



## **Board Meeting Agenda**

**Monday January 9, 2012 • 10:30 a.m.**

**Blue Spruce Room - Prince Conference Center at Calvin College – Grand Rapids**

- 1. Call to Order by Chair**
- 2. Public Comment**
- 3. Approval of Minutes dated December 1, 2011 (attachment)**
- 4. Consideration of approving an Employment Agreement with Mr. John Weiss to serve as the new GVMC Executive Director (Action item)**
- 5. Transportation Department: Amendment to the FY 2012 Transportation Unified Planning Work Program and Budget (Action item)**
- 6. LGROW: Three-year grant commitment from the Wege Foundation (Information-only)**
- 7. Legislative Advocacy**
  - a. Resolution in support of new transportation funding**
  - b. Update on Personal Property Tax**
  - c. Update on Federal Transportation Funding**
  - d. Next meeting of the GVMC Legislative Committee – 8:30 a.m., Wednesday January 11, 2012**
- 8. Other items of business and comments from GVMC members**
- 9. Closing comments by retiring Executive Director**
- 10. Adjournment**



## Memorandum

**To:** Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
**From:** Donald J. Stypula, Executive Director  
**Date:** January 4, 2012  
**Re:** Agenda Items for our January 9, 2012 Board meeting

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Attached are the agenda and support documents for our next GVMC Board of Directors meeting, scheduled for a special day, time and location at **10:30 am Monday January 9, 2012 in the Blue Spruce Room of the Prince Conference Center on the campus of Calvin College in Grand Rapids**. The new date, time and location are designed to accommodate those members who are attending the January Quarterly Luncheon featuring Birgit Klohs, President and CEO of The Right Place, Inc.

This month, the Executive Committee is presenting for your consideration the nomination of John Weiss, president and CEO of Design +, as the next Executive Director of the Grand Valley Metro Council. I am also bringing for your consideration an amendment to the GVMC Transportation Unified Work Plan and Budget and I will brief you on some good news we recently received about a multi-year grant from the Wege Foundation for the GVMC's Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds. The Legislative Committee has recommended a resolution in support of increased state transportation funding and at the end of business I will share my final thoughts as I prepare to retire as GVMC Executive Director.

We'll start by reviewing and accepting the attached minutes from our December 1, 2011 GVMC Board meeting.

### **CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH JOHN WIESS TO SERVE AS THE NEW GVMC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Following a detailed executive search process that lasted several months, the GVMC Executive Committee is recommending approval of an employment agreement with John Weiss, President and CEO of Grand Rapids-based Design-Plus architects, to serve as the next Executive Director of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council.

At our meeting on Monday morning, Human Resources Committee Chairman Michael Young

will present a report on the search process and recommend approval of the employment agreement with Mr. Weiss.

**Proposed Actions: 1. Approve the employment agreement with John Weiss to serve as the Executive Director of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council. 2. Authorize GVMC Executive Director John Weiss to sign transportation planning-related contacts between GVMC, the Federal Highway Administration and the Michigan Department of Transportation.**

## **TRANSPORTATION: AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2012 TRANSPORTATION UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET**

GVMC Transportation Department staff is requesting an amendment to the FY2012 Unified Planning Work Program and Budget to reflect an additional transportation funding grant from MDOT, and previously obligated unspent transportation planning funds from FY2011. I have attached a briefing memorandum prepared by Transportation Director Abed Itani that outlines the request.

**Proposed Action: Review and approve the proposed amendment to the GVMC FY 2012 UPWP.**

## **GRANT FOR THE LOWER GRAND RIVER ORGANIZATION OF WATERSHEDS**

Through the work of Andy Bowman and GVSU Graduate Assistant Kevin Lignell, GVMC's Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds has received a three year grant commitment from the Wege Foundation to help LGROW build capacity and achieve its business plan. The Wege grant attracted a second grant, totaling more than \$8,000 from the Frey Foundation to assist in the effort to strengthen LGROW. Andy has prepared short briefing memorandum, together with a chart listing all of the activities and funders involved in the various elements of the LGROW capacity-building project.

