

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 6, 2010
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Warren, chair of the Technical Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:32 am. The committee members present went around the table and introduced themselves.

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

Steve Warren (Chair)		KCRC
Alex Arends		Alpine Township
Roger Belknap	<i>Proxy for</i>	KCRC
	<i>Tim Haagsma</i>	Gaines Charter Township
	<i>Wayne Harrall</i>	Kent County
Mike Bouwkamp		City of Rockford
Dan Carlton		Georgetown Township
Ron Carr		City of Grandville
Timothy Cochran		City of Wyoming
Scott Conners		City of Walker
Sandra M. Cornell-Howe		MDOT
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Ken Feldt		City of East Grand Rapids
Roy Hawkins		GRFIA
Russ Henckel	<i>Proxy for</i>	City of Wyoming
	<i>Bill Dooley</i>	City of Wyoming
Jim Holtrop		Ottawa County
Brett Laughlin		OCRC
Alan Pennington	<i>Proxy for</i>	Ada Township
	<i>Steve Groenenboom</i>	Ada Township
Terry Schweitzer		City of Kentwood
Dan Strikwerda		City of Hudsonville
Chris Zull	<i>Proxy for</i>	City of Grand Rapids
	<i>Pat Bush</i>	City of Grand Rapids

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Dewey	GVMC Staff
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Art Green	MDOT GR/TSE
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Erick Kind	MDOT
Steve Redmond	MDOT
John Richard	MDOT

APPROVED

Darrell Robinson
Norm Sevensma
Jim Snell
Sarah Van Buren
Steve Waalkes
George Yang
Mike Zonyk

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema
Sandra Ayers
Mike Berrevoets
Patrick Bush
Dick Davies
Sharon DeLange
Dan DesJarden
Mike DeVries
Bill Dooley
Steve Groenenboom
Tim Haagsma
Wayne Harrall
Dennis Hoemke
Bob Homan
Taiwo Jaiyeoba
Jim Miedema
Audrey Nevins
Steve Peterson
Chuck Porter
Toby VanEss

APPROVED
ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A

GVMC Staff
RWBC-WMEAC
GVMC Staff
FHWA
Michigan Concrete Assn.
GVMC Staff
GVMC Staff

Allendale Township
Village of Caledonia
City of Cedar Springs
City of Grand Rapids
Cannon Township
Village of Sparta
City of Lowell
Grand Rapids Township
City of Wyoming
Ada Township
Gaines Charter Township
Kent County
Algoma Township
Plainfield Township
The Rapid
Jamestown Township
Byron Township
Cascade Charter Township
Courtland Township
Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cornell-Howe noted one change to the minutes. Warren entertained a motion to approve the November 4, 2009 Technical Committee meeting minutes.

MOTION by Holtrop, SUPPORT by Cochran, to approve the November 4, 2009 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes with the change noted by Cornell-Howe. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Warren notified the Committee of a minor change to the agenda. Under Item VIII, MDOT would not be requesting to remove the designation of M-44 from the East Beltline south of I-96 as today's meeting. However, the presentation on I-196 would remain on the agenda.

Sevensma asked if there were any new developments regarding the Grand Rapids Amtrak station. Itani stated that funds have been allocated for the project. Kent added that some engineering work is being completed by ITP to look at track configuration. Discussion ensued.

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Warren stated that because his two year term as chair has expired, as has Conner's two year term as vice chair, new officers must be elected. The tradition in years past has been to elect the current vice chair as chair of the committee.

Warren entertained a motion to nominate Conners to the position of chair of the Technical Committee.

MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Arends, to elect Conners as the next chair of the Technical Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Warren asked the floor for nominations for the next vice chair of the Technical Committee and entertained a motion to elect Harrall as vice chair of the Technical Committee.

MOTION by Conners, SUPPORT by Carr, to elect Harrall as the next vice chair of the Technical Committee.

Warren entertained a motion to close the nomination period for vice chair nominations.

MOTION by Arends, SUPPORT by Schweitzer, to close the nomination period for nominations for vice chair to the Technical Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Warren returned the motion to elect Harrall as the next vice chair of the Technical Committee to the floor. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. FY2008-2011 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENTS

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Robinson explained that The Rapid is requesting to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP for FY2010. The Rapid requested the change in order to update Activity Line Items. Discussion ensued.

Warren entertained a motion to approve the FY2008-11 TIP amendment for FY2010, as identified.

MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by DeVries, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of amending the FY2008-2011 TIP for FY2010, per The Rapid's request. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. ARRA UPDATE/APPROVAL

Speaking on **Item VI: Attachment A**, Robinson informed the Committee that the TPSG Committee had met on December 16 in order to determine a list of prioritized projects to receive remaining ARRA funding in the event that left over ARRA funding was found to be available. Cornell-Howe further explained that, as of this time, MDOT is not sure if there will be any remaining ARRA funding or not. If any funding remains, it will likely be very little. However, Cornell-Howe still recommended that the Committee move to

approve the prioritized list of projects established at the December 16 TPSG Committee meeting. Therefore, if additional funding does become available, the City of Hudsonville, with the first project on the list, will be able to move forward with their project.

Robinson explained that this list was not developed in vain, since there may be a second ARRA bill for transportation in the near future. Itani updated the Committee on the status of the second ARRA bill and stated that it may still be possible that one small project could be funded with ARRA funding that remained from bid savings. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Warren entertained a motion to approve the prioritized list of projects developed at the December 16, 2009 TPSG Committee meeting.

MOTION by Strikwerda, SUPPORT by Arends, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the prioritized list of projects developed at the December 16, 2009 Policy Committee meeting, with the projects on the list to receive additional ARRA funding, should it be available.

Warren stated that he hoped this list would be revisited if a second round of stimulus funding became available. Itani confirmed that the list would be revisited in that event and added that if another stimulus package is approved, the state will likely receive approximately \$900 million dollars.

Warren returned the motion in question to the floor. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VII. 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) UPDATED SOCIOECONOMIC (SE) DATA

Referring to **Item VII: Attachment A**, Dewey explained that every four years, GVMC, as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the region, is federally required to produce a Long Range Transportation Plan document. To begin the LRTP update, staff has been working to collect population and employment projections through 2035 for use in the transportation model. Using U.S. Census estimates/American Community Survey (ACS) data, Regional Economic Model Inc. (REMI) data, Subregional process data, and Claritas employment data, staff has been able to determine the 2009 base year population and employment numbers by Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ), and also area-wide projections for population and employment increases between 2009 and 2035. Dewey explained that this data was included in the agenda packet and that she was seeking conditional committee approval of this Socio-Economic (SE) data. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Itani added that, due to a loss of employment over the last few years and the high cost of gas, staff will face many challenges during the modeling process.

Dewey asked the Committee members to review the population and employment data and to let her know if they had changes to the data by Friday, January 15.

Warren entertained a motion to conditionally approve the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Socio-Economic data, as presented.

MOTION by Laughlin, SUPPORT by Hawkins, to conditionally approve the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Socio-Economic data, as presented by Dewey, with any changes to the data to be submitted to Dewey by Friday, January 15, 2010. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VIII. MDOT ACTIVITIES

Kent provided a brief history of MDOT's I-196, Grand River to Fuller Avenue project. Green showed the Committee a PowerPoint presentation that provided further details about the project, including specific information about its stages. Green also showed an animation video of what the project will look like when it is completed. Richard updated the Committee about MDOT's communication plans to get information out to the public about the project. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Connors complimented Warren on his service as chair for the Technical Committee.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Warren adjourned the January 6, 2010 Technical Committee meeting at 10:48 am.