

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, March 18, 2009
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Varga, Chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. Ecklund introduced himself to the Committee and stated that he was attending on behalf of Koslosky. Rubley also introduced himself to the Committee and stated that he was attending on behalf of Bruursema.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**Voting Members Present**

Peter Varga	<i>(Chair)</i>	The Rapid
Alex Arends		Alpine Township
Pat Bush		City of Grand Rapids
Rick DeVries	<i>Proxy for Mark DeClercq</i>	City of Grand Rapids
		City of Grand Rapids
Jeff Dood		City of Rockford
Tom Ecklund	<i>Proxy for Jim Koslosky</i>	GRFIA
		GRFIA
Ken Feldt		City of East Grand Rapids
Jim Holtrop	<i>Proxy for Don VanDoeselaar</i>	Ottawa County
		City of Hudsonville
Rich Houtteman		City of Kentwood
Ken Krombeen		City of Grandville
Dal McBurrows		MDOT
Rich Pastoor		City of Wyoming
Steve Peterson		Cascade Township
Chuck Porter		Courtland Township
Jon Rice	<i>Proxy for Bob Homan</i>	KCRC
		Plainfield Township
Kent Rubley	<i>Proxy for Larry Bruursema</i>	OCRC
		OCRC
Darrel Schmalzel		City of Walker

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Dewey	GVMC Staff
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Andy Johnston	GR Chamber of Commerce
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Erick Kind	MDOT
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Norm Sevensma	WMEAC-RWBC

Jim Snell
Don Stypula
Steve Waalkes
Steve Warren
George Yang
Mike Zonyk

GVMC Staff
GVMC Staff
Michigan Concrete Association
KCRC
GVMC Staff
GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema
Larry Bruursema
Christine Burns
Dick Davies
Mark DeClercq
Sharon DeLange
Mike DeVries
George Haga
Bryan Harrison
Don Hilton, Sr.
Dennis Hoemke
Bob Homan
Jim Koslosky
Jim Miedema
Dale Mohr
Audrey Nevins
Sandi Frost Parrish
David Pasquale
Jack Poll
Don VanDoeselaar
Toby VanEss

Allendale Township
OCRC
City of Cedar Springs
Cannon Township
City of Grand Rapids
Village of Sparta
Grand Rapids Township
Ada Township
Caledonia Charter Township
Gaines Township
Algoma Township
Plainfield Township
GRFIA
Jamestown Township
Georgetown Township
Byron Township
Kent County Commissioner
City of Lowell
City of Wyoming
City of Hudsonville
Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Varga entertained a motion to approve of the February 18, 2009 Policy Committee meeting minutes.

MOTION by Krombeen, SUPPORT by Rice, to approve of the February 18, 2009 Policy Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sevensma stated that he had recently seen an article about a privately funded light rail named the Silver Line and asked the Committee if they had any additional information about the project. Varga responded that the Silver Line is the Rapid's trademarked Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, but that he had heard rumors about a privately-funded light rail.

Itani added that this policy meeting also served as an open public meeting for the amendment to the Long Range Transportation Plan due to MDOT's 1-196 project. Varga asked if anyone wished to speak on this topic. Being that no comments were made, Varga entertained a motion to close the public comment period for the Long Range

Transportation Plan amendment.

MOTION by Holtrop, SUPPORT by Porter, to close the public comment period for the amendment to the Long Range Transportation Plan. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) AMENDMENT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Speaking on **Item IV: Attachment A**, Dewey updated the Committee regarding the public involvement effort for the 2035 LRTP amendment and the Air Quality Conformity Analysis as a result of the ARRA MDOT transportation project on 1-196 from US131/Grand River to Fuller Avenue. She stated that while the 1-196 project currently appears in the LRTP between FY2019-2025, it will need to be obligated for FY2009. Because the project moves in time so drastically, it requires an amendment to the LRTP and a reassessment of air quality.

To encourage public involvement in the amendment process, Dewey stated that Staff advertised in the Grand Rapids Press on Thursday, February 26 that the Air Quality Conformity Analysis is available on GVMC's web site. This same ad notified the public of how to submit comments and let them know of two opportunities to submit comments in person— at the Wednesday, March 11 public meeting for the TIP amendments and at the current Policy Committee meeting. Staff also mailed notice of the Air Quality Conformity Analysis and LRTP amendment to GVMC's Public Involvement/Consultation list. Dewey stated that only one comment was received regarding the LRTP amendment and provided a copy of that comment. Discussion ensued.

V. 2008-2011 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Dewey updated the Committee on the public involvement effort for the 2008-2011 TIP amendment as a result of the ARRA transportation projects. She stated that committee members had submitted approximately \$40 million worth of projects to Staff with the intention that these projects may be funded as part of the economic stimulus. The Committee refined this list to approximately \$13.1 million worth of projects to be funded with federal stimulus money. The remaining projects were compiled into an illustrative list. Should funding become available, the remaining projects could be added to the refined list. All projects funded with federal stimulus funds must be amended into the FY2008-2011 TIP, and therefore, the projects submitted needed to be taken through the MPO's public involvement and environmental justice processes, per federal law.

