

**MINUTES**

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
POLICY COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, July 15, 2015  
Kent County Road Commission  
1500 Scribner NW      Grand Rapids, MI**

Krombeen, chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:34 am.

No introductions were necessary.

**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
Dave Bulkowski		Kent County
Mark DeClercq		City of Grand Rapids
Tom Ecklund	<i>Proxy for Brian Ryks</i>	GRFIA
		GRFIA
Don R. Hilton, Sr.		Gaines Township
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for Mark Howe John Lanum</i>	MDOT
		City of Lowell
		MDOT
Jim Miedema		OCRC
Chuck Porter		Courtland Township
Darrel Schmalzel		City of Walker
Roger Towsley		Village of Sand Lake
Peter Varga		ITP-The Rapid
Steve Warren, Vice Chair	<i>Proxy for Cameron Van Wyngarden</i>	KCRC
		Plainfield Township

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Andrea Faber		GVMC
Rod Ghearing		ITP-The Rapid
Abed Itani		GVMC Staff
Erick Kind		MDOT
Darrell Robinson		GVMC Staff
Norm Sevensma		WMEAC-RWBC
Mike Zonyk		GVMC Staff

**Voting Members Not Present**

Jerry Alkema		Allendale Township
Jamie Davies		City of Rockford
Eric DeLong		City of Grand Rapids
Mike DeVries		Grand Rapids Township
George Haga		Ada Township

Bryan Harrison  
Dennis Hoemke  
Jim Holtvluwer  
Rich Houtteman  
Mark Howe  
Doug LaFave  
Dal McBurrows  
Audrey Nevins-Weiss  
Richard Pastoor  
Jack Poll  
Brian Ryks  
Dan Strikwerda  
Ben Swayze  
Thad Taylor  
Toby VanEss  
Cameron Van Wyngarden  
Rod Weersing

Caledonia Charter Township  
Algoma Township  
Ottawa County  
City of Kentwood  
City of Lowell  
City of East Grand Rapids  
MDOT  
Byron Township  
City of Wyoming  
City of Wyoming  
GRFIA  
City of Hudsonville  
Cascade Township  
City of Cedar Springs  
Tallmadge Township  
Plainfield Township  
Georgetown Township

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Krombeen entertained a motion to approve the May 20, 2015 Policy Committee minutes.

**MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Altman, to approve of the May 20, 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 MDOT was requesting to amend/modify several FY2015 and FY2016 projects in the FY2014-2017 TIP. These changes included:

<b>FY</b>	<b>JN</b>	<b>ROUTE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>WORK DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PHASE</b>	<b>TOTAL COST EST. (\$000)</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>
16	118123	<b>I-196 WB</b>	Over the Grand River, US-131 and Local Streets	Deep Overlay, structural repairs, and pier/substruct widening	Const.	\$10,000	New Project
15	N/A	<b>Various</b>	Areawide-GPA	Trunkline Scoping and Studies	Const.	\$400	Cost Increase
16	N/A	<b>Various</b>	Areawide-GPA	Trunkline Bridge Preservation	Const.	\$1,000	New Project
16	N/A	<b>Various</b>	Areawide-GPA	Trunkline Highway Preservation	Const.	\$8,000	New Project

16	N/A	<b>Various</b>	Areawide-GPA	Trunkline Scoping and Studies	Const.	\$400	New Project
16	N/A	<b>Various</b>	Areawide-GPA	Trunkline Highway Rehab & Reconstruct.	Const.	\$2,500	New Project
16	N/A	<b>Various</b>	Areawide-GPA	Trunkline Bridge Rehab. & Reconstruct.	Const.	\$8,000	New Project
16	N/A	<b>Various</b>	Areawide-GPA	Trunkline Roadside Infrastruct. Improvement	Const.	\$275	New Project
16	N/A	<b>Various</b>	Areawide-GPA	Trunkline Traffic Operations or Safety	Const.	\$4,200	New Project
16	110807	<b>US-131</b>	Leonard Street to Ann Street	SB Weave/Merge Lane	Const.	\$8,000	Cost Increase

Robinson noted that most of the changes MDOT was requesting were associated with the GPA program and can be made without an amendment. Kent added that the good side of using GPAs is that changes can be done more simply. However, not as much information about the projects is provided. He noted that most of the changes are for FY2016 GPAs and that he could bring more information on these projects to the September meeting if the Committee wished.

