

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, July 17, 2013
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Krombeen, vice chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. No introductions were necessary.

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

Ken Krombeen, <i>Vice Chair</i>		City of Grandville
Alex Arends		Alpine Township
Dave Bulkowski		Kent County Commissioner
Dan Carlton		Georgetown Township
Mark DeClercq		City of Grand Rapids
Mike DeVries		Grand Rapids Township
Rod Ghearing	<i>Proxy for Peter Varga</i>	ITP-The Rapid
		ITP-The Rapid
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
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for John Lanum</i>	MDOT-Grand Region
		MDOT
Darrel Schmalzel		City of Walker
Ben Swayze		Cascade Township
Steve Warren		KCRC

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Erick Kind	MDOT
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Vicki Weerstra	MDOT
John Weiss	GVMC

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Jamie Davies	City of Rockford
Eric DeLong	City of Grand Rapids
Ken Feldt	City of East Grand Rapids
Tim Grifhorst	OCRC
Bryan Harrison	Caledonia Charter Township

Dennis Hoemke
Bob Homan
Dal McBurrows
Tim Nelson
Audrey Nevins-Weiss
Janet Oskin
Richard Pastoor
Jack Poll
Chuck Porter
Brian Ryks
Dan Strikwerda
Thad Taylor
Toby VanEss
Peter Varga, *Chair*

Algoma Township
Plainfield Township
MDOT
Cannon Township
Byron Township
Jamestown Township
City of Wyoming
City of Wyoming
Courtland Township
GRFIA
City of Hudsonville
City of Cedar Springs
Tallmadge Township
The Rapid

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Krombeen entertained a motion to approve the May 15, 2013 minutes.

MOTION by Holtrop, SUPPORT by Hilton, to approve of the May 15, 2013 Policy Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. FY2011-2014 TIP AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson informed the Committee that MDOT was requesting several amendments and/or administrative modifications to the FY2011-2014 TIP and the draft FY2014-2017 TIP. He also noted that ITP-The Rapid had submitted several requests as well, but because they are minor, they can be handled by staff. Kent described MDOT’s requested amendments/modifications in detail, which included:

FY2013 (current TIP)

- Increasing the cost and extending the limits on their M-44C project, scheduled for FY2013. The new limits are M-44 from M-44C to Belding Road.

FY2014 (new and current TIP)

- Moving their M-37 from 3 Mile Road to Alpenhorn Dr. project from FY2015 to FY2014
- Increasing the cost of their M-11 from Kalamazoo Avenue to Breton Avenue project
- Adding a new project: US-131 SB over Bridge St.
- Increasing the cost of their I-196 WB bridge over the Grand River project

Krombeen entertained a motion to approve of the amendments/modifications to the FY2011-2014 TIP and draft FY2014-2017 TIP requested by MDOT.

MOTION by DeVries, SUPPORT by Howe, to approve of the amendments/modifications to the FY2011-2014 and draft FY2014-2017 TIP

requested by MDOT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Bulkowski asked if sidewalk on M-11 will be on one or both sides of the road, especially as it relates to the golf course section. Kent stated that the current plan is to complete sidewalks on both sides of the road from Kalamazoo to Breton with MDOT funds and from Breton to Patterson with local CMAQ funds. However, the design process will determine whether this is possible by the golf course. Bulkowski encouraged MDOT to use the concrete in the most impactful places. Discussion ensued.

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

V. US-131/I-96 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGES STUDY

Kent gave the Committee an overview of the US-131/I-96 Planning and Environmental linkages study. Kent stated that, because 131 is such a high profile corridor, there is a need for more preservation and rehabilitation for the corridor. MDOT decided it would be useful to take a broad look at it so that when they do preservation work, they may be able to accommodate other improvements at the same time or better prepare for future improvements. Kent noted that one of the most significant segments that will need rehabilitation in the short term is on 131 from Wealthy St. to 28th St. Kent explained that, from the standpoint of federal regulations, they can't do a major study without being able to identify funding to implement changes. The advantage to FHWA's planning and environmental linkages tool is that they can do a little more than just a feasibility/preservation study without going into an environmental impact statement, and this can be done with a little less concern for financial resources. Kent added that the study will identify the goals/issues in the corridor, take a high-level look at some of the environmental constraints, and determine some recommended improvements that they could potentially do in conjunction with preservation projects. Kent noted that the basic study area on 131 is from 100th St. north to M-57 and also includes a segment on 96 from Leonard west to Fruit Ridge. Kent noted that MDOT has spent a lot of funding and resources the last couple of years collecting traffic data and doing survey work, and showed the committee various charts detailing findings on traffic volumes, etc. Kent noted that MDOT has had one meeting with the cities involved and the KCRC about this, and there will be more meetings with individual communities in August and September. They will also work with the Chamber, ITP, etc. A larger public meeting will follow later in the fall. Discussion ensued.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- MDOT draft Michigan Freight Plan
Kent stated that one of the requirements of MAP-21 is to develop a freight plan to look at enhancing the efficient movement of freight through and between states and to determine obstacles in the way. MDOT has developed their first draft of this plan, and it is online and available for public comment. A webinar about the freight plan is also scheduled for Wednesday, July 24 from 10:00 am – 11:00 am. Kent also noted that FHWA has asked all states to identify key freight-related projects. They will later be asked to develop a freight network. MDOT has already identified a number of freight projects on key corridors that will help with freight transportation. MDOT is also asking MPOs to determine projects in the TIP that are on or connected to the NHS or corridors of highest significance, and to send them to Kent by August 7. Because of their importance to freight movement, these projects are eligible for an

increased federal match. (There is, however, no additional funding available for projects.) Discussion ensued.

Itani added that the MPO is starting to develop the next Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and there is a freight component to it. Staff will be coordinating with the Chamber, FHWA and MDOT to develop this plan.

Robinson announced that the Michigan Fitness Foundation is holding a Safe Routes to School training seminar on Wednesday, August 28th from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm at the Grand Rapids Township Hall. He encouraged Committee members to sign up or to send their Technical staff. He also noted that there will be a TPSG meeting soon to program TAP funds for FY2014. Discussion ensued.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Arends, SUPPORT by Krombeen, to adjourn the July 17, 2013 Policy Committee meeting at 10:14 am. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.