

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, May 15, 2013
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Varga, chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. No introductions were necessary.

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

Peter Varga, <i>Chair</i>		The Rapid
Dave Bulkowski		Kent County Commissioner
Dan Carlton		Georgetown Township
Scott Conners	<i>Proxy for Darrel Schmalzel</i>	City of Walker
		City of Walker
Eric DeLong		City of Grand Rapids
Ken Feldt		City of East Grand Rapids
Tim Grifhorst		OCRC
George Haga		Ada Township
Don R. Hilton, Sr.		Gaines Township
Jim Holtrop		Ottawa County
Rich Houtteman		City of Kentwood
Mark Howe		City of Lowell
Phillip Johnson	<i>Proxy for Brian Ryks</i>	GRFIA
		GRFIA
Ken Krombeen, <i>Vice Chair</i>		City of Grandville
Dal McBurrows		MDOT
Richard Pastoor		City of Wyoming
Dan Strikwerda		City of Hudsonville
Ben Swayze	<i>Proxy for Steve Peterson</i>	Cascade Township
		Cascade Township
Phil Vincent	<i>Proxy for Jamie Davies</i>	City of Rockford
		City of Rockford
Steve Warren		KCRC

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Rod Ghearing	ITP-The Rapid
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	MDOT-Grand Region
Erick Kind	MDOT
Joshua Lungert	GR Chamber
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Suzanne Schulz	City of Grand Rapids
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff
John Weiss	GVMC

George Yang
Mike Zonyk

GVMC Staff
GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema
Alex Arends
Jamie Davies
Mark DeClercq
Mike DeVries
Bryan Harrison
Dennis Hoemke
Bob Homan
Tim Nelson
Audrey Nevins-Weiss
Dave Pasquale
Steve Peterson
Jack Poll
Chuck Porter
Brian Ryks
Darrel Schmalzel
Martin Super
Thad Taylor
Toby VanEss
(Member awaiting appointment)

Allendale Township
Alpine Township
City of Rockford
City of Grand Rapids
Grand Rapids Township
Caledonia Charter Township
Algoma Township
Plainfield Township
Cannon Township
Byron Township
Grand Rapids Township
Cascade Township
City of Wyoming
Courtland Township
GRFIA
City of Walker
Village of Sparta
City of Cedar Springs
Tallmadge Township
Jamestown Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Varga entertained a motion to approve the April 17, 2013 minutes.

MOTION by Holtrop, SUPPORT by Feldt, to approve of the April 17, 2013 Policy Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. FY2011-2014 AND DRAFT FY2014-2017 TIP AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A** and a handout, Robinson said that four jurisdictions were requesting to amend/modify the FY2011-2014 TIP and the draft FY2014-2017 TIP.

First, the KCRC requested to add two approved FY2014 STP-Safety projects to the TIP. These projects are Wolverine at 10 Mile and 68th St. In addition, a proposed FY2013 CMAQ project for the KCRC was deemed ineligible for CMAQ funding without some modifications. KCRC agreed to modify the scope and reduce the cost of the project with the leftover funds going to ITP-The Rapid to address a funding shortfall for a line haul bus. Kent clarified that the project was deemed ineligible because of an issue with federal aid eligibility. However, with the scope modifications, it should be eligible.

Second, MDOT requested to amend/modify the FY2011-2014 TIP and the draft FY2014-2017 TIP. Their specific requests included the following:

FY2013-Trunkline Project Modifications

- M-37 (Broadmoor Ave.) from 29th St. north to Lake Eastbrook Blvd. (Mill and Resurface)
- M-37 (Broadmoor Ave.) from 60th St. north to 44th St. (Concrete joint repairs)

FY2014-Trunkline Project Modifications/Amendments (new and current TIP)

- M-44 Ramsdell Drive to E. Kent Co. Line (Rehabilitation HMA Inlay)
- US-131 NB and SB (S-curve) over Grandville Ave. (Healer sealer, deck patch, CSC, part. painting)
- GPA (Trunkline Road CPM)
- GPA (Trunkline highway safety)

Kent provided additional clarification about these projects.

Third, the American Red Cross requested to add a handicap accessible van to FY2013 of the TIP using 5310 funds to replace a vehicle that was lost in an accident in February.

Lastly, Ghearing noted that the Rapid is requesting an amendment to the TIP for FY2013 by dividing the Section 5339 funds into two activity lines: Expansion 40' Buses (up to 3) and Maintenance Facility Purchase. With the new apportionments being released, the section 5339 funds have increased by \$12,557 for a total funding of \$944,021. The item Maintenance Facility Purchase will include land acquisition at 700 Butterworth St. SW. The purpose of this facility is to relieve the over capacity issues at the present location and will be used for light maintenance.

Varga entertained a motion to approve the requested TIP amendments/modifications.

MOTION by Warren, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to approve the TIP amendments/modifications requested by the KCRC, MDOT, the American Red Cross, and ITP-The Rapid. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. FINAL APPROVAL OF THE FY2014-2017 TIP

Varga opened a public comment period for the draft FY2014-2017 TIP. Being that there was no public comment received, the public comment period was immediately closed.

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Robinson stated that Staff has been working for several months on developing the new FY2014-2017 TIP, which is 216 pages in length and available on GVMC's website for review. He added that the Technical Committee approved the document at their May 1st meeting, and that, today, Staff is looking for approval of the entire document, including all project lists. Robinson noted that the TIP includes MDOT and ITP-the Rapid's projects as well.

