

**MINUTES**

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
WYOMING CITY HALL**

As neither the Chair (Bill Dooley) or Vice-Chair are present, Itani stated that the committee must elect a Temporary Chair for today's meeting.

**MOTION by Conners, SUPPORT by Johnston, to nominate and elect Pat Bush as Temporary Chair of the Technical Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Bush, Temporary Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. Each attendee introduced themselves.

**I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Voting Members Present**

Patrick Bush	City of Grand Rapids
Roger Belknap <i>Proxy for Steve Warren &amp; Tim Haagsma</i>	KCRC
James Beelen	Gaines Charter Township
Mike Berrevoets	Allendale Township
Marta Brechting	City of Cedar Springs
Ron Carr	Alpine Township
Scott Conners	City of Grandville
Rick DeVries	City of Walker
Ken Feldt	City of Grand Rapids
John Gorney	City of East Grand Rapids
Russ Henckel <i>Proxy for Bill Dooley</i>	City of Hudsonville
Jan Hoekstra <i>Proxy for Jim Fetzer</i>	City of Wyoming
Jim Holtrop	The Rapid
Dick Johnston	Ottawa County
Dennis Kent <i>Proxy for Sandra Cornell-Howe</i>	City of Rockford
Ken Klomparens	MDOT
Brett Laughlin	GRFIA
Gerald Mears	OCRC
Jon Rice <i>Proxy for Wayne Harrall</i>	City of Wyoming
Terry Schweitzer	Kent County
	City of Kentwood

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Patti Brink	GVMC Staff
Chris Dingman	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Erik Kind	MDOT

**Voting Members Not Present**

Bryan Chodkowski	Village of Sparta
Dick Davies	Cannon Township
Dan DesJarden	City of Lowell
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Bill Dooley ( <i>Chair</i> )	City of Wyoming
Jim Fetzer	The Rapid
Tim Haagsma	Gaines Township
Wayne Harrall	Kent County
William Holland	Georgetown Township
Sandra M. Cornell-Howe	MDOT
Jim McIntyre	Courtland Township
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Steve Peterson	Cascade Charter Township
Gary Voogt	Ada Township
Steve Warren ( <i>Vice-Chair</i> )	KCRC
Bill Wiersma	Tallmadge Township

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Bush entertained a motion to approve the March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Feldt, to approve the March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**IV. FY2007/2008 TIP AMENDMENT**

Referring to Item **IV: Attachment in the Agenda**, Dingman discussed the City of Grand Rapid's five Local Jobs Today projects, and explained that they must be obligated in FY2007 to receive the State share of funding. He noted the conversion dates as well. Discussion followed.

Dingman also discussed the four project requests from ITP-The Rapid that qualify for Section 5310 funds. Discussion followed.

Bush entertained a motion to approve the FY2007/2008 TIP Amendment as identified.

**MOTION by Holtrop, SUPPORT by Carr, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of amending the FY2007/2008 TIP to include the City of Grand Rapids and ITP- The Rapid's projects as identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. STP-URBAN/EDF-C FUNDING POLICY**

Staff distributed a hand-out depicting historical funding levels for the Grand Rapids Metro Area STP-Urban and EDF-Category C projects from 1996-2011. Itani discussed the EDF-C funding Policy which was developed by the committee. Noting that there are restrictions for using STP-U funds for expanding the system, exceptions have been made to allow Ottawa County to use STP-U funding to expand their system. Discussion followed. As the Policies and Practices were reviewed, Itani clarified that STP Funding may be used for Capacity Improvement projects in Kent County if the necessity exists due to financial constraint demonstrated in the Long Range Transportation Plan. He explained why STP is increasing while EDF-C is decreasing, and that a shift in policy may be needed. Discussion followed. Conners suggested loosening restrictions on policies to allow the use of STP funding, and gave examples as to how that could be accomplished. Itani recommended review of the Long Range Transportation Plan to determine which/how many Expand and Improve projects could be covered by EDF-C funding. If there are projects left, the committee must decide how they are funded. Additionally, STP funding should be reviewed to determine if enough funding is left to cover preservation, non-motorized, reconstruction, etc. Itani made suggestions as to potential policies that could be developed for the use of STP funds. Discussion, comments and questions followed. Belknap stressed the need for flexibility. Itani responded that the current policies allow us flexibility but any changes are a committee decision. Conners and Bush believe in striking a balance, and setting a guideline as to percentage of STP funds that could be used for widening projects. Schweitzer commented on prior methodology used in combining funding as well as the potential complications.

Itani stated that the decrease in funding is one issue, and the other is that MDOT will not allow us to Advance Construct EDF-C, which limits our capabilities to move projects forward. Rice commented that flexibility is needed to fund projects where appropriate and noted Kent County's cooperative effort in putting the EDF-C funding in a pool to be distributed and utilized by all agencies based on priority. He also stressed that with the State portion under attack, we need to take a serious look at how to fund all projects in spirit of cooperation. Rice and Itani stressed the importance of flexibility, and that certain goals have to be met regardless of where the funding comes from. Discussion and comments followed.

Bush expressed his thoughts on continuing on a case by case basis, and to see what the remaining gap is before a percentage is established, and perhaps Expand and Widen needs can be met with the EDF-C pot by better managing and scheduling projects. Mears believes that an agreement should be reached. Beelen, Carr, Conners and Bush made suggestions as to how to proceed. As Itani identified the two approaches that could be taken, the committee concurred that the Transportation Programming Study Group would program the projects, and staff will review the existing Policy, identify the needs and resources and bring the findings to the committee for re-evaluation. Itani clarified that the existing policy does not prohibit us from using STP for Expand and Widen, and that we need to move forward. Beelen inquired as to whether numbers will change with a gas tax. Itani not certain of impact, however noted that the federal portion will not change. Discussion, comments and questions followed.

**VI. EDF-C AND CMAQ PROGRAM LISTS**

Referring to **Item VI: Attachment A** in the Agenda, Dingman noted that that the project lists for EDFC FY2008-2011 and CMAQ Illustrative list FY 2010-2011 were approved by the TPSG. He recommends committee endorsement of the projects/lists. Discussion followed.

Bush entertained a motion to approve of the EDF-C and CMAQ Program lists as presented.

**MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Carr, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the EDF-C and CMAQ lists as identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**VII. STP-URBAN PROGRAMMING ITEM**

Dingman explained that due to a tight time frame, Staff is requesting committee approval of taking the STP-Urban programming list which is developed by the Transportation Programming Study Group directly to the Policy Committee. Discussion and comments followed.

Bush entertained a motion to forward the STP-Urban project lists directly to the Policy Committee.

**MOTION by Mears, SUPPORT by Belknap approval of forwarding the STP-Urban project lists developed by the TPSG directly to the Policy Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Kent stated that MDOT/TSC will give a presentation at the next meeting on the progress of the FY2007 construction projects

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Bush adjourned the Technical Committee meeting at 10:20 a.m.