville
Cascade Township
City of Cedar Springs
Village of Sand Lake
Plainfield Township
Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Krombeen entertained a motion to approve the February 18, 2015 Policy Committee minutes.

MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Arends, to approve of the February 18, 2015 Policy Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. FY2014-2017 TIP AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson informed the Committee that several jurisdictions were requesting to amend/modify the FY2014-2017 TIP. Their specific requests were as follows:

1. The City of Grand Rapids requested to add an MDOT funded FY2015 TAP project to the TIP titled Pedestrian Safety Improvements at Eight Locations.
2. The City of Kentwood is requesting to remove a FY2017 project from the TIP—East Paris Avenue from Burton Avenue to the northern City Limits—and move in an illustrative project in its place—44th Street from Broadmoor Avenue to Patterson Avenue. This will be a project switch. The City is then requesting to advance construct the 44th St. project in FY2016 due to the severe degradation of pavement.
3. The American Red Cross is requesting to add three vehicles utilizing FY2016 5310 funding to the TIP—two Chevy Impalas and one Ford Flex.
4. ITP is requesting to modify the cost of several projects, add three projects, and remove two projects in FY2016 of the TIP.
5. Hope Network requested to add 14 replacement vehicles utilizing 5310 funding and other activities utilizing 5317 funding to FY2016 of the TIP.
6. MDOT requested to amend/modify the costs of several projects listed in FY2015 of the TIP, including two GPAs and the cost of two I-96 under Cascade Road projects.
7. Staff requested to amend/modify the FY2014-2017 TIP to include changes recommended by the STP Rural Committee and approved by the Technical

Committee. A STP Rural project programmed in FY2016 was funded by nonfederal funds, thereby creating a need to replace the project. The STP Rural Committee selected Lincoln Lake Avenue from 5 to 6 Mile Road for FY2016. The STP Rural Committee also made adjustments to the FY2017 Rural program, due to the Village of Sand Lake's request to move the limits of their Lake Street from 5th St. to Northland Dr. to Lake Street from Ritchie Ave. to 5th St. The KCRC voluntarily reduced the cost of their FY2017 Lincoln Lake 7 Mile to Belding Road project to give more funding to the Village of Sand Lake's project.

Discussion ensued.

Krombeen entertained a motion to approve the requested FY2014-2017 TIP amendments/modifications.

MOTION by DeClercq, SUPPORT by Schmalzel, to approve of the amendments/modifications to the FY2014-2017 TIP requested by the City of Grand Rapids, the City of Kentwood, the American Red Cross, ITP, Hope Network, MDOT, and GVMC Staff. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. NON-MOTORIZED PLAN PROJECT LIST AMENDMENT

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Zonyk stated that on February 17, 2015, the Non-Motorized Committee met to discuss potential funding possibilities for use of Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds in FY2016 and FY2017. One of the agenda items for this meeting was to discuss any modifications needed to the Non-Motorized Plan project list since its publishing in May of 2014. Seven projects were presented and formally approved for inclusion or modification to the Non-Motorized Plan proposed project listing. These projects include:

- The Village of Sand Lake's Lake Street Streetscape from 5th St. to the White Pine Trail project
- Hudsonville/Jamestown/Georgetown's 22nd Avenue Barry St. Connector and 22nd Van Buren Avenue to Barry St. projects
- Jamestown/Georgetown/Byron's Pioneer Trail Connector – Kenowa Ave. project
- The City of Grand Rapids' Richmond Street project
- The City of Grand Rapids' Maryland Avenue project
- The City of Grand Rapids' 3 Mile Road project
- Allendale Township's 68th Avenue Corridor project

Zonyk emphasized that the modification to the Non-Motorized Plan listing does not make these projects more likely for potential funding, but it's the policy of our MPO to only fund projects in the Non-Motorized Plan so it makes them eligible. It is the request by the Non-Motorized Committee for the Technical and Policy Committees to formally adopt these modifications as amendments to the Non-Motorized Plan Project list.

Zonyk further stated that because there is additional funding remaining, this list will go to the TPSG Committee on March 26 for further discussion.

Houtteman asked what the match typically was on non-motorized projects. Zonyk replied that it was typically 70% federal, 30% local.

Varga asked what the annual allocation was for TAP funds. Itani clarified that the annual total is approximately \$1.4 million, but that amount is split 50/50 between the state and the MPO. Robinson added that the amount available in FY2016 would be slightly lower because additional dollars went out in FY2014 and FY2015.

