

MINUTES

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMMING STUDY GROUP

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Kent County Road Commission

1500 Scribner Ave NW

Conners, Chair of the TPSG Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:34 am.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

| | | |
|------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Scott Conners | <i>(Chair)</i> | City of Walker |
| Patrick Bush | | City of Grand Rapids |
| Ron Carr | | City of Grandville |
| Sandra M. Cornell-Howe | | MDOT |
| Tim Haagsma | | Gaines Township |
| Russ Henckel | <i>Proxy for Tim Cochran Bill Dooley</i> | City of Wyoming |
| | | City of Wyoming |
| | | City of Wyoming |
| Jan Hoekstra | | The Rapid |
| Brett Laughlin | | OCRC |
| Terry Schweitzer | | City of Kentwood |
| Steve Warren | | KCRC |

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Andrea Dewey | GVMC Staff |
| Andrea Faber | GVMC Staff |
| Abed Itani | GVMC Staff |
| Dennis Kent | MDOT-Grand Region |
| Erick Kind | MDOT |
| Suzette Peplinski | MDOT |
| Darrell Robinson | GVMC Staff |

Voting Members Not Present

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Jerry Alkema | Allendale Township |
| Sandy Ayers | Village of Caledonia |
| Mike Bouwkamp | City of Rockford |
| Christine Burns | City of Cedar Springs |
| Tim Cochran | City of Wyoming |
| Sharon DeLange | Village of Sparta |
| Dan DesJarden | City of Lowell |
| Mike DeVries | Grand Rapids Township |

APPROVED

Rick DeVries
Bill Dooley
Ken Feldt
Steve Peterson
Jared Rodriguez
Dan Strikwerda

**APPROVED
ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A**

City of Grand Rapids
City of Wyoming
City of East Grand Rapids
Cascade Township
GR Chamber
City of Hudsonville

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Conners entertained a motion to approve the March 20, 2009 Transportation Programming Study Group Meeting minutes.

MOTION by Carr, SUPPORT by Bush, to approve the March 20, 2009 Transportation Programming Study Group Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. PROGRAMMING OF FY2010-2011 CMAQ PROJECTS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Itani clarified that the purpose of the meeting was to program FY2010-2011 CMAQ projects. He stated that approximately 4.68 million dollars was available for CMAQ funding for FY2010, and the policy is to split these funds 50/50 between MDOT and the locals. Approximately \$800,000 in set-asides was also received under CMAQ. In the past, this set-aside funding has been used for ITS projects and split evenly between the state and the locals. For FY2010, there was a surplus of \$74,458 for local CMAQ projects. However, in FY2011, local CMAQ projects were overprogrammed by approximately 1.3 million dollars. MDOT balances for both years were even. Questions, comments, and discussion ensued.

Itani named several additional projects that were not submitted by the committee and asked why these projects were not being addressed. The first project Itani identified was adding a right turn lane on westbound 28th Street to northbound Patterson. Kent stated that he had not observed congestion at this intersection. Itani asked the committee members to send him information on the congestion level of this intersection, if it was available. Conners recommended that since local knowledge indicated that this wasn't a problematic issue, this project should be left off the CMAQ list.

The second project identified by Itani was adding right turn lanes on both approaches at the intersection of 28th Street and East Paris. Bush stated that since there was a strip mall in this location, adding turn lanes would put these shops out of business, since they would lose their parking.

The third project identified by Itani was adding a right turn lane at westbound Burton and the northbound East Beltline. Bush stated that the City of Grand Rapids would work with MDOT on this project and consider it for the future.

APPROVED

APPROVED ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A

Itani stated that FY2011 was overprogrammed by \$1.37 million in federal funds for local CMAQ projects and that the project list needed to be financially constrained. Schweitzer suggested eliminating the nonmotorized bridge along Forest Hills Avenue over I-96, since this project had an opportunity to be funded through Safe Routes to School. Bush stated that the best solution would be to include a nonmotorized facility with the bridge itself. Conners stated that the policy of the TPSG committee has been to not use federal funding for nonmotorized projects unless additional funding was available. Itani clarified that the policy is to use enhancement funds for nonmotorized projects. Conners stated that he would like to revisit this policy for nonmotorized projects in the near future. Itani agreed that the policies and practices of the committee needed to be revisited, and the project in question was removed from the list.