Warren asked Kent to give a synopsis of the I-196 WB over the Grand River project. Kent stated that this project was part of the environmental assessment for I-196, but that MDOT left that out of the project in FY2010 due to the extensive cost and lack of funding. Kent noted that they'll be doing a number of things, including an overlay of the deck itself and widening the piers in the bridge substructure, so they'll be ready to widen the bridge when funding is available. Warren asked for clarification that they're not adding lanes. Kent confirmed that they wouldn't be adding lanes at this time. Discussion ensued.

Krombeen entertained a motion to amend/modify the FY2014-2017 TIP.

**MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Warren, to approve of the amendments/modifications to the FY2014-2017 TIP requested by MDOT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **V. NFC/NHS STATEWIDE REVIEW**

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Zonyk stated that the Kent County Road Commission would like to request a modification to the regionally approved National Function Classification (NFC) modifications post 2010 census statewide review. Specifically, they requested the following changes from the current NFC Local to NFC Major Collector:

1. Leffingwell Avenue – Knapp Street to 3 Mile Road (Grand Rapids Township): This section of road connects to a minor arterial (Knapp Street), and a Major Collector (Leffingwell) to the south.
2. Kraft Avenue – 92nd Street to Broadmoor Avenue (Caledonia Township): This segment connects a segment of NFC Major Collector to the South and State trunkline to the north.
3. Samrick Avenue – West River Drive to Post Drive (Plainfield Township): This segment of road connects to a Minor Arterial to the south and north.

Zonyk noted that the last time the Committee met, they approved of signing a resolution for NFC review. This request from the KCRC was formally submitted, but had a late entry from the KCRC to classify three roads. They brought this to the Technical Committee, and they moved to have this committee approve it. Zonyk stated that the Policy Committee can discuss this or move forward with the approval.

DeClercq asked if staff at the Technical Committee level discussed the traffic issues on certain sections of Leffingwell, including the area near Catholic Central's athletic field. Zonyk explained that the Technical Committee did discuss this agenda item, but not specific traffic issues on this road. He noted that there is a bridge that's federal aid on the north and south side, and they're trying to bridge that gap. Discussion ensued.

Krombeen entertained a motion to approve amending the NFC list.

**MOTION by Hilton, SUPPORT by Arends, to approve amending the NFC list to reflect the KCRC's requests, as identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

Krombeen reminded those who arrived after the meeting started to sign the attendance sheet.

Itani stated that Senators Inhofe and Boxer introduced a new transportation bill—DRIVE—which raises transportation funding to \$60 billion a year. He stated that he didn't think the bill would get very far because it calls for an increase in the gas tax. He added that GVMC's van is in the shop having the transmission repaired, but that staff would be out again soon collecting pavement data.

Bulkowski asked if there was any news on transportation funding coming out of Lansing. Warren responded that the House is supposed to be in session for a couple of days, and that he hasn't heard much. Itani stated that the big issue with the latest House bill is where the \$700 million in road funding will come from. He noted that the Senate bill is preferable because it calls for an increase in the gas tax. Varga added that the Senate bill is better for public transit. Warren stated that the general public seemed to be ok with an increase in revenue to fix the roads. He heard a lot of opposition to Proposal 1 because of how funding would be distributed to a variety of sources. Discussion ensued.

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Krombeen adjourned the July 15, 2015 Policy Committee meeting at 9:54 am.