

**MINUTES**

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
POLICY COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, March 19, 2008  
Kent County Road Commission  
1500 Scribner NW      Grand Rapids, MI**

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

Varga welcomed Jack Poll, a new representative from the City of Wyoming, to the committee.

**I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Voting Members Present**

Peter Varga	<i>(Chair)</i>	The Rapid
Pat Bush		City of Grand Rapids
Bill Cousins		Cascade Township
Mike DeVries		Grand Rapids Township
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Ken Feldt		City of East Grand Rapids
Sandi Frost Parrish		Kent County Commissioner
Don Hilton, Sr.		Gaines Township
Jim Holtrop		Ottawa County
Jim Koslosky		GRFIA
Ken Krombeen		City of Grandville
Dal McBurrows		MDOT
Dave Pasquale		City of Lowell
Rich Pastoor		City of Wyoming
Jack Poll		City of Wyoming
Jon Rice		KCRC
Darrel Schmalzel		City of Walker
Keith VanBeek		City of Kentwood
Don VanDoeselaar		City of Hudsonville

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Andrea Dewey	GVMC Staff
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Jim Fetzer	The Rapid
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Steve Redmond	MDOT
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Norm Sevensma	RWBC-WMEAC
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff
Don Stypula	GVMC Staff
Steve Warren	KCRC
Mike Zonyk	GVMC Staff

**Voting Members Not Present**

James Beelen		Allendale Township
Marta Brechting	(Vice Chair)	Alpine Township
Larry Bruursema		Ottawa County
Christine Burns		City of Cedar Springs
Dick Davies		Cannon Township
Sharon DeLange		Village of Sparta
Jeff Dood		City of Rockford
George Haga		Ada Township
Bryan Harrison		Caledonia Charter Township
Dennis Hoemke		Algoma Township
Bob Homan		Plainfield Township
Bill Holland		Georgetown Township
Jim McIntyre		Courtland Township
Jim Miedema		Jamestown Township
Audrey Nevins		Byron Township
Bill Wiersma		Tallmadge Township

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Varga entertained a motion to approve of the January 16, 2008 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION by Holtrop, SUPPORT by Rice, to approve of the January 16, 2008 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sevensma commented that he had seen television coverage regarding the new, higher ozone standard of 75 ppb and asked about the status. Itani stated that he was unsure about when the DEQ was going to start implementing the new standard.

**IV. FY2008-2011 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS:**

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson informed the committee that several amendments and modifications must be made to the TIP. TIP amendments include moving a bridge replacement and interchange improvement project at I-196 and College Avenue from the FY2019-2025 years of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to the FY2008-2011 years of the TIP and adding \$1,600,000 in federal funds to the General Program Account (GPA) for FY2009. Administrative modifications include bringing a concrete pavement restoration project and a freeway lighting replacement project on US-131 from M-11 north to Wealthy Street from FY2009 to FY2008.

Varga entertained a motion to approve a TIP amendment to move the 1-196/College Avenue bridge replacement and interchange improvement project into the requested years of the TIP.

**MOTION by Pastoor, SUPPORT by Krombeen, to recommend to the GVMC board approval of accepting a TIP amendment to move the bridge replacement and interchange improvement project at I-196 and College Avenue from the FY2019-2035 years of the LRTP to the FY2008-2011 years of the TIP. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Varga entertained a motion to approve adding \$1,600,000 in federal funds to the FY2009 GPA.

**MOTION by Bush, SUPPORT by VanBeek, to recommend to the GVMC board approval to amend the TIP by adding \$1,600,000 in federal funds to the FY2009 GPA. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Varga entertained a motion to move the US-131 concrete pavement restoration project from FY2009 to FY2008 in the TIP as explained by Staff.

**MOTION by Rice, SUPPORT by Pastoor, to administratively modify the TIP by moving the concrete pavement restoration project on US-131 from M-11 north to Wealthy Street from FY2009 to FY2008. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Varga entertained a motion to move the freeway lighting replacement project on US-131 from M-11 north to Wealthy Street from FY2009 to FY2008.

**MOTION by Cousins, SUPPORT by Krombeen, to administratively modify the TIP by moving the freeway lighting replacement project on US-131 from M-11 north to Wealthy Street from FY2009 to FY2008. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **V. FY2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) MODIFICATION**

Speaking on **Item V: Attachment A**, Robinson informed the committee that, in addition to changing the TIP, the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) must also be administratively modified to include the bridge replacement and interchange improvement project at I-196 and College Avenue. The project needs to move from the FY2019-2025 years of the 2035 LRTP to the FY2008-2011 years of the LRTP.

Varga entertained a motion to administratively modify the LRTP to include the project as identified by Staff.

**MOTION by Schmalzel, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to approve administratively modifying the TIP by moving the 1-196 and College Avenue bridge replacement project from the FY2019-2025 years of the 2035 LRTP to the FY2008-2011 years of the LRTP. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Sevensma asked about the number of lanes that would result from this project and whether or not he could negotiate them on a bicycle. Discussion continued.

**VI. FY2009 SAFETY AND HIGH RISK RURAL ROAD PROGRAMS ENDORSEMENT**

Referring to **Item VI: Attachment A**, Robinson informed the committee that the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has sent a notice of a call for applications for FY2009 Safety and High Risk Rural Road Programs. Thus far, Robinson has received 18 requests for safety projects and two for the high risk rural road program.

