

APPROVED

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MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, November 19th, 2003
Kent County Road Commission**

The meeting was called to order by Rinck, Chair, at 9:35 a.m.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Bob Rinck, (Chair)	Ottawa County
James Beelen	Allendale Township
Evelyn J. Champney	Village of Sparta
Larry Bruursema	OCRC
Bill Cole	City of Grand Rapids
Jay Cravens	Cascade Charter Township
Jeff Dood	City of Rockford
Ken Feldt	City of East Grand Rapids
Dave Groenleer	Plainfield Township
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Hon. James Holtrop (Vice-Chair)	City of Hudsonville
Jim Holtvluwer	Georgetown Township
Ken Klomparens <i>Proxy for Jim Koslosky</i>	GRFIA
Dal McBurrows	MDOT-Lansing
David Pasquale	City of Lowell
Jon Rice	KCRC
Carol S. Sheets	City of Wyoming
Joe Sierawski	City of Grandville
Robert Swenson	Cannon Township
Keith Van Beek	City of Kentwood
Jay VanSoestberg	City of Walker
Peter Varga	The Rapid
Frank Wash	Alpine Township

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Christopher Bessert	GVMC Staff/REGIS
Patti Brink	GVMC Staff

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Jim Fetzer
Kenny Hoskins
Abed Itani

Dennis Kent
Steve Redmond
Darrell Robinson
Norm Sevensma
Jim Snell
Don Stypula
Don VanDoeselaar
Steve Warren

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The Rapid
Faith in Motion
GVMC Staff

MDOT – GR
MDOT - GR
GVMC Staff
WMEAC-RWBC
GVMC Staff
GVMC Staff
City of Hudsonville
KCRC

Voting Members Not Present

Mike DeVries
George Haga
Bryan Harrison
Hon. Douglas Hoekstra
Ron Howell
Kenneth J. Kuipers
Jim McIntyre
Jim Miedema
Larry Silvernail
Bill Wiersma

Grand Rapids Township
Ada Township
Caledonia Charter Township
City of Wyoming
City of Cedar Springs
Kent County
Courtland Township
Jamestown Township
Byron Township
Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rinck entertained a motion to approve the October 15th, 2003 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes. McBurrows noted that on Other Business, first paragraph, 4th sentence, FHA should be replaced with FHWA.

MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Holtvluwer, to approve the October 15th Policy Committee Meeting Minutes with the noted correction.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Varga commented on the recent millage approval for ITP. He distributed to the committee the Rapid’s Annual Report to the Community for 2002/2003. Discussion and comments followed.

IV. LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN DRAFT DEFICIENCIES LIST

Snell updated the committee on the Long Range Transportation Plan Deficiencies List.

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He noted that the list was developed from the Socio-Economic data. This list also reflects the goals and objectives of each jurisdiction. He stated that the Technical Committee has approved and taken the list of deficiencies back to their respective jurisdiction to select the preferred alternative which they feel is best for their community, and options will be formulated to feed back into the model for development of the transportation system. With GVMC Board concurrence the Congestion Management Plan will be implemented in the Long Range Plan. He urged members to communicate with the Technical Committee as preferred alternatives are being selected. Discussion, comments and questions followed. Itani further discussed the Long Range Transportation Plan. He discussed the time lines for Public Involvement, Air Quality Conformity and Environmental Justice. Discussion and comments followed.

V. THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN APPROVAL

Itani gave the committee some background on the Public Involvement Plan. He noted that this plan was modeled after a plan that was developed jointly by the Federal Highway Administration and an MPO located in California, and has been modified to reflect this region's process. Discussion followed. He addressed staff's efforts regarding public assessment, public outreach and public input, as well as time lines that must be accommodated. Itani added that public outreach went out to 450 agencies within the region, and that all the legal requirements of this process have been met.

Rinck entertained a motion to approve of the Public Involvement Plan.

MOTION by Pasquale, SUPPORT by Holtvluwer, to recommend to the GVMC Board approval of the Public Involvement Plan as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. TIP INTERNET MAPPING SERVICE DEMONSTRATION

Bessert of the REGIS Staff gave the committee a demonstration of the TIP Internet Mapping Service. He explained navigation techniques, and demonstrated various ways that tip projects can be accessed. Discussion, comments and questions followed.

Itani explained that this is a first step, and progress continues to be made to incorporate other transportation documents on the website. Discussion and comments followed.

VII. MAJOR CORRIDOR STUDY

Fetzer updated the committee on Tier One of the Major Corridor Study. He noted that the study will move forward upon completion of the Travel Demand Model.

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Itani noted that Snell has completed the Travel Demand Model for Transit, and will be furnishing The Rapid with the CD which contains all required data. Discussion followed.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Itani updated the committee on the reauthorization of TEA21. He also noted that the continuing resolution (Obligation Authority) will expire on November 25th, and the extension on the highway bill itself expires on February 29th, 2004. He explained that the highway reauthorization portion of the bill will go to the Senate and discussed appropriation levels for highways and transit. He anticipates that a fully funded reauthorization bill will happen sometime next year. Discussion followed. Itani commented that the scenario is very optimistic, as there is actually more funding proposed than last year. He also commented that planning funding for MPO's might increase from 1% to 1.5%. He will keep the committee apprised as this moves forward.

The Roadbuilders Association of Michigan approached Stypula to discuss GVMC support for the elimination of the gas tax (from 19 cents to 0), and dropping the Diesel Fuel tax. With voter approval the revenue will be replaced with a 1% increase in the State Sales Tax which would be dedicated to the Michigan Transportation Fund. He recommends that GVMC weigh in on this proposal. Discussion, comments and questions followed.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Rinck entertained a motion to adjourn the Policy Committee Meeting.

MOTION by Hilton, SUPPORT by Swenson, to adjourn the Policy Committee Meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Rinck adjourned the meeting at 10:28 a.m.