## **LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY – REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

The Legislative Committee met on Friday December 16 to hear a wrap-up report on the first session of the 96<sup>th</sup> Michigan Legislature from MML advocacy boss Summer Minnick. Clearly the #1 issue that GVMC and its statewide partners will be wrestling with in the coming months is the phase-out of the Personal Property Tax (PPT) which could have a significant and lasting impact on revenues for county and local governments and other taxing authorities.

While some members of the Legislature have proposed an outright repeal of the PPT with no replacement of lost revenue, Governor Snyder has signaled that he will soon propose a multi-year phase-out of the PPT with a revenue replacement mechanism funded through expiring state business tax credits. In the State House, Speaker Jase Bolger (R-Marshall) told reporters on

Tuesday January 3 that he would also like to complete work on the repeal of the personal property tax after finding a way to protect communities who rely on that revenue.

"Michigan cannot become a top 10 competitive state with our property tax," he said.

Bolger said the tax is horribly designed and penalizes investment, but it provides essential revenue to local communities

"So we have to make sure we answer the question in whole," he said.

***\*\*Personal Comment: As I prepare to depart GVMC, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of ensuring that the Metro Council remains relevant in the eyes of Lansing decision-makers, most-importantly on this issue. Continue to follow developments on the PPT through the MML, MTA and MAC and engage often with your legislators to ensure that this region's collective voice is heard and understood on this and other critical issues.***

**Transportation Funding - Lansing:** The Legislative Committee spent considerable time digesting and discussing Governor Snyder's multi-phase plan to finance transportation infrastructure improvements. Multiple bills designed to implement the Governor's recommendations will be introduced in both the State House and Senate when the Legislature returns to session on Wednesday January 11. A "who's who" of interest groups – representing both the public and private sectors – is gearing up for a major push to pass this legislation and send it to the Governor for his signature.

Members of the GVMC Legislative Committee members believe that a "mix of fixes" contained in the Governor's proposals, together with some thoughtful alternatives offered by key legislators, will be part of the final package that emerges on transportation funding in the coming months. To ensure that GVMC's regional voice is heard and understood on this issue, the Committee tasked me with developing a draft resolution of support for a total transportation funding solution.

***Proposed Action: Review and approve the proposed resolution in support of a passage of a comprehensive transportation funding package by the Michigan Legislature.***

**Transportation Funding – Washington:** Meanwhile, in Washington, as the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress begins its second session, nothing has changed on the transportation funding front. As chronicled last month, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee reported to the U.S. Senate floor, **S. 1813, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** federal transportation funding reauthorization bill. Known as MAP-21, the two-year reauthorization of the federal Surface Transportation Act would essentially freeze federal transportation allocations to the states at current levels for two years. GVMC would be designated a Tier-II Metropolitan Planning Organization under the bill with essentially the same transportation planning duties and responsibilities we have currently. Smaller MPOs – like the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council (MACC) in Holland – would, under the current language, be forced to dissolve and

transfer their planning activities to the state or neighboring MPOs. Both Senators Levin and Stabenow are aware of concerns expressed by smaller MPOs and the Michigan Transportation Planning Association and are working with bill sponsors to address the language.

In the U.S. House, efforts are underway to mirror the Senate approach on funding. Leaders have given the go-ahead to find the \$12 billion to \$16 billion needed to maintain transportation funding at current levels.

GVMC staff is continually monitoring developments on transportation funding in both Lansing and Washington and will report developments in the months ahead.

**Please be aware that the next GVMC Legislative Committee is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Wednesday January 11 here at the GVMC offices.**

### **MY FINAL THOUGHTS**

My last day as Executive Director of GVMC is Friday January 13, 2012.

While I am looking forward to a little rest and some new professional pursuits that are less-intense, I wanted all of you to know that I am deeply grateful for the opportunity you gave me to lead this wonderful organization for the past eight years. I made plenty of mistakes, but they were of my head, not my heart. Working with some of the most-talented and dedicated department heads and staff I have ever worked with, I approached this job everyday with two overriding thoughts – each and every one of your hometowns was my hometown, and when we work together there is no obstacle that we cannot overcome.

