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MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 3, 2010
TO: Concerned Citizens and Organizations
FROM: Andrea Dewey, Transportation Planner
RE: 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Amendment

The Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC), as the federally designated transportation planning agency for the Grand Rapids Metropolitan Area, is sending you this notice as part of the Long Range Transportation Plan Amendment process. GVMC is seeking input on proposed changes to its 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. The purpose for this notification is to promote cooperation and consultation in the transportation planning process with the general public as well as agencies that are responsible for environmental protection, historical preservation, natural resource management, transportation services, economic development, human services, and land use planning as well as individuals and groups that are interested and impacted by transportation projects.

An amendment is needed to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) document due to changes to 11 projects. Project changes are the result of modified project timing (either accelerating or delaying project completion), project funding source adjustments, project additions to the LRTP. A complete list of the project changes, LRTP project list and a copy of the LRTP document are available on our website www.gvmc.org. Additionally, these project changes warrant a reassessment of the air quality conformity findings for the area, and a revised Air Quality Conformity Analysis is also available on the GVMC website for your review.

GVMC is seeking public comment on these project changes and the results of the Air Quality Conformity Analysis. It is important to note that the project changes would have no adverse impact on area air quality. This memo is to notify you of the proposed project changes, that the air quality conformity results are available for your review, and to encourage your participation and comments during the amendment process.

Public comments are an integral part of the transportation planning process and we appreciate your input to identify potential issues. If you have any questions or comments or need more information, please contact us at:

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
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Comments must be received by **June 1, 2010**. If you would rather speak to GVMC staff, the public is welcome to comment at our Transportation Improvement Program and LRTP Amendment Public meeting:

May 18, 2010 5:00 pm at the GVMC Offices, 678 Front Ave N.W., Suite 200, Grand Rapids

Or at our regularly scheduled Policy Committee Meeting:

May 19, 2010 9:30 am at the Kent County Road Commission, 1500 Scribner N.W., Grand Rapids

2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Project Changes, May 2010

Amendments to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) require Federal approval. These changes generally include the addition or deletion of a project, major cost changes, and major changes in project concept or scope and limits. These types of project changes often stimulate a reassessment of the impact each project will have on area air quality, and these changes warrant consultation with the general public.

Changes to the Long Range Transportation Plan document and project list must be made for the projects listed below. These changes are primarily a result of the development of the new 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program or short-term transportation project listing for our area. This list describes the original project and documents the proposed changes (ex. project name, timing, and limits). To view the LRTP, including the LRTP project list, in its entirety, please visit www.gvmc.org.

1) Original Project:

FY 2026-2035 EDF-C

Forest Hill Ave – Cascade Road to I-96 - reconstruct and add a center turn lane
.95 miles

Proposed Change:

This project will be split into two projects, changing years, changing scope, and changing funding sources. The new limits will be **Forest Hill Ave – North City Limits (Kentwood) to Cascade** (.35 miles) and **Forest Hill Ave – North City Limits (Kentwood) to I-96** (.91 miles).

The **Forest Hill Ave – North City Limits (Kentwood) to Cascade** project section will be moving to FY 2008-2011 EDF-C and will remain a road reconstruction with the addition of a center turn lane. The **Forest Hill – North City Limits (Kentwood) to I-96** project will be moving to FY 2012-2018 and changing funding sources to STP-U and will only be road reconstruction (No center turn lane added).

2) Original Project (s):

FY 2008-2011 EDF-C

Forest Hill Ave – Braeburn to Ada Drive – reconstruct and add center turn lane .47 miles

FY 2026-2035 EDF-C

Forest Hill Ave – Braeburn to M-21 – reconstruct and add center turn lane
.59 miles

Proposed Change:

The Forest Hill Ave – Braeburn to Ada Drive project will be moved to FY 2012-2018 EDF-C and the Forest Hill Ave – Braeburn to M-21 project will also be moved to FY 2012-2018 EDF-C so that the projects may be combined. The new project will be FY 2012-2018 EDF-C **Forest Hill Ave – Ada to M-21** reconstruct and add a center turn lane (1.00 mile).

3) Original Project:

FY 2008-2011 STP-U

Clyde Park Ave – 68th St to 76th St – resurface in 2011
1.01 miles

Proposed Change:

This project will have the limits slightly changed, will be changing funding sources, and be moved in the Plan to FY 2012-2018 EDF-C. The new project will be FY 2012-2018 EDF-C **Clyde Park Ave - .10 miles North of 76th St to .10 miles South of 68th St**, widen to two to three lanes (.80 miles).

