

MINUTES

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, October 19th, 2005
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW

Pasquale, Vice-Chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Dave Pasquale (Vice-Chair)	City of Lowell
Marta Brechting	Alpine Township
Bill Cole	City of Grand Rapids
Jay Cravens	Cascade Charter Township
Jeff Dood	City of Rockford
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Jerry Homminga	City of Cedar Springs
Jim Koslosky	GRFIA
Ken Krombeen	City of Grandville
Dal McBurrows	MDOT
Jon Rice	KCRC
Bob Rinck	Ottawa County
Keith VanBeek	City of Kentwood
Donald VanDoeselaar	City of Hudsonville
Robert Swenson	Cannon Township
Jay VanSoestberg	City of Walker
Peter Varga	The Rapid
Ted Vonk	Kent County

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Roger Belknap	KCRC
Patti Brink	GVMC Staff
Chris Dingman	GVMC Staff
Jim Fetzer	The Rapid

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Abed Itani
Dennis Kent
Darrell Robinson

Norm Sevensma
Jim Snell
Joe VanderMeulen
Steve Warren

Voting Members Not Present

James Beelen
Larry Bruursema
Bryan Chodkowski
Mike DeVries
Ken Feldt
George Haga
Bryan Harrison
Hon. Douglas Hoekstra
Bill Holland
Jim McIntyre
George Meek
Jim Miedema
Audrey Nevins
Carol Sheets (Chair)
Joe Sierawski
Bill Wiersma

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GVMC Staff
MDOT – Grand Region
GVMC Staff

RWBC-WMEAC
GVMC Staff
City of Rockford
KCRC

Allendale Township
OCRC
Sparta
Grand Rapids Township
City of East Grand Rapids
Ada Township
Caledonia Charter Township
City of Wyoming
Georgetown Township
Courtland Township
Plainfield Township
Jamestown Township
Byron Township
City of Wyoming
City of Grandville
Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Pasquale entertained a motion to approve the September 21, 2005 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes.

MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by VanSoestberg approval of the September 21st, 2005 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. FY2006-2008 TIP AMENDMENT

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A** in the Agenda, Kent identified and discussed four I-196 bridge projects to be added into the FY2006-2008 TIP. He explained that as

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the GVMC Board approved the Long Range Plan Amendment, these projects which were earlier removed from the TIP must be amended back in. Discussion followed.

Pasquale entertained a motion to approve MDOT's request to amend the TIP to add four I-196 Bridge projects.

MOTION by Rice, SUPPORT by Rinck to recommend to the GVMC Board approval of MDOT's request to amend the FY2006-2008 TIP to add four I-196 bridge projects. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. ENHANCEMENT PROJECT ENDORSEMENT

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A** in the Agenda, Dingman addressed the KCRC's proposed Enhancement Project. Belknap discussed some enhancement details, and noted that the project will be executed in 2 phases in conjunction with road projects. Hilton commented on funding and local match. Discussion, comments and questions followed.

Pasquale entertained a motion to approve endorsement of the enhancement project.

MOTION by Hilton, SUPPORT by Koslosky, to recommend to the GVMC Board endorsement of the proposed KCRC Enhancement project. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. KENT COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION (KCRC) LONG RANGE STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PLAN

Warren stated that the purpose of the plan/presentation is to inform the MPO and the individual jurisdictions of the KCRC's Long Range thinking as to a vision for the primary road system, as well as what the investment strategy is for the next 10 year period. The Long Range Strategic Plan for the county road system would guide the development of KCRC's 5 year program. It would also give the MPO information in terms of vision to be incorporated in the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan and TIP.

Referring to **Item VI: Attachment A** in the Agenda, he noted a map depicting where major road improvements are anticipated. He commented that this is an unfolding process and is occurring at the same time the budget is being put together for next year. He discussed revised projections on revenues as well as cost for the upcoming budget year.

Warren elaborated on the vision, strategy, and various ways that can measure performance of the system. He commented that investments in preservation are a priority. He stated that the total needs far exceed projected revenues, and that revenues will be revised down. Warren stated that some goals of this plan will be

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elimination of congestion and to also have 70% of the region's primary roads in good condition.

He requested that members contact him with any questions and/or concerns. He would also like input as to how this plan would align with their jurisdiction's plans.

Discussion followed. Sevensma had concerns that the Plan is slanted toward automobiles and not non-motorized transportation or transit. Warren commented that while it is slanted to automobiles, steps are being taken for non-motorized transportation, i.e. when reconstruction occurs to make wider shoulders for bicycle travel. Discussion and comments followed.

He also stated that the GVMC Non-Motorized Committee will be looking at routes to be reconstructed and how non-motorized needs can be coordinated with construction schedules. Discussion followed.

VII. GERALD R FORD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (GRFIA) 5 YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Via a hand-out, Koslosky updated the committee on GRFIA's 5 year Capital Improvement Plan. The airport Board reviews and updates the CIP every year and benchmarks against the Master Plan. He commented that the airport serves this region very well, and that surface transportation to the airport is very good. He addressed reconstruction and pavement condition requirements. He described construction projects to be completed, including proposed plans to begin construction of a 4 story, 1.2 million square foot parking structure that will accommodate 4900 automobiles. He noted that this structure will be integrated into the existing terminal building. As discussion continued, he stated that a transit center would be included in the new parking structure. He also discussed the time line for this project.

Referring to **Item VII: Attachment A** in the Agenda, Koslosky also noted that the 5 year Capital Improvement Plan breaks out air side and land side improvements and also reflects equipment requirements. Discussion, comments and questions followed. Varga and Warren had questions on parking structures and the cost thereof. Discussion followed. Sevensma inquired as to whether traffic volume at the airport was affected by some of the airline's bankruptcy. Koslosky noted that traffic at the airport is more affected by the economy. He indicated that the focus of the airport is to accommodate passengers, not airlines. He also addressed potential airline carrier mergers. Low fare airlines and direct flights to larger cities were discussed as well. Koslosky noted that parking fees will increase, and clarified that airport revenues are relied on to sustain the airport. Discussion and comments followed.

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VIII. FY2005 TRAFFIC COUNT PROGRAM

Robinson updated the committee on the progress of the FY2005 Traffic Count Program. He noted specific traffic counts from each participating jurisdiction. He stated that generally the program is operating very well.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Itani updated the committee on the new appropriations bill – SAFETYLU. He explained that a continuing resolution to fund the government is in effect. He is hopeful that either the entire bill or another continuing resolution will be passed.

Itani stressed that each jurisdiction should submit projects to MDOT as soon as possible to avoid the loss of Obligation Authority.

Snell discussed the status of the Pavement Management System and noted that the GVMC Board recently approved the purchase of the van that will provide technology for obtaining pavement management data for this region. He stated that a request for bids for the van/system is out now, and a selection will be made in November. He gave a timeline as to when everything will be in place to begin use of the new technology.

Snell stated that a joint Technical and Policy Committee meeting will be held in November to address traffic safety issues as well as the regular items on the Agenda. Wayne State University will give a presentation on their study of local intersections. Snell stated that lunch will be provided.

Snell updated the committee on the ITS Study. He noted that the Draft of the final study will be presented to the committee in January.

Itani announced that George Yang will be joining the GVMC Transportation Staff in late October. His duties include, but are not limited to Signal Optimization, Safety, and Modeling.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Pasquale entertained a motion to adjourn the Policy Committee Meeting.

MOTION by Rinck, SUPPORT by Swenson, to adjourn the October 19th, 2005 Policy Committee Meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Pasquale adjourned the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

ITEM II:

APPROVED