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**MINUTES**

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
POLICY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
Kent County Road Commission**

The meeting was called to order by Sheets, Chair of the Policy Committee at 9:35 a.m.

**I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Voting Members Present**

Carol S. Sheets (Chair)		City of Wyoming
Tom Byle	<i>Proxy for Jon Rice</i>	KCRC
Jay Cravens		Cascade Charter Township
Dan DesJarden	<i>Proxy for Dave Pasquale</i>	City of Lowell
Don Hilton, Sr.	<i>Proxy for Supervisor</i>	Gaines Township
Sandra M. Cornell-Howe	<i>Proxy for Dal McBurrows</i>	Byron Township
Jim Koslosky		MDOT
Piotr Lewak	<i>Proxy for Bill Cole</i>	MDOT
Bob Rinck	<i>Proxy for Jim Beelen Bill Wiersma</i>	GRFIA
Robert Swenson		City of Grand Rapids
Jay Van Soestberg		Ottawa County
Keith Van Beek		Allendale Township
Peter Varga		Tallmadge Township
		Cannon Township
		City of Walker
		City of Kentwood
		The Rapid

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Patti Brink	GVMC Staff
Chris Dingman	GVMC Staff
Jim Fetzer	The Rapid
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Lisa Ives	DMJM + Harris
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff
Ed Swanson	GR Chamber of Commerce

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**Voting Members Not Present**

James Beelen  
Marta Brechting  
Bill Cole  
Larry Bruursema  
Bryan RH Chodkowski  
Mike DeVries  
Jeff Dood  
Ken Feldt  
George Meek  
George Haga  
Bryan Harrison  
Hon. Douglas Hoekstra  
William Holland  
Jerry Homminga  
Kenneth J. Kuipers  
Dal McBurrows  
Jim McIntyre  
Jim Miedema  
David Pasquale (Vice-Chair)  
Jon Rice  
Joseph Sierawski  
Don VanDoeselaar  
Vacant  
Bill Wiersma

Allendale Township  
Alpine Township  
City of Grand Rapids  
OCRC  
Village of Sparta  
Grand Rapids Township  
City of Rockford  
City of East Grand Rapids  
Plainfield Township  
Ada Township  
Caledonia Charter Township  
City of Wyoming  
Georgetown Township  
City of Cedar Springs  
Kent County  
MDOT-Lansing  
Courtland Township  
Jamestown Township  
City of Lowell  
KCRC  
City of Grandville  
City of Hudsonville  
Byron Township  
Tallmadge Township

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

As there is no quorum, Sheets noted that this item would be addressed at a later point in the meeting.

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**IV. MAJOR CORRIDOR STUDY**

Fetzer gave some background and history on the Major Corridor Study. He addressed the FTA New Starts Process, and stressed the importance of a good rating from the FTA on the LPA (Locally Preferred Alternative).

Lisa Ives from DMJM +Harris gave the committee a presentation on the Study. She

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explained the purpose of the Study, as well as the key findings that led to the recommendations of Bus Rapid Transit and Streetcar as the preferred alternatives. She stressed that it is important at this point to include the recommendations of the Study in the Long Range Transportation Plan as a placeholder.

Fetzer noted some challenges in the way the transit system is funded. Sheets discussed the possibility that in time the Street Car could be turned into Light Rail. Fetzer commented that any option chosen could be converted to Light Rail or a higher capacity system in the future. The possibility of alignments of corridors and modes was addressed as well. (Fetzer explained how the LPA could be the combination of 2 corridors.)

Varga commented on 3 other corridors that will be considered for future service and will be part of the Rapid's Long Range Plan process. Cravens addressed noise levels during construction and service. Discussion followed. Swanson inquired as to whether the Study took into account change in master land use plans with higher densities. Koslosky noted that long term land use plans were already anticipated in corridor analysis. Discussion followed.

Noting a quorum, Sheets entertained a motion to approve of the GT2 Study as an Illustrative Project in the Long Range Plan.

**MOTION by Koslosky, SUPPORT by Cravens, to recommend to the GVMC Board approval of the inclusion of the GT2 Study as an Illustrative Project in the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan. MOTION CARRIED UNANOMOUSLY.**

Sheets entertained a motion to approve the November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes. She noted that the time the meeting was called to order should be 1:30 p.m.

**MOTION by Rinck, SUPPORT by Varga, to approve of the November 17, 2004 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes with the noted correction. MOTON CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

Dingman updated the committee on the Enhancement Program, and discussed some of the pending projects. He explained that the region's FY2004 Enhancement Projects have not been approved, and that MDOT will be sending correspondence outlining project status to the jurisdictions that have projects. He noted that Staff will work with the jurisdictions to assist in getting the projects funded. Discussion followed.

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**VI. FY2006 SAFETY PROGRAM**

Itani updated the committee on the status of the FY2006 Safety Program. He noted that project descriptions are due by January 24, 2005 for endorsement at the next Technical Committee meeting. Discussion followed.

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Itani noted that the Transportation Programming Committee met on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004 and programmed the FY2006-2008 TIP. He explained why CMAQ and MDOT projects were not approved at that meeting. Discussion and comments followed.

Itani and some committee members discussed the impact of M-6 on traffic patterns, and noted that there is a decrease in truck traffic on other major roads which increases safety. Discussion and comments followed.

Varga distributed copies of the Rapid's Annual Report. Sheets stated that The Rapid has received the Outstanding Public Transportation System for 2004 award. Discussion followed. Sheets discussed the environmentally friendly construction of the Transit Center and the potential for receiving an award next year for this achievement.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Sheets adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

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