

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, July 7, 2010
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Conners, chair of the Technical Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:32 am. The Committee members, staff, and guests present introduced themselves.

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

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Scott Conners (<i>Chair</i>) | | City of Walker |
| Jerry Alkema | | Allendale Township |
| Alex Arends | | Alpine Township |
| Roger Belknap | <i>Proxy for Steve Warren</i> | KCRC |
| | | KCRC |
| Dan Carlton | | Georgetown Township |
| Sandra M. Cornell-Howe | | MDOT |
| Rick DeVries | | City of Grand Rapids |
| Tim Haagsma | <i>Proxy for Wayne Harrall</i> | Gaines Charter Township |
| | | Kent County |
| Jim Holtrop | <i>Proxy for Dan Strikwerda</i> | Ottawa County |
| | | City of Hudsonville |
| Dennis Kent | <i>Proxy for Dan DesJarden</i> | MDOT |
| | | City of Lowell |
| Terry Schweitzer | <i>Proxy for Taiwo Jaiyeoba</i> | City of Kentwood |
| | | ITP-The Rapid |
| Steve Van Hoeven | <i>Proxy for Brett Laughlin</i> | OCRC |
| | | OCRC |

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 |
| Jim Snell | GVMC Staff |
| Don Stypula | GVMC Staff |
| Sarah Van Buren | FHWA |
| Conrad Venema | ITP-The Rapid |
| George Yang | GVMC Staff |
| Mike Zonyk | GVMC Staff |

Voting Members Not Present

Sandra Ayers
 Mike Berrevoets
 Mike Bouwkamp
 Patrick Bush
 Ron Carr
 Timothy Cochran
 Dick Davies
 Sharon DeLange
 Dan DesJarden
 Mike DeVries
 Bill Dooley
 Ken Feldt
 Steve Groenenboom
 Wayne Harrall
 Roy Hawkins
 Dennis Hoemke
 Bob Homan
 Taiwo Jaiyeoba
 Brett Laughlin
 Jim Miedema
 Audrey Nevins
 Steve Peterson
 Chuck Porter
 Dan Strikwerda
 Toby VanEss
 Steve Warren

Village of Caledonia
 City of Cedar Springs
 City of Rockford
 City of Grand Rapids
 City of Grandville
 City of Wyoming
 Cannon Township
 Village of Sparta
 City of Lowell
 Grand Rapids Township
 City of Wyoming
 City of East Grand Rapids
 Ada Township
 Kent County
 GRFIA
 Algoma Township
 Plainfield Township
 ITP-The Rapid
 OCRC
 Jamestown Township
 Byron Township
 Cascade Charter Township
 Courtland Township
 City of Hudsonville
 Tallmadge Township
 KCRC

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Conners entertained a motion to approve the June 2, 2010 Technical Committee meeting minutes.

MOTION by Holtrop, SUPPORT by Haagsma, to approve the June 2, 2010 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sevensma asked if the White Pine Trail had been reopened. Dewey responded that it is now open.

IV. FY2008-2011 TIP AMENDMENTS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson explained that Staff and MDOT are requesting to amend/modify the existing FY2008-2011 TIP. The years specifically impacted are FY2010 and FY2011. MDOT's specific amendments/modifications are as follows:

FY2010

- Add approximately \$900,000 to the total cost of the M-21 over the Grand River project.

- Add approximately \$1,560,000 to the total cost of the GPA Road-Trunkline CPM.
- Add approximately \$1,572,000 to the total cost of the GPA EPE/PE/ROW.
- Add a new FY2010 project on M-44 from Ramsdell Drive to ECL at a total cost of \$425,000.
- Add a new FY2010 project on I-96 at M-44/M-37 interchange at a total cost of \$700,000.
- Add approximately \$784,000 to the total cost of the I-96 over M-11 (28th St.) project

FY2011

- Add a GPA Road-Trunkline CPM at a total cost of \$6,600,000 to FY2011.
- Add a GPA Trunkline EPE/PE/ROW at a total cost of \$400,000 to FY2011.
- Add a GPA Trunkline Bridge CPM at a total cost of \$300,000 to FY2011.
- Add a GPA Trunkline Safety at a total cost of \$2,400,000 to FY2011.
- Add a GPA Trunkline Scoping at a total cost of \$400,000 to FY2011.

Kent provided additional information about these projects. He also questioned if the Alternate Energy Freeway Lighting Demonstration Project at the M-44/M-37 Interchange belonged in the TIP. Van Buren responded that, because this project is being funded through DOE funds, it would need to go under a tab or in a chapter of the TIP for non-FHWA funded projects. Discussion, comments, and questions ensued.

