

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, February 21st, 2007
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
Rick DeVries	City of Grand Rapids
Ken Feldt	City of East Grand Rapids
Roger Haynes	City of Wyoming
Bill Holland	Georgetown Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Ken Krombeen	City of Grandville
Dal McBurrows	MDOT
Richard Pastoor	City of Wyoming
Jon Rice	KCRC
Darrel Schmalzel	City of Walker
Keith Van Beek	City of Kentwood
Peter Varga (<i>Vice-Chair</i>)	The Rapid

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Patti Brink	GVMC Staff
Chris Dingman	GVMC Staff
Jim Fetzer	The Rapid
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Steve Redmond	MDOT-Grand Region
Norm Sevensma	WMEAC-RWBC

Voting Members Not Present

James Beelen	Allendale Township
Larry Bruursema	Ottawa County
Bryan Chodkowski	Sparta

APPROVED

Jay Cravens
Dick Davies
Mike DeVries
Jeff Dood
George Haga
Bryan Harrison
Don Hilton, Sr.
Jim Koslosky
Jerry Homminga
Dick Johnston
Jim McIntyre
George Meek
Jim Miedema
Audrey Nevins
Sandi Parrish
Don VanDoeselaar
Bill Wiersma

**APPROVED
ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A**

Cascade Charter Township
Cannon Township
Grand Rapids Township
City of Rockford
Ada Township
Caledonia Charter Township
Gaines Township
GRFIA
City of Cedar Springs
City of Rockford
Courtland Township
Plainfield Township
Jamestown Township
Byron Township
Kent County
City of Hudsonville
Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Pasquale entertained a motion to approve of the January 17th, 2007 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes.

MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Rice, to approve of the January 17th, 2007 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. FY2007/2008 TIIP AMENDMENTS/ADJUSTMENTS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A** in the Agenda, Dingman discussed the three TIP Amendments and two Adjustments that necessitate action by the committee. He explained the difference between Amendments and Adjustments. Discussion followed.

Pasquale entertained a motion to approve of the FY2007/2008 TIP Amendments and Adjustments.

MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Haynes, to recommend to the GVMC Board approval of accepting the FY2007/2008 TIP Amendments and Adjustments as identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CONGESTED INTERSECTIONS INFORMATION

Dingman distributed an updated list of congested intersections for the committee to review. He gave some background on how the list was assembled, and noted the

APPROVED

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ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A

deadline for receipt of comments and/or additions to the list. Discussion followed. Fetzner identified an intersection that he believes should be added to the list. Discussion followed. Dingman added that if there are additional intersections that are constrained, to let Staff know as they should be added to the list. Rice inquired as to when completed projects are removed from the list. Itani stated that in keeping with federal regulation and the requirement to address and maintain a Congestion Management System, the projects will remain on the list for monitoring purposes. Also, Staff will be conducting/sponsoring an intersection Study that will reflect improvements and benefits of these projects. The data from the Study will be forwarded to FHWA to be part of a nationwide database that Congress will review as funding is distributed in the future. Discussion followed.

VI. 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN DRAFT

Dingman updated the committee on the progress of the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Draft. He outlined the process, and discussed the time frames for committee input and comment on the Plan. Discussion followed. He also noted the Public Participation Process (which will run concurrently with committee review) and gave the schedule for Public Meetings. Dingman stated that the project list in the Plan is the segment that generates the most comments, and opened the floor for discussions and questions. Itani explained why some projects in the Plan are not funded. Discussion and comments followed.

Sevensma had questions on non-attainment and the use of federal funds, and is concerned that the Plan is geared toward automobiles with little emphasis on other modes of transportation. Staff commented that all modes are addressed in the Plan, and cited reasons/challenges as to why some modes are emphasized more than others. Itani stated that in compliance with federal regulation, there is a reduction in emissions and that air quality has been improved in this region. Sevensma stated that the overall level of pollution and congestion is still bad, and with the emphasis on automobiles not enough will be done to curb warming effects in the future. Discussion, comments, and questions followed. As alternative fuel was discussed, Dingman noted Staff's ongoing efforts to encourage ethanol use in the State. Discussion and comments followed. Varga commented that GVMC should be involved in this debate in the future, however supports maintenance of the road network and the Plan. Discussion followed. Itani stressed that mobility, which includes mass transit and the moving of goods, is a requirement and must be factored in the current and future Plan(s). Discussion and comments followed.

Varga noted that the GVMC Board recommends the BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) project as the locally preferred alternative, and this project must be incorporated in the Long Range Transportation Plan. Discussion followed.

Holtrop inquired as to whether ITS could be utilized to relay information to the driving public. Itani noted that there are a wide range of tools that could be utilized in this effort, and identified some of the current initiatives. Discussion followed.

VII. ENHANCEMENT PROJECT SUPPORT REQUEST

Dingman noted that upon committee approval today, staff has been requested to draft a letter of support for two projects on behalf of the KCRC to be incorporated on the FY2008 Transportation Enhancement Program. He discussed each project with the members.

Pasquale entertained a motion to support the Enhancement Projects as presented by Staff.

Discussion followed. Holland suggested that there be one motion for each project.

Pasquale entertained a motion to recommend support for the Forest Hill/Crahen Trail project to be added to the FY2008 Transportation Enhancement Program.

MOTION by Holland, SUPPORT by Schmalzel, to recommend to the GVMC Board support for adding the Forest Hill/Crahen Trail project to the FY2008 Transportation Enhancement Program project list. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Pasquale entertained a motion to recommend support of the Division Avenue Streetscape project by adding it to the FY2008 Transportation Enhancement Program.

MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Rice, to recommend to the GVMC Board support for adding the Division Avenue Streetscape project the FY2008 Transportation Enhancement Program project list. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VIII: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Itani noted that the By-Laws allow the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Policy Committee to serve two consecutive terms. Pasquale and Varga are both eligible to serve one more term.

Pasquale entertained a Motion to re-elect the current Chair and Vice-Chair of the Policy Committee.

MOTION by Haynes, SUPPORT by VanBeek, to to nominate and re-elect Dave Pasquale as Chair and Peter Varga as Co-Chair of the Policy Committee for a second term. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

IX: OTHER BUSINESS

Itani updated the committee on Congress's recent resolution to fund the rest of FY2007. Discussion followed.

Itani updated the committee on the status of funding on the State level. He noted a proposed reduction of EDFC funds by 13 million which will impact this area.

Rice suggested proposing a motion to the GVMC Board opposing this reduction. Discussion followed.

MOTION by Rice, SUPPORT by Haynes, to recommend that the GVMC Board approval of proposing a Resolution to oppose the reduction of EDFC Funding as recommended in the Governor's Budget. MOTION CARRIED.

McBurrows abstained.

Itani updated the committee on the status of the Pavement Management System. He noted that the Federal Aid System is completed, and gave a time line as to when the local system will be completed as well. He stated that GIS is now associated with the local system.

Dingman noted that there will be a letter sent to begin the Call for Projects for the FY2008-2011 TIP. This will be coordinated with pavement data and will reflect eligible roadways for pavement projects. A meeting will be scheduled in mid March to begin programming the TIP.

McBurrows updated the committee on MDOT's uniform TIP/STIP data final format which is being reviewed by FHWA and the MPO's. This will hopefully be ready by March 1st. He also noted that final regulations for SAFETEA-LU for Statewide and Metropolitan Planning has been released

Redmond distributed the Grand Region's FY2007 construction map.

X: ADJOURNMENT

Pasquale entertained a motion to adjourn the Policy Committee meeting.

MOTION by Holland, SUPPORT by Pastoor, to adjourn the Policy Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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