- 4) Original Project:
FY 2026-2035 EDF-C
Northland Drive – 16 Mile Road to Cedar Springs South Limit – reconstruct and add center turn lane
.66 miles

Proposed Change:

This project will have the limits slightly changed and will be moved in the Plan to FY 2010-2018 EDF-C. The new project will be FY 2012-2018 EDF-C **Northland Drive – Indian Lake to South St**, reconstruct and widen to two to three lanes (1.2 miles).

- 5) Proposed Change:
A new project, **Knapp Street – At Grand River Drive** will be added to FY 2012- 2018 EDF-C (.10).

- 6) Proposed Change:
A new project, **ITS – areawide** will be added to FY 2012-2018 EDF-C (no scope).

- 7) Original Project(s):
FY 2008-2011 STP-U
4 Mile Road – Baumhoff to Old Orchard - reconstruct and widen to two to three lanes
1.34 miles

FY 2012-2018 STP-U

4 Mile Road - Peachridge to Baumhoff - reconstruct and widen to two to three lanes
1.00 mile

Proposed Change:

The 4 Mile Road – Baumhoff to Old Orchard project will moving to FY 2012-2018 EDF-C, the limits will be changing as it will be combined with the 4 Mile Road – Peachridge to Baumhoff project. The new project will be FY 2012-2018 EDF-C **4 Mile Road – Walker Ave to Old Orchard Ave**, reconstruct and widen to two to three lanes (1.9 miles).

- 8) Original Project:
FY 2012-2018 EDF-C
68th Street – Clyde Park to Burlingame – Widen from 2-5 lanes in 2018.
1.0 mile

Proposed Change:

The 68th Street project will be changing federal funding sources within the same block of years in the plan and will be a resurfacing project instead of a widening project.
The new project description will be: FY 2012-2018 STP-U **68th Street – Clyde Park to Burlingame – Resurface by 2018.**

- 9) Original Project:
FY 2008-2011 STP-U
8th Avenue – Port Sheldon to 44th Street – Resurface existing in 2011
.50 miles

Proposed Change:

The 8th Avenue will be both resurfaced and have a center turn lane added.

The new project description will be: FY 2008-2011 STP-U **8th Avenue – Port Sheldon to 44th Street – Resurface and add center turn lane in 2011.** .50 miles

10) Original Project:

FY 2012-2018 STP-U

Division Avenue – 54th Street to 60th Street – Reconstruct and add center turn lane by 2014.

.76 miles

Proposed Change:

The Division Avenue project will be reconstructed and, instead of a center turn lane, a median will be added. The new project description will be: FY 2010-2018 STP-U **Division Avenue – 54th Street to 60th Street – Reconstruct from a 4-lane to a 4-lane divided by 2018.** .76 miles

11) Original Project:

FY 2019-2025 MDOT

Fuller - @ I-196 – Add turning lanes to bridges and ramps @ I-196

.10 miles

Proposed Change:

The project will be moved from FY 2019-2025 in the LRTP to FY 2008-2011. The new project will be: FY 2008-2011 MDOT, **Fuller - @ I-196 – Add turning lanes to bridge and ramps at I-196.** .10 miles

12) Original Project:

FY 2019-2025 EDF-C

West River Drive – Verta Avenue to M-44 (Northland Drive) – Reconstruct and Add Center Turn Lane by 2025

1.49 miles

Proposed Change:

The project will be changing years, funding sources, and limits. The project will be moved from FY 2019-2025 to 2008-2011 and be changing funding sources to STP-U. The new project will be: FY 2008-2011 STP-U, **West River Drive – Rogue River to M-44 (Northland Drive) – Reconstruct and add center turn lane by 2011.**

.75 miles

Some Relevant Definitions – *for a complete list of definitions see Appendix B of the LRTP*

Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) - A document that provides a strategy and methodology for an area's long range transportation needs. The Long Range Plan must have at least a twenty-year window and must be updated every four years.

Surface Transportation Program – Urban (STP-U) - Federal funding category geared specifically to urbanized areas.

Transportation Economic Development Funds – Category C (EDF-C) - This general program has different lettered categories A through F that provide competitive statewide funding for roadways of different types that serve an economic development purpose.