

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, September 19, 2012
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Varga, chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:34 am. He suggested that if members are unable to attend Policy Committee meetings, that they designate a proxy beforehand. Being that there were no new members or guests in attendance, introductions were not necessary.

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

Peter Varga, <i>Chair</i>		The Rapid
Dan Carlton		Georgetown Township
Mark DeClercq		City of Grand Rapids
Tim Grifhorst		OCRC
Jim Holtrop	<i>Proxy for</i>	Ottawa County
	<i>Jim Miedema</i>	Jamestown Township
	<i>Don VanDoeselaar</i>	City of Hudsonville
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for</i>	MDOT
	<i>Mark Howe</i>	City of Lowell
Ken Krombeen, <i>Vice Chair</i>		City of Grandville
Dal McBurrows		MDOT
Dave Pasquale		Grand Rapids Township
Jon Rice	<i>Proxy for</i>	KCRC
	<i>Dick Bulkowski</i>	Kent County Commissioner
Brian Ryks		GRFIA
Darrel Schmalzel		City of Walker
Terry Schweitzer	<i>Proxy for</i>	City of Kentwood
	<i>Rich Houtteman</i>	City of Kentwood

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Dewey	GVMC Staff
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
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
Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Dick Bulkowski	Kent County Commissioner
Christine Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Dick Davies	Cannon Township

Jamie Davies
 Eric DeLong
 Mike DeVries
 Ken Feldt
 George Haga
 Bryan Harrison
 Don R. Hilton, Sr.
 Dennis Hoemke
 Bob Homan
 Rich Houtteman
 Mark Howe
 Jim Miedema
 Audrey Nevins-Weiss
 Richard Pastoor
 Steve Peterson
 Jack Poll
 Chuck Porter
 Martin Super
 Don VanDoeselaar
 Toby VanEss

City of Rockford
 City of Grand Rapids
 Grand Rapids Township
 City of East Grand Rapids
 Ada Township
 Caledonia Charter Township
 Gaines Township
 Algoma Township
 Plainfield Township
 City of Kentwood
 City of Lowell
 Jamestown Township
 Byron Township
 City of Wyoming
 Cascade Township
 City of Wyoming
 Courtland Township
 Village of Sparta
 City of Hudsonville
 Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Varga entertained a motion to approve the July 18, 2012 minutes.

MOTION by Krombeen, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to approve of the July 18, 2012 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 the City of Grand Rapids, Georgetown Seniors, and ITP-The Rapid are requesting to amend/modify the FY2011-FY2014 TIP.

First, Robinson explained that the City of Grand Rapids was requesting to (1) delete the Leonard Street – I-96 EB Ramps to I-96 WB Ramps project from the FY2013 TIP, (2) Increase the Federal Cost for Elmridge Drive from \$748,440 to \$874,314 by the \$125,874 previously designated for Leonard Street – I-96 EB Ramps to I-96 WB Ramps, and (3) Change the limits of the City of Walker’s Elmridge Drive from 3 Mile Road to South City Limit to 3 Mile Road to 400’ South of the South City limit. Robinson noted that this project is eligible for funding, and that this project will also include work on water mains and the addition of curb and gutter. The City will be spending their own funds on this project as well as the federal amount.

Second, Georgetown Seniors requested to move their Medium Duty Bus project in FY2012 to FY2013. The funding would also increase from \$104,000 Federal, \$26,000 State to \$142,208 Federal, \$35,552 State, for a total of \$177,760. It was noted that this

cost increase does not impact other Federal or local projects or financial constraint.

Last, ITP-The Rapid had two requests. The first of these requests was to amend the TIP for FY2013 in preparation of the FY2013 section 5307/5339 and 5310 grants. The Activity Line Items (ALIs) listed in the handout reflected the changes, and all other ALIs will remain the same.

The second request was to move forward the unobligated FY2012 funds to the FY2013 TIP. Specifically, the request included the following:

- (1) Moving the FY2012 Corridor Study project with a federal amount of \$600,000 and supported with a Toll Revenue Credit (TRC) match from MDOT.
- (2) Removing the remaining BRT projects from the illustrative list in FY2013 & FY2014.
- (3) Moving \$12,071,942 of Section 5309 Bus and Bus facility unobligated federal funds from the FY2012 BRT line item to FY2013, leaving \$1,963,200 obligated federal funds in FY2012 (5309).
- (4) Requesting FY2013 Section 5309 New Starts Federal funds of \$14,860,800 from the illustrative lists.

Varga entertained a motion to amend/modify the FY2011-FY2014 TIP.

MOTION by Rice, SUPPORT by Schmalzel, to approve of the amendments/modifications to the FY2011-2014 TIP requested by the City of Grand Rapids, the Rapid, and Georgetown Seniors, as identified.

Varga provided further clarification on ITP-The Rapid's requested TIP amendments. He noted that under MAP-21, there are no more earmarks, but there is a new apportionment (section 5339: bus and bus facilities) that will give The Rapid the opportunity to get approximately \$1 million in funds for additional capital improvements. He also clarified that \$1 million was moved into the "Terminal" project because the Amtrak station relocation project is more expensive than anticipated.