During my 38 year career – including the past 21 years working with county and local officials in every corner of our state – I have never encountered a more collaborative group of individuals whose deep friendships and trust for one another has helped propel a region forward in the most challenging economic environment that anyone could possibly imagine. Maintain and grow that tradition, my friends. It will continue to yield positive outcomes going forward.

My new endeavor – ***Collaboration Matters, LLC*** – will keep me actively engaged with all sectors in the pursuit of great public policy in Lansing and Washington. I will be doing some public speaking, writing, issues advocacy and messaging and assisting good folks from the public, private, non-profit, philanthropic, educational and other sectors rediscover the good, old-fashioned common sense that leads to common ground.

Thank you again, my friends, for the extraordinary opportunity to lead Metro Council over the past eight years.

May the good Lord bless all of you!

# GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

## Board Meeting

December 1, 2011

8:30 a.m.

Kent County Commission Chambers

### MINUTES

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Jim Buck.

#### Members Present:

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Tom Butcher	Grand Valley State University
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
Steve Grimm	Cannon Township
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
John Helmholdt	At-Large
Carol Hennessey	Kent County
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Robert May	City of Hastings
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Jim Saalfeld	Kent County
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming
Michael Young	City of Rockford

#### Members Absent:

Chris Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Rebecca Fleury	Village of Middleville
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member

Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Mark Howe	City of Lowell
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Martin Super	Village of Sparta
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Toby VanEss	Tallmadge Township
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Patrick Waterman	City of Hudsonville
Roger Wills	City of Belding
Chris Yonker	City of Wayland

**Others Present:**

Glen Armstrong	Nelson Township
Jerry Bollen	Sparta Fire Department
Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Brad Brown	City of Grand Rapids
Todd Chassee MD	Medical Director KCEMS
Bill Cousins	Cascade Township
Jim DuVall	Ada Township Fire
Curtis Holt	City of Wyoming
George Haga	Ada Township
Bob Homan	Plainfield Township
Rich Houtteman	City of Kentwood
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Laura Knapp	City of Grand Rapids
Ken Krombeen	City of Grandville
Brent Looman	Kentwood Fire
Victor Matthews	Plainfield Township
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Steve McKellar	Plainfield Fire
Ken Morris	Life EMS Ambulance
Mel Oakley	
Damon OBiden	KCEMS
Roger Parent	Cedar Springs PD/FD
Bill Parris	Plainfield Fire
Bob Pease	City of Grand Rapids
Dave Peterson	PFD
Michael Reus	Rockford FD
Mike Rexford	Kent City Fire-Rescue
John Sigg	Cascade Fire
Jim Stover	Plainfield Township
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Greg Sundstrum	City of Grand Rapids
Don Tubbs	City of Hastings
Charles Weldor	Plainfield Township

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the November GVMC Board Meeting as Corrected. MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.**

**3. Public Comment**

None

**4. Presentation**

Mic Gunderson of KCEMS gave a presentation on Findings and Recommendations on Emergency Medical Service in Kent County. The new Executive Director of Kent County Emergency Medical Services, Inc. (KCEMS), provided a detailed look at how the various elements of the county-wide emergency medical response system function and how the system can be improved. Over the past several months, under Mic’s direction, KCEMS has been conducting a comprehensive study of the entire emergency medical response system that serves Kent County. The KCEMS study provides a comprehensive evaluation of the design, performance and cost of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system in Kent County. The study extends from the 9-1-1 communications and ambulance dispatch centers through medical first response, ambulance transport, and into the hospital emergency department and acute specialty care centers for heart attacks, strokes and trauma. It examines the overall systems of care that transcend individual EMS providers and hospitals. The KCEMS analysis highlights specific issues and offers recommendations for changes in system governance, standards, accountability and enforcement. It calls for a re-examination of ambulance service designation issues as well as the types of calls that Medical First Responder (MFR) units are, and are not, sent on.