Robinson further explained that, at a meeting held on Wednesday, June 23rd, the TPSG Committee members were asked to select a project to be funded with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Program from "bid savings." The amount that was available to program a project was \$168,013 (100% ARRA funds). The Committee decided to give the bid savings ARRA monies to the City of Grand Rapids for a project on Hall Street from Eastern to Kalamazoo Avenue. This project is currently in the FY2008-2011 TIP, specifically FY2011, for resurfacing with a total cost of \$190,000. Robinson requested a TIP amendment to change the year from FY2011 to FY2010, to modify the project limits to fit the funding amount, and to change the federal fund source from STP-Urban to ARRA.

Conners entertained a motion to amend/modify the TIP as proposed by Staff and MDOT.

MOTION by DeVries, SUPPORT by Schweitzer, to recommend to the Policy Committee amending the TIP, per MDOT's and Staff's request. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. NEW TIP AMENDMENT SCHEDULE FOR FY2011-2014 TIP

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Robinson explained that the Michigan Transportation Planning Association (MTPA) recently approved a new TIP amendment schedule to begin with the new FY2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program, which takes effect on October 1, 2010. Cornell-Howe further explained that the group of MPO directors agreed to use this schedule for one year as a pilot. This new schedule specifies months for TIP amendments and reduces the number approved each year to a maximum of 6 per year. The schedule also specifies dates for local jurisdictions to submit TIP amendments/modifications requests, MDOT action, and FHWA action.

Cornell-Howe stated that this schedule was proposed since MDOT and FHWA staff are spending a disproportionate amount of time working on TIP amendments. Cornell-Howe added that if something like ARRA happens again, this schedule will be off the table. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Itani added that he doesn't foresee any difficulties with the new schedule, especially since there is a policy in place whereby the Tech and Policy chairs and vice chairs can agree to move an item to Metro Council directly. However, he advised against adding any new policies that would allow staff to amend/modify the TIP. Van Buren questioned if allowing the Tech and Policy chairs to agree to move an item to Metro Council directly would be in compliance with GVMC's public involvement deadlines in the Public Participation Plan. Itani responded that, as long as the project comes from the project list that was already taken to the public, it would be sufficient to have a public hearing at the Metro Council meeting. However, this would not be the case if a new project was being proposed. Discussion ensued.

Conners asked Robinson to send out an e-mail to the Committee before TIP amendments are due as a reminder. Robinson agreed to do so.

VI. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Speaking on **Item VI: Attachment A**, Dewey provided a synopsis on the progress of each of the six subcommittees, including: (1) Intermodalism, Freight, Rail, and Air, (2) Non-Motorized, (3) Transit & Passenger Rail, (4) Congestion Management, (5) Safety & Operations, and (6) Pavement Asset Management. All committees have either already met to determine needs, are currently in the process of determining needs, or will be meeting soon to determine needs. Dewey added that the Subcommittee needs list should be ready for the Technical Committee the beginning of August to review needs by mode. After this point, the list would move on to the Policy Committee so that they can develop an investment strategy based on the needs identified.

Conners questioned if it would be wise to have a joint Tech and Policy meeting when setting the investment strategy. Dewey stated that Staff had discussed holding a joint Tech/Policy meeting on August 18, the date of the regularly scheduled Policy Committee meeting, and asked if there were Committee members interested in attending. Receiving Committee interest, Dewey stated that Staff would work on coordinating this.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

- **Recertification Update**

Van Buren stated that the federal review team visited GVMC on June 2nd and 3rd. They have identified two corrective actions regarding MOUs and the annual listing of obligated projects. There is another item regarding the consultation process which may become a corrective action. Strong recommendations will involve having a multi-modal 20-year Long Range Plan and the current project selection process for the TIP. Other recommendations will include updating the web site anytime a document has been updated, moving to an accessibility based EJ analysis, and consistent documentation. A draft report will be given to the review team by August 4. The final report must be issued before September 27 of this year. Itani explained the steps that GVMC is taking to address these corrective actions and recommendations. Discussion ensued.

- **GVMC Board Retreat Update**

Stypula provided the Committee an update from the May 11th Board meeting at Gaines Township Hall. He explained that the meeting attendees were divided into groups based on population, and the groups were asked to look at the current operations of Metro Council to see what was working or not working for them. Transportation planning rated high on the list of priorities, as did facilitating discussions on a subregional level, forming or enhancing regional partnerships that promote economic development, and continuing regional collaboration and cooperation.

Robinson commented that the CMAQ documentation work sheets and application forms were due last Friday. He asked Committee members who haven't yet submitted these documents to send them to him as soon as possible.

Dewey thanked the Committee members who participated in any of the stakeholder meetings for the Kent County Transit Needs Assessment the previous month and explained the next steps in the process.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Conners adjourned the July 7, 2010 Technical Committee Meeting at 10:32 am.