

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, June 17, 2009
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.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Peter Varga <i>(Chair)</i>	The Rapid
Pat Bush	City of Grand Rapids
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Jeff Dood	City of Rockford
Don R. Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Rich Houtteman	City of Kentwood
Jim Koslosky	GRFIA
Ken Krombeen	City of Grandville
Dal McBurrows	MDOT
David Pasquale	City of Lowell
Darrel Schmalzel	City of Walker
Don VanDoeselaar	City of Hudsonville

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Erick Kind	MDOT
Norm Sevensma	WMEAC-RWBC
Don Stypula	GVMC Staff
Steve Warren	KCRC

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Larry Bruursema	OCRC
Christine Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Dick Davies	Cannon Township
Mark DeClercq	City of Grand Rapids
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Ken Feldt	City of East Grand Rapids
George Haga	Ada Township

Bryan Harrison
Dennis Hoemke
Bob Homan
Jim Miedema
Audrey Nevins
Sandi Frost Parrish
Rich Pastoor
Steve Peterson
Jack Poll
Chuck Porter
Jon Rice
Toby VanEss

Caledonia Charter Township
Algoma Township
Plainfield Township
Jamestown Township
Byron Township
Kent County Commissioner
City of Wyoming
Cascade Township
City of Wyoming
Courtland Township
KCRC
Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Varga entertained a motion to approve of the April 15, 2009 and April 20, 2009 Policy Committee meeting minutes.

MOTION by Holtrop, SUPPORT by Krombeen, to approve of the April 15, 2009 and April 20, 2009 Policy Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sevensma commented that May was National Bike Month and added that bicycling neatly solves several transportation-related problems, such as parking congestion and global warming. He encouraged the committee to allocate a larger percentage of transportation funding to bicycle facilities. Itani responded that the issue of using transportation funding for nonmotorized facilities will come before the Policy Committee in the near future.

Sevensma added that there was an article in the paper on Sunday that showed the funding spent on mass transit versus the funding spent on roads. He stated that mass transit is not even on the radar screen. Itani responded that there are currently many ideas of how to solve this problem, including merging mass transit and highway funds into the same fund instead of keeping them as different funds. Discussion ensued.

Koslosky asked about the process for adding a bike path when a street is rebuilt. Itani responded that this is not prohibited by law if STP or CMAQ funds are used. However, the Policy Committee has an unwritten policy of not using STP or CMAQ funds for bike lanes or pedestrian paths unless extra funding is available. Discussion ensued.

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

Speaking on **Item IV: Attachment A**, Itani informed the committee of several TIP amendment requests. The first request, from the City of Grand Rapids, was to amend the FY2009 project “Signal Optimization” to split the project into two phases—“A” phase and “C” phase—with no additional funding requested. The City of Grand Rapids also requested an amendment to the TIP to switch a current ARRA funded project—Hall Street from Eastern Avenue to Kalamazoo Avenue—with a project located in the

FY2011 TIP—Lake Drive from Fuller Avenue to Carlton Avenue—with no additional funding requested.

ACSET, Senior Neighbors, Hope Network, American Red Cross of Greater Grand Rapids, and the United Methodist Community House also requested to have their FY2010 Section 5310 capital requests added to the TIP in order to have their projects obligated.

The KCRC requested to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP by adding a High Priority Project (HPP): M-6, non-motorized trail, phase 3. This FY2009 project has \$418,608 federal funds with \$1,148,392 local match provided by the Kent County Parks Department with the total being \$1,567,000.

Lastly, the City of Lowell requested to add two American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funded projects to the TIP. The first is a FY2009 resurfacing project—Bowes Road from South Hudson to Valley Vista. The project cost is \$78,000 and will be covered with ARRA funds. The second project is a FY2010 reconstruction and sidewalk project—Bowes Road from Valley Vista to 1950 feet west. The total project cost is \$539,500, of which \$341,600 is STP-SU funding, \$155,900 in local share funds, and \$42,000 in ARRA funds. Discussion ensued.

Warren questioned whether the administrative adjustment to the FY2008-2011 TIP for the Knapp Street at Pettis Avenue project needed to be addressed, being that it was listed on the memo in the agenda. Itani stated that this issue had already been addressed at a previous Policy Committee meeting and therefore, it was not necessary to take action again on this project. Discussion ensued.

Varga entertained a motion to amend/modify the FY2008-2011 TIP to include the projects identified by Staff.

MOTION by Pasquale, SUPPORT by Bush, to recommend to the GVMC Board amending/modifying the FY2008-2011 TIP to include the amendment requests from the City of Grand Rapids, ACSET, Senior Neighbors, Hope Network, American Red Cross of Greater Grand Rapids, the United Methodist Community House, the KCRC, and the City of Lowell, as identified by Staff. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. **EMISSION REDUCTION**

Following up on a request from the April Policy Committee meeting, Faber informed the Committee about the amount of emissions that have been saved over the past 5 years through the CMAQ program and the Ozone Action program. In total, approximately 200 tons of VOC emissions and approximately 130 tons of NOx emissions have been saved through these programs. Discussion ensued.

VI. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Itani stated that he had three items of additional business for the Committee. First, he encouraged the Committee members to attend the Asset Management Workshop on June 18. Warren provided additional details about the workshop. Discussion ensued.

Second, Itani stated that MDOT will receive at least one million dollars in redistributed stimulus funds. GVMC's MPO area should receive roughly \$60,000 of this. He added that the bids for the selected ARRA projects are coming in lower than expected. Because of this, one or two projects from the B-list for stimulus projects will be able to be completed even if no additional funds are received from other states. Discussion, comments, and questions ensued.

Lastly, Itani informed the Committee that the GVMC offices are moving to a new location on July 7.

Kent added that MDOT is scheduling a joint meeting with the Federal Highway Administration. Thus far, all of the local communities eligible to receive ARRA funding have been invited to this meeting. Federal Highways plans on going over the additional oversight requirements necessary for ARRA projects. The meeting is scheduled for June 29th at the Walker fire station.

McBurrows added that his boss, Marsha Small, has shared a draft schedule for developing the FY2011-2014 TIP. She has asked that the MPO directors provide their comments for approval in August. She has also created a draft schedule for processing amendments on a monthly basis instead of a weekly basis. Discussion ensued.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Varga adjourned the June 17, 2009 Policy Committee Meeting at 10:03 am.