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

V. FY2013 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) AMENDMENT

Speaking on **Item V: Attachment A**, Robinson stated that, at the request of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), ITP-The Rapid is requesting to amend the FY2013 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to add a section 5339 Corridor Study for the Laker Line to the current UPWP. The corridor study is located in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and will be implemented in FY2013. Itani added that, since this is a UPWP amendment, it will need to move forward and be approved by Metro Council. He also noted that staff recommends approval of this amendment. Varga provided additional clarification and details about the requested UPWP amendment.

Itani noted that when the UPWP was developed, Staff was operating under SAFETEA-LU. Once MAP-21 was approved, FHWA and MDOT agreed to amend the UPWP as it currently exists. Therefore, in the coming months, Staff will revise the UPWP to reflect the language, goals, policies and funding changes of MAP-21 and bring the new document to the Committee for approval.

Varga entertained a motion to approve the amendment to the FY2013 UPWP, as

requested by ITP-The Rapid.

MOTION by Pasquale, SUPPORT by DeClercq, to recommend to Metro Council approval of ITP-The Rapid's request to amend the FY2013 Unified Planning Work Program. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. FY2012 ADDITIONAL FEDERAL FUNDS

Robinson provided the Committee with an update on an email sent Friday, 8/17/2012, that notified the Technical and Transportation Programming Study Group (TPSG) Committee members that additional federal funding may be available for FY2012 from the HPPP program. Since the fiscal year ends on September 30th, Robinson urged the Committee members to send him their shovel-ready projects from the FY2011-2014 TIP that could be obligated before the end of the fiscal year as soon as possible. Since the time this email was sent, Robinson learned that this funding is mostly unspent money from the east side of the state and from a major project in the UP. No funds will be available for GVMC because there are no remaining unspent funds for this area.

Itani noted GVMC's concern about MDOT's decision to use this funding. He explained that since HPPP funds are taken off the top, they should be distributed throughout the entire state based on the distribution formula, which splits the funding 75/25. According to Itani, the state also received \$32 million through federal redistribution of funds. Therefore, GVMC is being shortchanged on two different levels. Itani added that he is proposing to MDOT and the Feds to have a process in place that allows GVMC to participate in the redistribution of funds available to the state. McBurrows responded that \$15 million in earmark funding came back to Michigan from 2003-2006. He also explained that the remaining HPPP funds were to be used in their respective areas. Locals would have the first opportunity to use them, and if they were unable to identify projects, MDOT would be permitted to use the funds in these areas.

DeClercq stated his support of Itani's comments, adding that being proactive is going to better position municipalities to meet future obligations. Robinson encouraged members to get projects ready as soon as possible so that they are prepared if additional funding becomes available in the future. Discussion ensued.

Varga entertained a motion to encourage GVMC staff to continue their conversations with MDOT regarding this issue.

MOTION by DeClercq, SUPPORT by Ryks, to encourage GVMC staff to continue with positive conversations with MDOT regarding redistribution of funds available to the state. If these conversations do not resolve in redistribution of funds, the issue will be revisited at a future meeting.

Varga noted his support and stated that funds should be distributed in a fair and equitable manner in accordance with Act 51.

Holtrop recommended that MPO Staff notify legislators of this concern. Varga encouraged this as well. Itani explained that Staff has not yet contacted legislators because MDOT has been responsive and understanding to work with. However, he noted that if it becomes necessary, then Staff will go to the legislators to seek a solution.

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

VII. NEW TRANSPORTATION BILL (MAP 21) UPDATE

Referring to **Item VII: Attachment A**, Itani noted that he had included a presentation from FHWA on MAP-21 in the agenda packet which FHWA staff will eventually present to the Committee. In the meantime, he shared highlights about the new bill, including:

- There will be seven funding programs, including: National Highway Performance Program (NHPP), Surface Transportation Program (STP), Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ), Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), Railway-Highway Grade Crossing, Metropolitan Planning, and Transportation Alternatives.
- The Feds are requiring the MPOs and the State to develop performance-based plans. FHWA has 18 months to develop the performance measures. Once they are developed, they will need to be adopted by the State and the TMAs.

Referring to a handout entitled "Federal Highway Program Changes Under MAP-21," Itani provided further explanation about MAP-21. He noted that there was a 5% drop in CMAQ funding, Highway Safety increased slightly, equity bonus and borders were eliminated, and the planning funds received this year have fallen 5% to \$831,000. Itani also noted that the state is proposing to combine EDFC funds with STP funds, which would be a positive development for GVMC members, since there are so few projects that qualify for EDFC.

Schweitzer asked if there is enough funding available in FY2014 for the projects already identified in that year of the TIP. Itani replied that this shouldn't be an issue.

Itani also noted that the transportation alternatives program will be a new funding category. In the past, these projects were selected by the states. Under MAP-21, the MPO will receive an amount of funding and will be responsible for selecting the projects. Itani suggested that this program be treated like CMAQ with the State and MPOs sharing suggestions on how to develop a project selection process.

DeClercq asked how knowledgeable local elected officials are about the condition of roadways and the lack of funding and suggested that Michigan MPOs work together with the legislature. Itani responded that local elected officials are very aware of these issues but are hesitant to raise taxes. Varga encouraged Committee members to set a target for improving the system with the funds that are available. Discussion ensued.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Itani announced that Dewey has accepted a new position at FHWA. Several committee members thanked Dewey and expressed their appreciation for her service to GVMC.

Kent noted that the State Transportation Commission is meeting in Grand Rapids on October 24th at the Cook-DeVos medical facility.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Varga adjourned the September 19, 2012 Policy Committee meeting at 10:42 am.