For the complete report, see the link on the GVMC web site.

**5. Legislative Update**

Don Stypula reported last night the state House was called back into session to amend Act 7 & 8 and made minor tweaks. Those bills are now on the Governor’s desk and Don will forward the final version to everyone as soon as possible. The Urban Cooperation Acts are also set to go to the Governor.

Reauthorization of the surface transportation act will not be taken up before the new year. Current levels are in place until March 2012.

**6. Adjournment – 9:40 a.m.**

**MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – DeVries. SUPPORT – Fox. MOTION CARRIED.**



**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

ALGOMA TOWNSHIP • ALLENDALE TOWNSHIP • ALPINE TOWNSHIP • BYRON TOWNSHIP • CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP • CANNON TOWNSHIP • CASCADE TOWNSHIP • CEDAR SPRINGS • COOPERSVILLE • COURTLAND TOWNSHIP • EAST GRAND RAPIDS • GAINES TOWNSHIP • GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP • GRAND RAPIDS • GRAND RAPIDS TOWNSHIP • GRANDVILLE • GREENVILLE • HASTINGS • HUDSONVILLE • IONIA • JAMESTOWN TOWNSHIP • KENT COUNTY • KENTWOOD • MIDDLEVILLE • OTTAWA COUNTY • PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP • ROCKFORD • SPARTA • SPARTA TOWNSHIP • TALLMADGE TOWNSHIP • WALKER • WAYLAND • WYOMING

**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** GVMC Board Members  
**FROM:** Abed Itani, Director of Transportation Planning  
**DATE:** Monday, December 12, 2011  
**RE:** FY2012 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment

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The FY2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC) includes the budget for all federally assisted transportation planning activities that the GVMC Transportation Division, the Interurban Transit Partnership (ITP) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), will undertake. Any changes in the federal funding amounts under work items in the UWP warrant a UWP amendment and approval by the GVMC Board.

Staff is requesting the amendment of the FY2012 UWP, to reflect an additional transportation funding grant, and previously obligated unspent transportation planning funds from FY2011. The first item is a State Planning and Research (SPR) grant for US-131 Transportation/Land Use Corridor Study for the amount of \$75,000. The second item is to add previously obligated unspent PL-112 funds in the amount of \$50,000 for the Michigan Street Corridor Study. Both of those changes are related to work item “3.2”- Technical Assistance.

Staff is requesting to amend “Work Item 3.2” for the total amount of \$125,000.

In order for GVMC to retain these funds the FY2012 UPWP needs to be amended.

**Recommendation: Approval to Amend 2012 UPWP.**

2012UWPAMEND

## 3.2 Technical Assistance

### Objectives

Provide technical assistance to GVMC member communities and MDOT as requested, to improve traffic flow and safety and/or to assess the traffic impact of proposed developments on major corridors. Review and respond to air quality conformity guidelines being issued by the EPA and state MDNRE. Participate in the Michigan Street Corridor Study and US-131 Corridor Study.

### Procedures and Tasks

Technical assistance is a long standing service provided by GVMC. This service has typically consisted of traffic impact studies, level of service analysis along corridors and/or intersections, site plan review assistance, and air quality planning. Technical assistance will also include assisting member governments and agencies to prepare documentation for projects submitted to the Michigan Transportation Economic Development Fund. Staff will also be involved in developing a safety profile for this region along with other stakeholders. GVMC in partnership with the City of Grand Rapids will hire a consultant to address traffic circulation and transit access and concerns on Michigan Street between Monroe Avenue and the East Beltline. GVMC will assist the MDOT Grand Region in this US-131 pre-engineering corridor feasibility study by providing the modeling support needed, using the Grand Rapids urbanized area Travel Demand Model, to assess the impacts and feasibility of various multi-modal integrated transportation options, and sustainable land use patterns, within the corridor study area. GVMC will also assist MDOT with public and agency involvement activities for the corridor study.