Varga clarified that the TIP document will need to go to the Metro Council Board for final approval. Itani provided additional information on the TIP development process and added that there are some projects on the illustrative list that will need to be amended back into the TIP after July 20th. These projects were placed on the illustrative list to avoid a lengthy air quality analysis.

Varga entertained a motion to approve the FY2014-2017 TIP.

MOTION by DeLong, SUPPORT by Krombeen, to recommend to the GVMC Metro Council Board approval of the FY2014-2017 TIP. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. FY2013-2014 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Referring to **Item VI: Attachment A** and a handout, Itani informed the Committee that he was bringing the FY2013-2014 UPWP to the Committee for approval. He explained that the document includes the budget for all federally assisted transportation planning activities that the GVMC Transportation Division, ITP, and MDOT will undertake. GVMC must submit the UPWP annually to the sponsoring federal agencies, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal Transit Administration prior to Oct. 1st.

Itani further explained that the UPWP included modifications from the previous UPWP so that the activities would reflect new requirements under MAP-21. Itani stated that the MPO must adhere to these requirements in order to avoid corrective actions or recommendations during the next certification review. There is also \$50,000 - \$75,000 in the budget for a traffic circulation study for downtown Grand Rapids, as well as \$50,000 for the third, and last, installment for a US-131 study. Itani added that the Transportation Division eliminated one staff position and that these tasks have been distributed among remaining staff. Overall, dues went down slightly from last year. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Varga entertained a motion to approve the FY2014 UPWP.

MOTION by DeLong, SUPPORT by Howe, to recommend to the Metro Council Board approval of the FY2013-2014 UPWP.

Warren asked for more information on the 131 study and suggested that there be a presentation at the Technical and Policy Committee meetings about the scope of and vision for the project. Itani stated that MDOT is still trying to figure out the parameters of the study, but gave an overview of the MPO's involvement in the project to date. Kent added that there will be a stakeholder involvement process for the project.

Referring to the "Transportation GIS" work item in the UPWP, Warren stated his concern that the MPO, REGIS, and state framework be compatible. Itani responded that the intent is to unify these systems, but it is taking longer than anticipated. He hoped this would be resolved next year or the following.

DeLong commended MPO Staff because the PASER data availability has been so valuable for the Sustainable Streets Task Force. Discussion ensued.

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

VII. CENSUS 2010 ADJUSTED URBAN AREA BOUNDARY (ACUB)

Referring to **Item VII: Attachment A**, and a map, Itani explained that he was bringing the new Adjusted Census Urban Boundary (ACUB) to the Committee for approval. Following the decennial census, federal law allows MDOT and the MPOs the option to modify its Urban Area Boundary as it relates to changes in the census. GVMC received notification to participate in a workshop on February 22, 2013 to suggest any changes to

modify the ACUB. Also in attendance at the meeting were MDOT, road commissions and city agencies. The workshop was led by MDOT's Michael Toth. Following the workshop, submissions were sent to MDOT for final review in hardcopy map and GIS formats. The map presented today reflects the adjustments that were submitted to MDOT for review. This boundary presented affects distribution of Act 51 monies for the road commissions, and it also serves as the dividing line for urban and rural roads, defining their associated funding sources for projects on the National Functional Class (NFC) system. The area that GVMC staff is responsible for includes the Lowell and Grand Rapids urban areas. The final task to complete this process is for the MPO to submit a letter to FHWA approving the adjustment and for a statement of Agreement to be signed by the Policy Board Chairman.

DeLong stated his concern about the size increase in the urbanized area, noting that the Committee is being asked to add more roads to the federal aid system, and therefore future costs, when there isn't enough funding to maintain the roads now. Warren, who attended the workshop, added that no new federal aid roads are being added to or subtracted from the system, that the area meets the census definition, and that the new boundary is reflective of the census data. Itani added that many of these roads are already federally designated. Discussion ensued.

Varga asked that Staff clarify the criteria used in determining this boundary. Zonyk explained the process. Warren cautioned that the Committee be careful to not associate this boundary with a future land use planning or zoning exercise. DeLong commented that the TIP is guided by the MTP, which is based on land use. Itani stated that land use is an essential part of the MTP, but investment strategy is even more important. He clarified that the Committee's investment strategy will need to look at the different modes/needs of transportation and how to maximize efficiency and that the MPO will need to report to FHWA to show that the planning process is efficient and improving the system. Snell added that preliminary work for the next MTP has already begun. Discussion ensued.

Varga entertained a motion to approve the Adjusted Census Urban Boundary (ACUB).

MOTION by Hilton, SUPPORT by DeLong, to approve the Adjusted Census Urban Boundary (ACUB).

Howe asked if the small urban boundary needed to be delineated separately in the legend or if it was in the documentation. Zonyk stated that he would make sure that it was noted. Discussion ensued.

Varga called the motion to question. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

McBurrows noted that the FY2014-2017 TIP and the 2014 UPWP must be submitted to MDOT by July 1st. Weiss added that the next Metro Council Board meeting will be on June 6th, so Staff will meet the deadline.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Varga adjourned the May 15, 2013, Policy Committee meeting at 10:32 am.