

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, July 21, 2010
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Koslosky, Chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:32 am.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Jim Koslosky (<i>Chair</i>) | | GRFIA |
| Mark DeClercq | | City of Grand Rapids |
| Jeff Gritter | <i>Proxy for</i> | Gaines Township |
| | <i>Don Hilton</i> | Gaines Township |
| Jim Holtrop | | Ottawa County |
| Rich Houtteman | | City of Kentwood |
| Ken Krombeen | | City of Grandville |
| Dal McBurrows | | MDOT |
| David Pasquale | | City of Lowell |
| Richard Pastoor | | City of Wyoming |
| Steve Peterson | | Cascade Township |
| Chuck Porter | | Courtland Township |
| Jon Rice | <i>Proxy for</i> | KCRC |
| | <i>Dick Bulkowski</i> | Kent County Commissioner |
| | <i>Mike DeVries</i> | Grand Rapids Township |
| Darrel Schmalzel | | City of Walker |
| Dan Strikwerda | <i>Proxy for</i> | City of Hudsonville |
| | <i>Don VanDoeselaar</i> | City of Hudsonville |
| Peter Varga | | The Rapid |

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

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|------------------|------------------------|
| Andrea Dewey | GVMC Staff |
| Andrea Faber | GVMC Staff |
| Chris Glass | GR Chamber of Commerce |
| Abed Itani | GVMC Staff |
| Dennis Kent | MDOT |
| Erick Kind | MDOT |
| Darrell Robinson | GVMC Staff |
| Norm Sevensma | WMEAC-RWBC |
| Jim Snell | GVMC Staff |
| Don Stypula | GVMC Staff |
| Steve Warren | KCRC |
| George Yang | GVMC Staff |
| Mike Zonyk | GVMC Staff |

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema
Alex Arends
Larry Bruursema
Dick Bulkowski
Christine Burns
Dan Carlton
Dick Davies
Sharon DeLange
Eric DeLong
Mike DeVries
Jeff Dood
Ken Feldt
George Haga
Bryan Harrison
Don R. Hilton, Sr.
Dennis Hoemke
Bob Homan
Jim Miedema
Audrey Nevins
Jack Poll
Don VanDoeselaar
Toby VanEss

Allendale Township
Alpine Township
OCRC
Kent County Commissioner
City of Cedar Springs
Georgetown Township
Cannon Township
Village of Sparta
City of Grand Rapids
Grand Rapids Township
City of Rockford
City of East Grand Rapids
Ada Township
Caledonia Charter Township
Gaines Township
Algoma Township
Plainfield Township
Jamestown Township
Byron Township
City of Wyoming
City of Hudsonville
Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Koslosky entertained a motion to approve of the June 16, 2010 Policy Committee minutes.

MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Pastoor, to approve of the June 16, 2010 Policy Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sevensma asked if Amtrak ridership was holding steady and commented that Amtrak service appears to be on the decline. Snell stated that Amtrak revenue is currently up, but ridership is down. Varga recommended that the community look into why the Pere Marquette is disadvantaged compared to other Amtrak lines and therefore receives poorer service. Koslosky asked Staff to file an inquiry/complaint about this with MDOT. Discussion ensued.

IV. FY2008-2011 TIP AMENDMENTS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson explained that MDOT and Staff are requesting to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP. The years specifically impacted are FY2010 and FY2011. Kent provided additional details about MDOT's TIP amendments/modifications, which included the following:

FY2010

- Add approximately \$900,000 to the total cost of the M-21 over the Grand River project.
- Add approximately \$1,560,000 to the total cost of the GPA Road-Trunkline CPM.

- Add approximately \$1,572,000 to the total cost of the GPA EPE/PE/ROW.
- Add a new FY2010 project on M-44 from Ramsdell Drive to ECL at a total cost of \$425,000.
- Add a new FY2010 project on I-96 at M-44/M-37 interchange at a total cost of \$700,000.
- Add approximately \$784,000 to the total cost of the I-96 over M-11 (28th St.) project.
- Change the Federal funding source on the project I-96 at M-44/M37 carpool lot to 100% ARRA for a total project cost of \$8,000.
- Change the Federal funding source on the project I-96 WB over C & M Railroad to 100% ARRA for a total project cost of \$305,000.
- Change the Federal funding source on the project I-96 EB over C & M Railroad to 100% ARRA for a total project cost of \$350,000.

FY2011

- Add a GPA Road-Trunkline CPM at a total cost of \$6,600,000 to FY2011.
- Add a GPA Trunkline EPE/PE/ROW at a total cost of \$400,000 to FY2011.
- Add a GPA Trunkline Bridge CPM at a total cost of \$300,000 to FY2011.
- Add a GPA Trunkline Safety at a total cost of \$2,400,000 to FY2011.
- Add a GPA Trunkline Scoping at a total cost of \$400,000 to FY2011.

Robinson added that, at a TPSG meeting held on Wednesday, June 23rd, at the KCRC, the Committee elected to fund the City of Grand Rapids Hall Street from Eastern to Kalamazoo Avenue project with \$168,000 in remaining ARRA funds. Since that time, the actual amount of remaining ARRA funding was determined to be \$400,000 instead of \$168,000. Robinson stated that the City of Grand Rapids could utilize the remaining ARRA funding by extending the limits of this project. The new limits would be Hall Street from Union to Kalamazoo. Robinson asked for the Committee's approval to change the project's year from FY2011 to FY2010, to modify the project limits to fit the funding amount, and to change the federal funding source from STP-Urban to ARRA.

Koslosky entertained a motion to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP.

MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to recommend to the Metro Council Board amending the FY2008-2011 TIP, per MDOT and Staff's request.

Schmalzel asked for clarification on MDOT's I-96 at M-44/M-37 interchange alternate energy freeway lighting demonstration project. Kent provided additional information about the project. Discussion, comments, and questions ensued.

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

V. FY2010-2011 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

At the June 16 meeting, a motion to approve the activities listed in the UPWP was tabled, subject to bringing the UPWP activity and budget discussion to a subcommittee of the Policy Committee. Koslosky explained that the Policy subcommittee met and subsequently appointed another subcommittee to continue this discussion. Based on the work of these two committees, a proposal for a new dues structure was developed. Koslosky thanked them for their work.

Koslosky entertained a motion to bring the UPWP activities and dues structure discussion tabled at the June 16 Policy Committee meeting to the floor.

MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Pastoor, to return the UPWP discussion tabled at the June 16 Policy Committee meeting to the floor. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Itani explained the proposed activities, the expected level of staffing, and the new funding model, which has two components: a “common planning” activity that benefits all MPO members, and an “operational” activity that is directly related to projects in the LRTP and the TIP. He explained that the Policy Subcommittee had unanimously recommended approval to the Policy Committee of the UPWP activities and funding model.

Koslosky entertained a motion to approve the FY2011 UPWP.

MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Krombeen, to recommend to the Metro Council Board approval of the UPWP.

Rice questioned the timing of expanding the activities in the UPWP when the new transportation bill has not yet been approved.

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

Koslosky entertained a motion to approve the dues structure rate methodology.

MOTION by Krombeen, SUPPORT by DeClercq, to recommend to the Metro Council Board approval of the new dues structure rate methodology and FY2011 dues, based on the UPWP.

Rice questioned why MDOT is not part of the dues structure when they are benefiting from the work of the MPO. Kent explained that MDOT contributes financially to the MPO process through the use of state planning funds, which they match. Itani stated that he also believed that MDOT should be paying something for the MPO process. McBurrows objected to this, stating that if MDOT doesn't do its job, which includes GVMC's annual program review, etc., the process halts. Warren asked MDOT and FHWA to consider providing \$20,000 in Act 51 state money as a match for federal aid funding. McBurrows stated that he would look into this. Koslosky asked Staff to continue to work with MDOT to resolve this issue. Discussion ensued.

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

VI. NEW TIP AMENDMENT SCHEDULE FOR FY2011-2014 TIP

Referring to **Item VI: Attachment A**, Robinson explained that the Michigan Transportation Planning Association (MTPA) recently approved a new TIP amendment schedule to begin with the new FY2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program, which takes effect on October 1, 2010. This schedule will be used for one year as a pilot and specifies months for TIP amendments. The total number of TIP amendments will be reduced to a maximum of six per year. The new schedule also specifies dates for local jurisdictions to submit TIP amendments/modification requests, MDOT action, and FHWA action for the processing and approval of TIP amendments. Robinson added that if an emergency TIP amendment is needed, it can be brought to Metro Council with the approval of the Tech and Policy Chairs and Vice Chairs.

VII. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Speaking on **Item VII: Attachment A**, Dewey provided a synopsis on the progress of each of the six subcommittees, including: (1) Intermodalism, Freight, Rail, and Air, (2) Non-Motorized, (3) Transit & Passenger Rail, (4) Congestion Management, (5) Safety & Operations, and (6) Pavement Asset Management. All committees have either already met to determine needs, are currently in the process of determining needs, or will be meeting soon to determine needs. Dewey stated that the Subcommittee needs list should be ready for the Technical Committee the beginning of August to review needs by mode. A joint Tech/Policy meeting will be held at the regularly scheduled August Policy meeting to discuss the needs lists further. Discussion, comments, and questions ensued.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**• Recertification Update**

Itani stated that FHWA is in the process of writing the report from their recertification visit in June. Thus far, FHWA has determined some corrective actions, such as updating the MOU with MDOT and improving the public consultation process. Staff is working to address these corrective actions, as well as the recommendations that they have received from FHWA. FHWA's final report is due in September.

• GVMC Board Retreat Update

Stypula provided the Committee an update from the May 11th Board meeting at Gaines Township Hall. At this meeting, the board came up with a "wish list" of recommendations that they wanted to move forward to develop a new strategic mission for GVMC. After this meeting, a subcommittee of the Executive Committee met twice to develop 5 specific goals for the Metro Council to achieve. Several committee members will be invited to participate on a task force that looks at the operational structure of Metro Council. Discussion, comments, and questions ensued.

Itani requested the Committee's permission to move forward with studying/applying for grants put out by HUD, USA DOT, and EPA. These grants are to develop a sustainable, community regional planning master plan. The MPO would take the lead on completing the applications, but would be working with many other entities. Koslosky questioned if this was something that Metro Council staff should be pursuing at this time, in light of recent budget and staffing concerns. Itani stated that he didn't expect MPO staff to be involved. Rice commented that this is a GVMC issue, not an MPO issue. However, if transportation staff works on this, the grant should be used to pay for their staff time. Stypula requested a motion that GVMC be the fiduciary for these grants and that there be a limited geographic scale in participating in the consortium. Koslosky recommended deferring any action until the August Policy Committee meeting. Discussion ensued.

Robinson informed the Committee that there will be a public involvement meeting on Thursday, July 29 at 6:00 pm.

McBurrows noted that the state legislature has just convened, and they are discussing MDOT's budget deficit. Discussion ensued.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Koslosky adjourned the July 21, 2010 Policy Committee meeting at 11:14 am.