GVMC staff will be involved in the following tasks:

- A - Corridor Advisory Boards
  - 1 - East Beltline Land Use Advisory Committee
  - 2 - 28th Street Corridor Development Committee
- B - Air Quality Planning
- C- WESTRAIN
- D- Completion of the Latent Demand Transit Study
- E- Completing the Michigan Street Study
- F- Land use Visioning and public involvement meetings with communities along US-131

### Products

- Documentation related to services provided will be described and included in monthly progress reports.

**Budget**

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Funding Amount</b>	<b>Performing Agency - GVMC</b>	
STP	\$0.00	Person Weeks	39.10
PL-112	\$111,115.65	Salaries	\$47,611.91
CMAQ	\$0.00	Fringes	\$17,264.05
MDOT-SPR	\$75,000.29	Direct Cost	\$25,000.00
FTA-Sec 5303	\$23,403.42	Indirect Cost	\$50,133.54
GVMC- Match	\$30,490.14	Contractual-SPR	\$0.00
ITP-Match		N/A Contractual-STP	N/a
STP-FLEX		N/A Contractual-PL-112	\$75,000.00
		Contractual-Sec-5303	\$25,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$240,009.50</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$240,009.50</b>



## Memorandum

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**To:** Don Stypula, Executive Director

**From:** Andy Bowman, Director of Planning and Strategic Initiatives

**Date:** November 29, 2011

**Re:** LGROW Grant from Wege Foundation

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I am pleased to inform you that we have received a grant from the Wege Foundation for \$60,000 over a 3 year period starting in February of 2012. These funds will be used for LGROW's Communications and Business Plan project running during that same period. The project includes several tasks for benchmarking watershed practices, conducting marketing and focus groups for LGROW stakeholders, preparing a communications strategy, and creating an LGROW business plan. As part of this process, several related projects will be conducted including educational efforts for sub-basin members, enhancing LGROW media content, developing a web-based infrastructure for effective communications and an educational strategy to introduce the recently approved Watershed Management Plan for the Lower Grand, particularly to intended WMP users.

The funds provided by the Wege Foundation will allow us to complete long-awaited LGROW work on a broad communications strategy. It will also fund the sub-basin educational efforts and staff-time for project administration. Though details are still being worked out, another \$15,000 is being sought from two other Grand Rapids area foundations to fund the web infrastructure, the Watershed Management Plan education and the creation of the business plan.

For this project, LGROW will be partnering with the Center for Environmental Studies, the Community Media Center, and FTC&H. Additional technical assistance will likely be provided as needed for various parts of the project including the LGROW business plan.

## LGROW COMMUNICATIONS AND BUSINESS PLAN

### PARTNERS:

(LEAD,  
ASSIST)

FUNDER:

