

MINUTES

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, October 18th, 2006
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI

Pasquale, Chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Dave Pasquale, (<i>Chair</i>)	City of Lowell
Marta Brechting	Alpine Township
Pat Bush	City of Grand Rapids
Jay Cravens	Cascade Charter Township
Dick Davies	Cannon Township
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Jerry Homminga	City of Cedar Springs
Dal McBurrows	MDOT
Jon Rice	KCRC
Bob Rinck	Ottawa County
Darrel Schmalzel	City of Walker
Keith Van Beek	City of Kentwood
Peter Varga (<i>Vice-Chair</i>)	The Rapid
Ted Vonk	Kent County

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Patti Brink	GVMC Staff
Chris Dingman	GVMC Staff
Jim Fetzer	The Rapid
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	MDOT - Grand Region
George Yang	GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

James Beelen	Allendale Township
Larry Bruursema	OCRC
Bryan Chodkowski	Sparta
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township

APPROVED

Rick DeVries
Jeff Dood
Ken Feldt
George Haga
Bryan Harrison
Roger Haynes
Bill Holland
Jim Koslosky
Ken Krombeen
Jim McIntyre
George Meek
Jim Miedema
Audrey Nevins
Richard Pastoor
Don VanDoeselaar
Bill Wiersma

**APPROVED
ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A**

City of Grand Rapids
City of Rockford
City of East Grand Rapids
Ada Township
Caledonia Charter Township
City of Wyoming
Georgetown Township
GRFIA
City of Grandville
Courtland Township
Plainfield Township
Jamestown Township
Byron Township
City of Wyoming
City of Hudsonville
Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Pasquale entertained a motion to approve the September 20th, 2006 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes.

MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Hilton, to approve the September 20th, 2006 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. FY2002-2008 TIP AMENDMENTS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A** in the Agenda, Dingman briefed the committee on the two items to be addressed.

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Kent addressed several projects on the list, and described a few of the changes that have been made since the Technical Committee meeting. Pasquale inquired as to the possible expansion of the car pool lot in Lowell. Discussion, comments and questions followed.

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment B** in the Agenda, Dingman noted that three planning studies (Pavement Management, Congestion Management and GIS) which were previously combined as one sum on the TIP project list must be listed individually for ease in obligating the projects. The breakout cost of each study is now known, however the total cost of the studies and accompanying match amounts have not changed.

APPROVED

**APPROVED
ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A**

Pasquale entertained a motion to approve of MDOT's request for changes to the FY2007 TIP project list, and to list separately three planning studies.

MOTION Vonk, SUPPORT by Homminga, to recommend to the GVMC Board approval of amending the FY2006-2008 TIP to reflect changes to FY2007 projects as requested by MDOT. Also, to approve amending the TIP to list separately three planning studies, with the understanding that the total cost and accompanying match have not changed. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A & B** Dingman addressed the Draft Goals and Objectives for the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. Discussion followed.

He also discussed the population report for 2035 as compiled from the Socio-Economic data that each community provided during the long Range Transportation Plan meetings. He stated that the input and information obtained from the communities guided the projections. He noted that any changes, comments, etc on both items are due by October 25th.

Varga inquired as to whether staff anticipates that by 2030 other areas may be added to the MPO Itani noted the city and townships that are not in the MPO but are part of the study area (City of Coopersville, Blendon, Polk, Wright and Chester Townships). Discussion followed. Dingman noted that this data is basically reflecting what the Model covers right now, and that if areas are added in the future Plan, updates to those areas will be added to this list. Discussion and comments followed.

VI. PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Itani noted that data gathering for the Federal Aid System has been completed, and is currently being processed in-house. Recently, staff began data collection on the local system. Weather permitting; data will continue to be collected. Itani anticipates that data for the local system could be completed by March. Upon completion, the information will be processed. He noted that generally things are progressing well.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Varga commented on several changes to The Rapid's fares. He also noted that Comprehensive Operational Analysis has been done to identify near and short term improvements, and described 2 proposed new routes. He anticipates changes to the Pass Program. He stated that most of the changes are positive. He encouraged the committee to attend the Public Hearings on these issues scheduled for October 23rd, 24th, and 26th. Varga commented on a recent ribbon cutting in the City of Walker Park and Ride Lot, and expressed thanks to the City for a cooperative effort. He also thanked the MPO for providing the funds.

APPROVED

**APPROVED
ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A**

Varga also updated the Committee on rider ship with regard to AIR PORTER. He anticipates that this service will pick up by spring, 2008 and that it should be self supporting at that time.

Vonk expressed his appreciation to Varga for his leadership with Transit. Discussion followed.

Itani handed out information on DRIVE MI, the state's largest ever public relations campaign to increase road funding in Michigan. Due to the shortfall in transportation funding, he recommended that the committee review and take a position on this effort. Rice and Itani identified coalition supporters and contributors. Kent clarified that MDOT remains neutral on this issue.

Itani further explained why he believes it is important to be involved in discussions and take a position on this issue for input on how percentages should be distributed. Discussion and comments followed. Varga noted that what is happening on the national level should be factored in as well, as the highway account is going to be running out of money. Itani identified a similar effort titled Sustainable Transportation which will take a look at the total picture of transportation funding. Rice noted that on December 15th in Oakland County a meeting is scheduled to look at how we can supplement (not replace) the current tax structure. Discussion and comments followed.

Itani noted that there is still no methodology provided by MDOT upper management as to how CMAQ Funds will be distributed. McBurrows commented on time frames and Call for Projects. Itani stated that the issue is Set Asides, and that it should be the MPO who decides how funding is distributed in this area. He cautioned that ITS is a huge field which could consume every cent coming from CMAQ. Rice suggested that Staff draft a letter to the MDOT Director to expedite action on this issue. Itani anticipates that he will have an answer on this by next month. Discussion followed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Pasquale entertained a motion to adjourn the Policy Committee meeting.

MOTION by Rinck, SUPPORT by Varga to adjourn the October 18th, 2006 Policy Committee Meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Pasquale adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.