Warren asked for clarification on the policy of funding sidewalks vs. side paths. Robinson stated that the Committee has approved using TAP funds for sidewalks. Zonyk also explained the difference between sidewalks and side paths, noting that side paths are usually 10' wide and set back from the road, whereas sidewalks are traditionally 5' wide.

Krombeen entertained a motion to amend the Non-Motorized Plan Project list.

MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Miedema, to formally adopt these modifications as amendments to the Non-Motorized Plan Project list. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. GVMC PAVEMENT CONDITION PROGRAM UPDATE

Referring to **Item VI: Attachment A**, Snell informed the Committee that GVMC's van is entering its 10th season of collecting road condition data, and that due to the van's age, many of the systems in the van are well past their expected life cycles and are in need of major maintenance. The cost of the warranty on the van continues to rise as well, which has made it cost prohibitive to efficiently operate the van. Snell stated that he recently distributed a survey to GVMC's road provider members to help him evaluate the portions of the data collection process that are needed and those activities that members could do without. Using the results of the survey, Snell developed a report outlining recommendations for which systems GVMC should continue to maintain and which should be eliminated. Snell reiterated that MPO members will not be losing any critical data, since the systems that are being eliminated are ones that are not currently being used or have become obsolete. Snell has also been working with staff from International Cybernetics on a maintenance plan that will once again make the van cost effective and allow GVMC to continue to provide its members with high quality road condition information. This maintenance plan will involve adding in one new camera and updating some of the equipment on the van. By implementing these changes now, it will also save more than \$200,000 through 2021, which will be the end of the lifecycle for the van. Snell added that these changes will put the MPO in a position to gather PASER and HPMS data and meet impending FHWA requirements. Snell stated that the GVMC Asset Management Committee fully supports the changes outlined in his report and that staff is moving forward with them.

Lastly, Snell stated that the annual pavement condition report will be ready in about three weeks, and that he would run it past the members in draft form. He noted that the report was delayed slightly this year due to GVMC's certification and the MTP.

Porter inquired about how many miles were on the van. Itani responded that there are currently 70,000 miles on the van, and noted that it's in very good condition due to regular maintenance.

Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Warren added that it may be advantageous to have pavement information regarding the urbanized area to the Committee before May. Itani stated that if the Committee wishes, GVMC staff can release the draft Pavement Condition Report before then. Snell also explained how he planned to distribute the pavement data, noting that there were a number of possible ways to portray the data. Discussion ensued.

Houtteman stated that one of his pet peeves is when the sewer lids don't get raised when road projects are completed. He stated that he's trying to motivate staff in the City of Kentwood to make sure that gets done with all new projects. He asked Snell if he could possibly measure when sewer lids aren't raised while he inventories the road. Snell stated that staff is sensitive to this issue as well.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Itani stated that the Metro Council Board's final approval of the 2040 MTP has been delayed because the EPA was successfully sued for partially revoking the 1999 air quality standards. Therefore, the 2040 MTP can't be approved at this time without an air quality analysis. However, EPA is planning to revoke the full standard in a letter. After this, they will need to advertise their new position and wait for 30 days, which means that the air quality analysis won't be necessary and that the Metro Council Board can hopefully approve the document at their May meeting. Discussion ensued.

Itani also added that at the end of February, GVMC staff met at MDOT and discussed the new fiscal year activities. He now has a draft version of the UPWP available. However, he is still waiting on a portion from ITP. He noted that there will not be any increases in dues for Committee members, and some members will have their dues reduced by a few dollars. Lanum added that during the UPWP meeting, FHWA also discussed some of their emphasis points, including activity regarding adoption of performance measures. There will be a peer exchange meeting in Lansing on April 27-28 to discuss implementation of FHWA's performance measures. Itani added that FHWA sent out a primer of what implementing performance measures should look like and a self-assessment survey, and that staff would be meeting soon to go over the self-assessment survey to see where we are in the process of meeting the new regulations. Itani also described some of the performance measures FHWA has in mind, such as 95% of the NHS system being in "fair/good" condition, and having the states and MPOs collect data using IRI. Discussion ensued.

Lanum commented that obligation authority runs out on May 31, and that it's currently 63% used right now. He asked local agencies that anticipate obligating projects soon to please finish work on their projects so they can get their information into Local Agency Programs. Discussion ensued.

Houtteman welcomed Redmond as a new commissioner for the City of Kentwood.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Krombeen adjourned the March 18, 2015 Policy Committee meeting at 10:14 am.