CES	WEGE	<b>TASK 1</b>	<b>BEST WATERSHED PRACTICES - BENCHMARKING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Establish benchmark criteria.</li><li>B. Identify watershed organizations for benchmark analysis.</li><li>C. Review benchmark organizations using criteria.</li><li>D. Summarize benchmark results and recommendations.</li></ul>
LGROW	WEGE	<b>TASK 2</b>	<b>STAKEHOLDER FOCUS GROUPS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Set up times and locations for meetings.</li><li>B. Enlist participants from Grand River Forum by Membership Group.</li><li>C. Determination of key focus areas/questions.</li><li>D. Conduct focus groups.</li><li>E. Analyze for LGROW Communications Strategy and future Business Plan.</li></ul>
LGROW, CES	WEGE	<b>TASK 3</b>	<b>PEPARE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Draft and discuss preliminary strategy outline (include benchmarks).</li><li>B. Broad survey of prospective members for interests/needs.</li><li>C. Identify profiles for key audiences and stakeholders.</li><li>D. Recommendations for participation and membership development.</li><li>E. Propose implementation schedule, including products &amp; priorities</li><li>F. Propose key performance indicators for implementation.</li></ul>
CES, LGROW	WEGE	<b>TASK 4</b>	<b>KEY START-UP PROJECTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Guidance for Effective SubBasin use of LGROW Portable Displays.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i Assemble ideas and resources for displaying information (from benchmarks).</li><li>ii Inventory relevant events in LGRW.</li><li>iii Summarize audience needs.</li><li>vi Recommend evaluation tools.</li></ul></li><li>B. Enhance LGROW Media Content (acquire quality watershed photos).<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i Identify LGROW locations and seasons to be photographed.</li><li>ii Set up schedule for photographing.</li><li>iii Collect archiving details about each photograph.</li><li>vi Place in LGROW data repository.</li></ul></li><li>C. Develop Electronic Communications Capacity for LGROW.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i Customer Relationship Mngmnt Software acquisition/deployment</li><li>ii Creation of dedicated LGROW website on dependable servers</li><li>iii Web-based tools deployment (newsletters, forms, payment portals.</li><li>vi Establishment of social media presence</li><li>v Recommendations for ongoing staff development in communications.</li></ul></li><li>D. Educational Sessions on new LGROW Watershed Management Plan for LGRW<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i Creation of WMP Executive Summary</li><li>ii Development of powerpoint and presentations for key stakeholder groups.</li><li>iii Development of web-based version of WMP summary.</li><li>vi Reproduction of DVD or flash drive copies of WMP.</li><li>v Conduct ?? WMP educational sessions for key sub basins or groups.</li></ul></li></ul>
LGROW	FREY Freshwater Future	<b>TASK 5</b>	<b>BUSINESS PLAN DEVELOPMENT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Enlist Technical Assistance in Plan Development.</li><li>B. Establish Elements of Business Plan.</li><li>C. Determine customer needs and LGROW resources for 5 years.</li><li>D. Initiate first steps in LGROW Business Plan.</li></ul>
LGROW	WEGE	<b>TASK 6</b>	<b>LGROW-GRANT ADMINISTRATION</b>



## **RESOLUTION**

### **A Resolution in Support of Increased Funding for Transportation Infrastructure Improvements**

**WHEREAS**, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization and Transportation Management Area for the Grand Rapids metropolitan region, the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC) plays the pivotal role in ensuring that the region's transportation infrastructure is adequately maintained; and

**WHEREAS**, GVMC has determined that the region's transportation infrastructure, including freeways, major and local streets, bridges, transit systems and non-motorized facilities directly contributes to the economic health and vitality of the West Michigan region; and

**WHEREAS**, GVMC has further determined that prudent public investment in the periodic maintenance and reconstruction of the region's transportation infrastructure creates yields lasting benefit for the people of West Michigan by supporting employment in the transportation industry and by providing cost effective networks of freeways, roads, transit systems and non-motorized facilities that help job providers efficiently move people and goods; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of significant declines in both federal and state investment in transportation infrastructure, GVMC projects a gap between the region's identified transportation improvement needs and available funding totaling \$2.5 billion over the next 25 years, representing a 25% reduction in available financial resources for preservation, reconstruction, and congestion relief from current levels not adjusted for inflation; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Rick Snyder has proposed a bold new initiative to reform, reinvent and enhance the sustainability of Michigan's transportation infrastructure funding mechanism by increasing funding by more than \$1 billion annually through state vehicle registration fees; enabling regional transportation funding options; and transitioning to a percentage tax at the wholesale level; and

**WHEREAS**, GVMC-member counties, cities, townships and villages support wise and thoughtful public investment in transportation infrastructure at a level sufficient to meet the region's long-range needs; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council does hereby respectfully urge Governor Rick Snyder, the members of the Michigan Senate and the members of the Michigan House of Representatives to work toward consensus on legislation that substantially increases state funding for highways, major and local streets, bridge projects and non-motorized facilities under the Michigan Transportation Fund and for public transit operations and improvements under the Comprehensive Transportation Fund; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Executive Director is authorized to convey copies of this resolution to Governor Rick Snyder, Lt. Governor Brian Calley and the members of the Michigan Legislature from West Michigan.

This Resolution declared adopted by the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council January 9, 2012.

James R. Buck  
Chairman, GVMC Board

Donald J. Stypula  
Executive Director