Because funding is limited, not all of the projects listed will be selected at this time. Robinson requested the committee's endorsement in order to bring these projects to MDOT, where they will be entered into MDOT's grant selection process. All applications must be submitted to MDOT by March 28, 2008. All projects selected by MDOT will need to be amended into the TIP at a later date.

Varga entertained a motion for the committee to endorse these projects and send them on to MDOT, where they will be entered into the grant selection process.

**MOTION by Pasquale, SUPPORT by Parrish, to endorse the safety and high risk rural road projects outlined in Item VI: Attachment A, and to send them on to MDOT for the grant selection process. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Parrish asked for clarification on a traffic light improvement project at Spaulding and Cascade and Forest Hills and Cascade. Discussion ensued.

**VII. FY 2008-2011 S/TIP**

McBurrows updated the committee on the status of the STIP. At this point, the FHWA has conditionally approved the STIP as well as all of the TIPs from MPOs until April 15. MDOT has also received approval from the FHWA for all amendments received from October of 2007 through January of 2008. The CMAQ projects for FY2008 and FY2009 have been reviewed and the FY2008 CMAQ projects are within the amendments.

Robinson added that MDOT and FHWA recently overhauled the format of how TIP projects are displayed on a spreadsheet, which meant that Metro Council needed to change the way it displayed its information. The new spreadsheet is now uniform throughout the state.

Itani added that the TIP has gone from being a project management document to an accounting document. The FEDs are requesting a lot more information from Metro council than what the law requires. Although Metro Council's TIP is in the correct format, there are other MPOs that are still struggling with this, which is why the approval is conditional. As of next October, work will already need to begin on developing the FY2010-2013 TIP. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

**VIII. Traffic Count Program**

Referencing a map that depicted current traffic count information, Zonyk informed

the committee about the status of the traffic count program. Thus far, 2007 traffic counts have wrapped up. There was an 80% rate of return on requested traffic counts, which is considered a success. This year's 2008 traffic counts have been delivered electronically to the appropriate maintenance jurisdictions.

Zonyk updated the committee about new developments in the traffic count program. Many of these developments were discussed at a traffic count meeting for maintenance jurisdictions that had occurred on March 3, 2008. Changes discussed include the reimbursement rate of each traffic count going up from \$50 to \$60 beginning in FY2009 and the possibility of developing an internet portal for maintenance jurisdictions to view and upload their traffic counts on the Internet. This year, the \$20,000 allocated for traffic count equipment may be used for the purchase and production of this software.

#### **IX. PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Snell passed out a map that detailed the 2,500 miles of federal aid and local roads that Staff intend to cover in the van in 2008. He reported that after a good washing, vacuuming, and the possible completion of a few minor repairs, the van will be ready again for this year. Because of the rough winter, Staff will likely be delayed a week or two in taking the van out as they need to wait for the roads to heal. However, this delay will not put them behind. Staff have also been working with Regis in order to get the data out. They are currently testing the process through a pilot program with the City of East Grand Rapids.

Lastly, Snell reported that Stypula invited Senator Carl Levin to take a tour of the van. Stypula added that the tour will take place on Friday, March 28 at 10:30 am and that this will be a good opportunity to talk to Senator Levin about federal funding.

#### **X. OTHER BUSINESS**

Speaking to an addendum to the agenda, Robinson asked for the committee's approval in making two minor administrative modifications to the TIP. The first modification involved moving the M-6 Non-motorized Trail project from FY2009 to FY2008 in the TIP. The second modification was to change the Federal Public Lands-Highway Award to reflect the new amount of \$852,616, which was determined by FHWA.

Discussion continued regarding the new award amount, which was lower than expected. The original amount was \$992,000.

Hilton asked the committee to proceed with making a motion to approve the new award amount with the stipulation that the cause of the lower award amount be clarified.

Varga entertained a motion to move the M-6 Non-Motorized Trail project from FY2009 to FY2008 in the TIP.

**MOTION by Hilton, SUPPORT by VanBeek, to move the M-6 Non-motorized Trail project from FY2009 to FY2008 in the TIP as discussed by Staff.**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Varga entertained a motion to approve the TIP modification explained by Staff.

**MOTION by Rice, SUPPORT by Hilton, to approve the addition of the Federal Public Lands-Highway Award into the TIP with the stipulation that the reason for lowering the original award from \$992,000 to \$852,616 would be investigated. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VanBeek asked when this project is expected to move forward. Warren responded that the project would likely be let in April.

Itani provided the committee an update on GVMC. He stated that he had recently met with FHWA to review activities of the past year, which resulted in GVMC being given a clean bill. The only recommendation given was that GVMC needs to update a memorandum between the MPO and ITP.

Rice added that House Bill 5344, which redistributes a surplus 350 million dollars from the FY2007 General Fund Budget, is moving through the state legislature right now. Rice has submitted a request to have the Category C and D funds restored to his organization, which totals about \$900,000. The Governor wants to add these funds into social programs. Rice urged committee members to contact their legislator and ask that the C and D be restored for projects.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Varga entertained a motion to adjourn the Policy Committee meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 am.