

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, September 21, 2016
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Warren, chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:39 am. Harden, a new Committee member representing MDOT, introduced himself to the Committee. Everyone else in attendance followed by introducing themselves as well.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Steve Warren, <i>Chair</i>	<i>Proxy for</i>	KCRC
	<i>Mike DeVries</i>	Grand Rapids Township
	<i>George Haga</i>	Ada Township
Gail Altman		Jamestown Township
Alex Arends		Alpine Township
Dave Bulkowski		Kent County
Mike Burns		City of Lowell
Mark DeClercq	<i>Proxy for</i>	City of Grand Rapids
	<i>Eric DeLong</i>	
Darrell Harden	<i>Proxy for</i>	MDOT
	<i>John Lanum</i>	MDOT
Ken Krombeen		City of Grandville
Jim Miedema		OCRC
Darrel Schmalzel, <i>Vice Chair</i>		City of Walker
Terry Schweitzer		City of Kentwood
Cameron Van Wyngarden		Plainfield Township
Peter Varga		ITP-The Rapid
Mike Womack		City of Cedar Springs

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Faber	GVMC
Art Green	MDOT-GR TSC
Abed Itani	GVMC
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Mary Maupin	MDEQ
Tracey McDonald	MDEQ
Darrell Robinson	GVMC
George Yang	GVMC
Mike Zonyk	GVMC

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
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Terry Brod
 Jamie Davies
 Eric DeLong
 Mike DeVries
 George Haga
 Bryan Harrison
 Don Hilton, Sr.
 Dennis Hoemke
 Jim Holtrop
 Jim Holtvluwer
 Doug LaFave
 John Lanum
 Tom Noreen
 Rich Pastoor
 Jack Poll
 Chuck Porter
 Brian Ryks
 Julius Suchy
 Ben Swayze
 Roger Towsley
 Toby Van Ess
 Rod Weersing
 Audrey Nevins Weiss

Cannon Township
 City of Rockford
 City of Grand Rapids
 Grand Rapids Township
 Ada Township
 Caledonia Township
 Gaines Charter Township
 Algoma Township
 City of Hudsonville
 Ottawa County
 City of East Grand Rapids
 MDOT
 Nelson Township
 City of Wyoming
 City of Wyoming
 Courtland Township
 GRFIA
 Village of Sparta
 Cascade Township
 Village of Sand Lake
 Tallmadge Township
 Georgetown Township
 Byron Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Warren entertained a motion to approve the May 18, 2016 Policy Committee minutes.

MOTION by Bulkowski, SUPPORT by Krombeen, to approve the May 18, 2016 Policy Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. FY2014-2017 AND FY2017-2020 TIP AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Kent explained that MDOT was requesting to amend/modify several FY2017 projects and GPA’s listed in the FY2014-2017 TIP as well as the FY2017-2020 TIP. He provided details about some of the projects to the Committee for additional clarification. Discussion ensued.

Warren entertained a motion to approve of the requested amendments/modifications to the FY2014-2017 and FY2017-2020 TIPs.

MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Schmalzel, to approve of the amendments/modifications to the FY2014-2017 and FY2017-2020 TIPs requested by MDOT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. FY2014-2017 TIP UPDATE

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Robinson reported that GVMC staff made several modifications to the FY2014-2017 TIP over the summer. He noted that staff has that ability under the approved Policies and Practices document and felt it was necessary to make these changes to keep projects moving forward.

The specific requests staff acted on included the following:

- MDOT requested to have an additional phase (“Z” phase) listed in the FY2014-2017 TIP to an already approved project: I-196 westbound over the Grand River, US-131 and local streets for FY2016 for \$225,000.
- The City of Grand Rapids requested to have the advance construction of the Michigan Street project, Monroe Avenue to Ionia Avenue in FY2016 and conversion in FY2017 changed to only construction in FY2017. The city also requested to move a FY2016 CMAQ project—Fiber Communications—to FY2017 and move a FY2017 project—signal optimization—to FY2016.
- On behalf of the American Red Cross, Georgetown Seniors, Hope Network and Senior Neighbors, staff added several Technical and Policy Committee approved FY2016 5310 projects to the FY2014-2017 TIP.
- Staff added \$78,878.22 to the FY2016 KCRC TAP project—Fred Meijer M-6 Trail phase IV.

Bulkowski announced that the American Red Cross is looking to get out of the transportation business and working to provide a replacement provider. The change will take place on June 30th of next year. Discussion ensued.

VI. NON-MOTORIZED PLAN PROJECT LIST AMENDMENT

Referring to **Item VI: Attachment A**, Zonyk stated that the Non-Motorized Committee met on August 30th to assign projects for fiscal years 2017-2020 through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). One of the agenda items opened the floor for amendments to the 2014 Non-Motorized Plan Project list. Four projects were recommended by the Non-Motorized Committee to be added to the listing:

Jurisdiction	Project Name	Project Scope	Facility Type	Miles	Cost
Nelson Township	I7 Mile Rd	E of Cedar Springs to Ritchie Ave; Ritchie Ave from I7 Mile S to S of Becker St	Sidepath	1.1	\$330,000
City of Walker	Leonard St	Wilson Ave to Kinney Ave	Sidewalks	0.5	\$250,000
City of Walker	Richmond St	Pheasant Dr to 110' East; Mullins Ave to Maplerow Ave	Sidewalk - N Side	0.61	\$125,000
City of Wyoming	Plaster Creek Trail	Buchanan Ave to Division Ave	Shared Use Path	0.25	\$550,000

Zonyk noted that there are currently no associated funds allocated to these projects, but this amendment makes them formally eligible as part of our Non-Motorized Plan project list. Projects must be on the list and identified as a regional need to be eligible for funding. He stated that the Technical Committee approved this

amendment at their meeting on September 7 and recommended the same for adoption through the Policy Committee.