Warren stated that, during the development of the stimulus list, many issues arose with established policies and practices, especially in regard to the priorities for the MPO area. He suggested revisiting these policies and practices before the Long Range Transportation Plan development process began. Conners suggested holding a morning workshop to discuss these policies and practices. Itani stated that GVMC could host such a meeting, but stated that he did not want to start an isolated process from the LRTP development process. Warren suggested having a subcommittee develop a list of issues with various policies and bring the completed report to the Policy Committee. Itani suggested that there be an additional meeting of the TPSG Committee to identify and/or address these issues. Conners stated that, since the Committee believes that it can address the issues with these policies effectively, he would like to look to the Policy Committee for approval to allow the TPSG Committee to work through the solution to these issues. In preparation for the next meeting, Warren suggested developing a list of policies that needed to be addressed. Discussion, comments, and questions ensued.

Cornell-Howe asked for clarification on the project entitled "MegaPixel Cameras in the Sky" and stated that a more definitive project description was needed, including project limits. Bush provided additional information about the project. Haagsma suggested removing the "MegaPixel Cameras in the Sky" project and changing the federal funds for the Nonmotorized Trail on Forest Hills Avenue to \$288,000 in order to keep the project list financially constrained. Discussion ensued.

Laughlin suggested removing the OCRC's 48th Avenue at Fillmore signal install project in FY2010, meaning the project name would change to simply "intersection improvements." Laughlin also suggested moving the OCRC's Port Sheldon Street project from FY2011 to FY2010. Cornell-Howe stated that the project description must be renamed. Laughlin stated that the new project name would be "Signal Connectivity and Upgrade," and declared that the limits would be from 48th Street to Chicago Drive.

Kent stated that some of MDOT's FY2010 projects are still in the design phase and asked that these projects be noted as such. These projects included M-57 at Old 14 Mile to Montcalm for right of way and construction, I-96 at Cascade for design only, US-131 from Leonard to Ann for PE, and the carpool lot at I-96 at M-50/Cascade for PE and construction. Discussion, comments, and questions ensued.

Bush and Haagsma collaboratively determined a solution to make the project lists for FY2010 and FY2011 financially constrained. Bush explained that the non-motorized

APPROVED

**APPROVED
ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A**

bridge at Forest Hills Avenue over I-96 would be removed from the list in FY2011, the non-motorized trail/Forest Hills Avenue project from NCL to Burton in FY2011 would be reduced to \$168,600, and the Port Sheldon St. at 40th and 48th project would move to FY2010. All other projects would remain on the list.

Conners entertained a motion to approve the FY2010 and FY2011 CMAQ project lists for the TIP.

MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Bush, to approve of the FY2010 and FY2011 CMAQ projects as identified to be included in the TIP.

Bush clarified that the “MegaPixel Cameras in the Sky” project would be renamed. Cornell-Howe asked that “ITS” be included in the project description. Discussion, comments, and questions ensued.

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

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Cornell-Howe stated that four enhancement projects have been funded for Kent County. One of these projects was funded with ARRA funds. Cornell-Howe added that all ARRA projects must be in the TIP by name; therefore, the City of Grand Rapids Hall Street from Jefferson to Madison project needs to be listed in the TIP. Non-ARRA enhancement projects can be covered under GPAs. Discussion, comments, and questions ensued.

Itani added that at the 3-C meeting the previous day, MDOT had indicated that it was going to delay the development of the TIP by postponing the process by another year. Instead of developing a FY2010-2013 TIP, it will be a FY2011-2014 TIP. Discussion, comments, and questions ensued.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Conners adjourned the April 22, 2009 TPSG Committee meeting at 10:26 am.