

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, February 7th, 2007
KENT COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION**

The meeting was called to order by Dooley, Chair, at 9:34 a.m.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Bill Dooley (<i>Chair</i>)	City of Wyoming
Marta Brechting	Alpine Township
Patrick Bush	City of Grand Rapids
Ron Carr	City of Grandville
Scott Conners	City of Walker
Rick DeVries	City of Grand Rapids
Tim Haagsma	Gaines Township
Wayne Harrall	Kent County
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Sandra Cornell-Howe	MDOT
Dick Johnston	City of Rockford
Ken Klomparens	GRFIA
Terry Schweitzer	City of Kentwood
Conrad Venema <i>Proxy for Jim Fetzer</i>	The Rapid
Steve Warren (<i>Vice-Chair</i>)	KCRC

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Roger Belknap	KCRC
Patti Brink	GVMC Staff
Chris Dingman	GVMC Staff
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Norm Sevensma	WMEAC-RWBC
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff
Don Stypula	GVMC Staff
George Yang	GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

James Beelen	Allendale Township
Mike Berrevoets	City of Cedar Springs
Bryan Chodkowski	Village of Sparta
Dick Davies	Cannon Township
Dan DesJarden	City of Lowell
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township

Ken Feldt
Jim Fetzer
John Gorney
William Holland
Brett Laughlin
Jim McIntyre
Gerald Mears
George Meek
Jim Miedema
Audrey Nevins
Steve Peterson
Gary Voogt
Bill Wiersma

City of East Grand Rapids
The Rapid
City of Hudsonville
Georgetown Township
OCRC
Courtland Township
City of Wyoming
Plainfield Township
Jamestown Township
Byron Township
Cascade Charter Township
Ada Township
Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dooley entertained a motion to approve the January 3rd, 2007 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes.

MOTION by Harrall, SUPPORT by Haagsma, to approve the January 3, 2007 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sevensma commented on Global Warming.

IV. FY2007/2008 TIP AMENDMENTS/ADJUSTMENTS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A** in the Agenda, Dingman discussed three projects for the committee's consideration to be amended into FY2006-2008 TIP. This amendment will require Policy Committee and GVMC Board approval as well. He also commented on modifications to two projects which are currently in the TIP, which will necessitate a TIP Adjustment. Discussion, comments, and questions followed.

Dooley entertained a motion to approve of amending/adjusting the TIP to include the projects as identified by Staff.

MOTION by Bush, SUPPORT by Carr, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of Amending the FY2006-2008 TIP to include three projects as identified. Additionally, to approve of Administratively Adjusting the TIP to accommodate two projects as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CONGESTED INTERSECTIONS INFORMATION

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A** in the Agenda, as well as an updated list which was distributed to the committee, Dingman discussed Staff's efforts to identify congested intersections within the MPO area. He stated that based on our Congestion Management Process, we are required to address the intersections. He noted that the list appears in the Long Range Transportation Plan Draft as well.

Dingman suggested that the committee review the lists and provide Staff with any updates or additions. Discussion followed.

Holtrop noted a Hudsonville intersection where traffic has increased due to M6. Discussion followed. Warren and others commented on the accuracy of the list – as some of the projects shown have been approved and other intersections are not listed. Dingman stated that the intent is to identify intersections that are most congested, and to show that we are trying to follow up on those. He commented that the current list gives a historical perspective of where the intersections were and where they are now. Snell stressed the importance of having a policy/plan in place to identify and fund intersection projects. Discussion followed. Bush noted that newer intersections not reflected on the list present challenges. He suggested that a program be developed to monitor the status of projects on a regular schedule. Discussion followed. Dingman commented on the probability of an intersection Level of Service Study. Discussion and comments followed.

Dooley urged the members to identify intersections and provide Staff with more accurate information. Warren suggested that the list could be reorganized by status. Discussion and comments followed.

VI. 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN DRAFT

Dingman briefed the committee on the progress of the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Draft. He noted that the body of the Plan is available for downloading, and that the appendences will be added shortly. Dingman also discussed the two phases (time line) for comments to be received. He outlined the time frame for the Public Participation Plan, and the process for submittal of the final Draft Plan to the GVMC Board. Sevensma had suggestions as to how local transportation funds could be used to promote needed energy alternatives. Dingman discussed the proliferation of alternative fuels and impact on the area. Discussion and comments followed.

VII. ENHANCEMENT PROJECT SUPPORT REQUEST

Referring to **Item VII: Attachment A**, Dingman explained that the Kent County Road Commission is requesting committee support for two Enhancement Projects. As Belknap provided additional information on each project, discussion, comments and questions followed.

Dooley entertained a motion to support the KCRC's request for support for two Enhancement projects as discussed.

MOTION by Warren, SUPPORT by Bush, to recommend to the Policy Committee support for two Enhancement Projects sponsored by the Kent County Road Commission. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VIII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Referring to the GVMC By-Laws, Dingman explained that the current Chair and Vice-chair of the Technical Committee are eligible to serve in this capacity for one more year.

Dooley entertained a motion to nominate and elect a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Technical Committee.

MOTION by Haagsma, SUPPORT by Bush, to nominate and re-elect the existing Chair (Bill Dooley) and Vice-Chair (Steve Warren) of the Technical Committee for another year. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Dooley noted that Tom Palarz of the OCRC is retiring, and that Brett Laughlin will be taking his place on the Technical Committee. He noted that Tom has been a tremendous asset to this committee, and wished him well in his retirement. A cake in his honor was offered at the conclusion of the meeting.

Harrall inquired as to the status of the CMAQ project process. Bush noted challenges with obligation dates, funds, and time constraints. Discussion, comments, and questions followed.

With regard to Local Jobs Today Program, Warren inquired as to the process/procedure for federal funds to pay off loans. Cornell Howe will follow up with Warren on this issue. Discussion followed.

Snell gave the committee an update on the status of ITS.

Snell updated the committee on Pavement Management, and invited the members to observe a preview of the future using REGIS at the conclusion of the meeting. Discussion followed.

Dingman, will be calling a meeting of the Transportation Planning Study Group to complete CMAQ FY2008-2009.

Dingman noted that a letter will be going out in a few weeks requesting a Call for Projects FY2008-2011.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Dooley adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.