Warren asked for clarification on the action being requested by the Committee. Itani reiterated that we are amending the FY2014 project list in the Nonmotorized Plan to include the new proposed projects. The next step will be selecting a few projects to be funded, and these projects will move to the TIP.

Schweitzer asked if a public hearing needed to be held before these projects can be added. Itani stated that once the projects move to the TIP, public involvement will be conducted as part of the TIP public involvement process. Because the projects are on the illustrative list, there's no funding associated with them in the plan. Once we move them to the TIP, we will do public involvement on them. Kent noted that one of the advantages to doing public involvement for the projects on the illustrative list of the TIP is so that the projects can move more easily into the TIP. Itani clarified that there is a difference between projects on the illustrative list of the TIP versus the illustrative list in the Non-Motorized Plan and that we are not required to do public involvement on the Non-Motorized Plan.

Warren entertained a motion to add the list of Non-Motorized projects as identified to the project list in the Non-Motorized Plan.

MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Arends, to add the projects from Nelson Township, the City of Walker, and the City of Wyoming to the project list in the 2014 Non-Motorized Plan. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VII. WEST MICHIGAN ATTAINMENT/NONATTAINMENT AREA DESIGNATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Itani introduced Maupin from the MDEQ to the Committee. Itani explained that the EPA came up with a new air quality standard for ozone and because of this, the state will need to develop a new STIP and counties will need to be designated as attainment or nonattainment based on the data from the monitors we have in place. He added that GVMC's recommendation to the Committee is for Kent and Ottawa Counties to be designated as separate attainment areas. Then, if either county violates the standard in the future, the other is not held accountable.

Maupin continued the conversation, stating that in 2015, the EPA revised the ozone standard and made it tighter. By October 1st, the state needs to recommend to EPA how every county in the area should be designated—attainment, nonattainment, or unclassified if there's no monitoring data. She explained that, generally, the EPA wants to designate a metropolitan area as a single attainment/nonattainment area. For Detroit, they are recommending that the nonattainment area include the seven counties within the SEMCOG planning area, even though only three of the counties are violating the standard, because the neighboring counties are contributing to the violations. In West Michigan, Allegan, Muskegon, and Coloma are violating the ozone standard, and the MDEQ is recommending that all three counties be

classified as separate nonattainment areas. The EPA will review the MDEQ's recommendations and make their final recommendations by October 1st, 2017. Maupin stated that she believed that the EPA would go along with the MDEQ's separate county nonattainment recommendations because they are disproportionately impacted by transport pollution from across the lake. Recently, the Seney monitor in the UP also violated the standard. This monitor is violating the ozone standard due to biogenic emissions from plant life and transport.

Maupin explained that the EPA will designate non-attainment areas based on the severity of their pollution. These categories include marginal, moderate, serious, severe and extreme. No county in Michigan has ever been classified as higher than moderate. An area classified as "marginal" must meet the new standard by 2020, and areas classified as "moderate" must meet the standard by 2023. Maupin stated that she expected all West Michigan areas to fall under the marginal category.

Itani stated that he assumed that we would be designated as attainment and asked if this would impact the motor vehicle emission budget for an attainment area. Maupin stated that we are obligated to stick with the old budget and that they won't establish a new budget for an attainment standard. Itani responded that if we are in attainment, we don't need to do an air quality analysis for the MTP or the TIP and that the current budget is much higher than what we actually produce. However, if we are in nonattainment, we will need to do an air quality analysis.

Itani also asked if the previous contingency measures are still in place. Maupin stated that if we have a violation of the old standard, those are still in place and would get triggered in that event. However, ozone levels across the nation are coming down and the chances of violating the previous standard are slim.

Itani asked about the attainment status for fine particulate matter in West Michigan. Maupin gave a history of the fine particulate matter standard from 1995 to present and noted that the entire state is now meeting the 24-hour and annual standard for fine particulate. Maupin noted that it is possible that CMAQ funds for Kent and Ottawa Counties may be impacted because the counties are in attainment. Kent stated that once an area has been in non-attainment for a pollutant, it maintains eligibility for CMAQ funds. Discussion ensued.

Maupin pointed out that we had nine Clean Air Action Days this year, and we are still meeting the standard in Kent and Ottawa Counties.

Krombeen asked how long we will be in attainment for. Maupin responded that we will be in attainment until the next standard is set.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Warren announced that the KCRC recently purchased 30 acres of land for possible future growth and expansion in Walker. Discussion ensued.

Itani announced that this is Arends' last Committee meeting and thanked him for his many years of service on the Technical and Policy Committees. Arends thanked Itani and the Committee for allowing him to serve. Warren thanked Arends as well. Cake was served in recognition of Arends' service to the Committee.

Kent noted that he had displayed a map of the new Grand Region five year program in all 13 counties.

Harden stated that he is working through several project authorization requests so GVMC can continue to operate come October 1st.

Schmalzel declared that the tunnel under Lake Michigan Drive that the City of Walker received a TAP grant for is open. There will be a grand opening on October 14.

Burns stated that he is the new city manager in Lowell and has been on the job for approximately two weeks.

Varga stated that if federal appropriations are not made for a transportation bill there will be a continuing resolution until after the elections, which holds up their formula funding and makes it difficult to know when the Laker Grant can be executed. Itani stated that both Trump and Clinton appear to be supportive of a massive infrastructure program. He encouraged Committee members to have projects ready to go in case additional funds become available.

Bulkowski asked if the current cost of projects is going up or down. Itani replied that cost for some products are going down, but cost is ultimately based on supply and demand. Discussion ensued.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Warren adjourned the meeting at 10:26 am.