

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, April 20, 2011
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

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

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

Jim Koslosky (<i>Chair</i>)		GRFIA
Alex Arends		Alpine Township
Dan Carlton		Georgetown Township
Dick Davies		Cannon Township
Mark DeClercq		City of Grand Rapids
Tim Grifhorst		OCRC
Jim Holtrop		Ottawa County
Rich Houtteman		City of Kentwood
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for Dal McBurrows</i>	MDOT
		MDOT
Ken Krombeen		City of Grandville
David Pasquale		City of Lowell
Richard Pastoor		City of Wyoming
Chuck Porter		Courtland Township
Darrel Schmalzel		City of Walker
Don VanDoeselaar		City of Hudsonville
Peter Varga		The Rapid

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Erick Kind	MDOT
Nick Monoyios	ITP-The Rapid
Steve Redmond	MDOT
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Norm Sevensma	WMEAC-RWBC
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff
Don Stypula	GVMC Staff
Sarah VanBuren	FHWA
Steve Warren	KCRC

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Dick Bulkowski	Kent County Commissioner
Christine Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Eric DeLong	City of Grand Rapids

Mike DeVries
Jeff Dood
Ken Feldt
George Haga
Bryan Harrison
Don R. Hilton, Sr.
Dennis Hoemke
Bob Homan
Dal McBurrows
Jim Miedema
Audrey Nevins
Steve Peterson
Jack Poll
Jon Rice
Martin Super
Toby VanEss

Grand Rapids Township
City of Rockford
City of East Grand Rapids
Ada Township
Caledonia Charter Township
Gaines Township
Algoma Township
Plainfield Township
MDOT
Jamestown Township
Byron Township
Cascade Township
City of Wyoming
KCRC
Village of Sparta
Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Koslosky entertained a motion to approve the March 16, 2011 minutes.

MOTION by VanDoeselaar, SUPPORT by Arends, to approve of the March 16, 2011 Policy Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sevensma reminded the Committee to remember to vote on Tuesday, May 3rd for several service improvements to the Rapid.

DeClercq noted that the Bike Summit is on Friday, May 6, 2011.

IV. FY2011-2014 TIP AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson explained several requested TIP amendments to the Committee.

First, ITP-The Rapid requested to add a Specialized Services Operating Assistance grant to the FY2011-2014 TIP, specifically to FY2012. The grant is for \$463,289, 100% State funded.

Second, the KCRC requested to add two awarded High Risk Rural Road (HRRR) projects to FY2012. KCRC also requested to remove Byron Center Township from the Fred Meijer Kenowa Trail project. The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council (MACC) MPO will display the remainder of the awarded project in their TIP. Next, KCRC is requesting to move a FY2012 Local Bridge Fund project (68th Street Bridge over Plaster Creek) to FY2011. Finally, KCRC is requesting to divide a current FY2011 trail project—Musketawa Trail to White Pine Trail Connector—into three phases with obligation to occur accordingly at three different times in FY2011.

Third, the City of Grand Rapids is requesting to change the scope and remove one awarded FY2011 safety project.

Fourth, Kent explained that MDOT is requesting administrative modifications as well as amendments to the FY2011-2014 TIP, specifically to FY2011 and FY2012. MDOT also requested amendments and administrative modifications to the GVMC FY2011-2014 MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for several FY2011 and 2012 projects and General Program Accounts (GPAs).

Houtteman asked for clarification on MDOT's Solar Energy lighting demo project. Kent responded that MDOT is trying to test technology to power freeway lighting at the I-196/I-96 and the East Beltline interchange. He added that the project would also involve installing solar panels around car pool lots on the East Beltline. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Koslosky entertained a motion to amend the FY2011-2014 TIP to include the identified TIP amendments.

MOTION by Pasquale, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to recommend approval to the Metro Council Board of amending the FY2011-2014 TIP to include the amendments identified by ITP, the KCRC, the City of Grand Rapids, and MDOT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. RAPID TRANSIT MASTER PLAN PRESENTATION

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Varga gave an overview of the Rapid's Transit Master Plan. Varga explained the history of the Transit Master Plan's development, and noted that it was developed with a wide range of input. Varga added that the Transit Master Plan includes a list of Phase 1 improvements, provided the proposal passes on May 3rd. These improvements include improving weekday service so that all routes run at least every 30 minutes from 5:00 am to 7:15 pm; connecting Route 50, GVSU's main route on Lake Michigan Drive, to Rapid Central Station to increase access and reduce the need for transfers; extending hours so that all routes run until 11:15 pm on weekday evenings, with the seven busiest routes to have 30-minute service until 12:15 am; doubling the number of routes with 15-minute service during morning and afternoon commute hours; running all routes until 10:00 pm on Saturday evenings; operating BRT express service; and increasing GO!Bus hours to match fixed route hours of service.

Varga noted that in January the Rapid can implement all service improvements that don't require the purchase of buses. However, they can't do the 15-minute peak frequency improvements and the GVSU connector improvements until they purchase additional buses. Varga explained that the proposal going before voters on May 3rd would ask for 1.47 mills. Currently, the Rapid collects 1.12 mills. The Rapid proposed to collect 1.29 mills in the next fiscal year for the first phase. This would be a 7-year millage.

DeClercq asked if there was any way to place bike facilities at any of these locations so that individuals could bike to the bus and if there was any way to measure the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through these improvements. Varga stated that the BRT stations will have bicycle storage facilities and that, in the Rapid's Capital Plan, they plan to work with the DDA and eventually create bike facilities in the downtown area.

For air quality, the Rapid can show how a reduction in VMT due to bus ridership reflects positively on air quality. He added that GVSU is also doing a study on hybrid electric

buses in comparison to the regular diesel buses. They will show what the efficiency is in using hybrid vehicles as well as the air quality benefit of using them. They will also conduct a lifecycle cost benefit analysis as part of this study. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Koslosky asked for an update on the transit latent needs study that GVMC is working on. Itani stated that GVMC is in the final stages of putting the report together. Once it is complete and approved by the Transit Committee, the report will be brought to the Policy Committee. There will be 13 public meetings to explain the report. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Faber asked the Committee members to sign up to host the Clean Air Action display at their offices this summer.

Itani noted that there would be a technical training session on lane development and design from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on Friday, May 6 as part of the Bike Summit. He also noted that an asset management council conference would be held on May 12th at the Eberhard Center. The cost is \$60 per attendee. Warren provided additional information about the event, and added that on May 11th, there would be a ½ day training session geared toward teaching the basics of roadway design, construction, deterioration, and improvement planning to local officials. Discussion ensued.

Itani added that by the end of the fiscal year, the pavement management van will be paid off. Itani noted that Snell has suggested ways to expand the usage of the van, including using it for sign inventory and to check roads after construction projects. He added that Staff will be developing a new Unified Planning Work Program and recommended that the Policy Committee Subcommittee meet again to review it. Koslosky agreed. The Unified Planning Work Program document would be brought to the full committee in June.

Holtrop stated that the governor has announced that there will be a special message to the legislature in September on transportation funding.

DeClercq shared his concern about the roads and infrastructure and added that there does not appear to be a true, direct incentive for communities to have solid asset management programs. Discussion ensued.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Koslosky entertained a motion to adjourn the April 20, 2011 Policy Committee meeting.

MOTION by Pasquale, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to adjourn the April 20, 2011 Policy Committee meeting at 10:41 am. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.