The unrefined list of projects is now available on GVMC's web site and those citizens in Environmental Justice areas that may have transportation projects nearby have been sent notice. Those interested in submitting comments were welcomed to contact GVMC by mail, phone, or fax, or to attend the public meeting on Wednesday, March 11 from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm at the Wyoming Public Library. Dewey provided the Committee with copies of the 15 comments received, along with staff responses, and expressed her thanks to the City of Wyoming for allowing the meeting to be held in their library. Discussion ensued. Varga asked Pastoor to express the Committee's thanks to the City of Wyoming for hosting the Public Meeting.

VI. AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS

Speaking on **Item VI: Attachment A**, Itani again referenced the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) I-196 from US131/Grand River to Fuller Avenue project. He stated that because this project includes a significant capacity increase and will be moving to FY2009 from FY2019-2025 in the Long Range Transportation Plan, there was a potential impact on area air quality. Therefore, a reassessment of air quality conformity was required. Referring to an agenda attachment that included the air quality conformity data, Itani stated that the results of the air quality conformity report for the changes to the 2035 LRTP as a result of the proposed MDOT project on I-196 showed no negative impacts and that the project would result in a savings of emissions.

Varga entertained a motion to approve the air quality conformity analysis results.

MOTION by Bush, SUPPORT by Schmalzel, to approve the air quality conformity results for the changes to the 2035 LRTP as a result of the proposed MDOT project on I-196. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VII. FY2008-2011 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT

Referring to **Item VII: Attachment A**, Robinson asked the Committee to approve an amendment to the FY2008-2011 TIP for the inclusion of projects selected as a result of the ARRA. The list contained the first priority local projects, MDOT projects, and rural projects, as well as ITP The Rapid's projects, the 5,000 to 50,000 group of projects, the remainder of the submitted projects, and the enhancement projects that are the MPO's first priority for enhancement ARRA funds. Itani clarified that the Metro Council Board has given the Policy Committee the authority to approve the list of stimulus projects; however, the Committee does not have the authority to approve amendments to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Therefore, Itani requested that the Committee first approve the economic stimulus project list without the inclusion of MDOT's I-196 project from US131/Grand River to Fuller Avenue.

Referring to an additional handout, Robinson stated that the Committee can approve the entire economic stimulus list with the exception of MDOT's I-196 project. Itani stated that since the last Policy Committee meeting, the economic stimulus project list has grown. He stated that the John J. Oostema Blvd. project was taken off the list, since it received different funding, and that MDOT had moved its ITS project to the B list. To replace this project, MDOT added in several new projects. Discussion ensued.

Varga entertained a motion to approve the Economic Stimulus Project List, with the exclusion of MDOT's I-196 project.

MOTION by Pastoor, SUPPORT by Rice, to approve an amendment of the FY2008-2011 TIP to include both local and MDOT stimulus projects, excluding the MDOT project on I-196 from US131/Grand River to Fuller Avenue.

Discussion ensued. Itani stated that GVMC is very happy with the outcome of this list. Rubley noted that the Byron Road project was only a mile in length and asked that this be reflected in the spreadsheet. Ecklund commented on the John J. Oostema Blvd. project and stated his concern that \$800,000 would not be enough funding to complete

the project. Kent added that the \$800,000 for this project was capped at \$800,000. He stated that if additional funds were needed they'd have to come from a different source

Varga returned the motion in question to the floor. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VIII. 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) AMENDMENT

Speaking on **Item VIII: Attachment A** and a handout, Dewey referred once again to MDOT's expand/improve project on I-196 from US131/Grand River to Fuller Avenue. She stated that because the project is moving forward in time to FY2009 from fiscal years 2019-2025 of the LRTP, an amendment to the LRTP is required. The significant timeframe change for project completion has a potential impact on area air quality and therefore requires a reassessment of air quality. Dewey stated that the Air Quality Conformity Analysis had been conducted, with no negative impact reported, for the changes to the 2035 LRTP as a result of the proposed MDOT project on I-196. She continued that the public involvement process had already begun and concluded at the current Policy Committee meeting. She requested that the Policy Committee recommend an amendment of the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan to Metro Council to move the MDOT I-196 project from the outer years of the LRTP (2019-2025) to fiscal year 2009 as a result of the ARRA.

Varga entertained a motion to recommend an amendment of the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan to Metro Council.

MOTION by Arends, SUPPORT by DOOD, to recommend an amendment of the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan to Metro Council to move the MDOT I-196 project from the outer years of the LRTP (2019-2025) to fiscal year 2009 as a result of the ARRA.

Varga noted a change to the transit projects listed. Porter asked if there were any plans to add a lane to US131. Kent stated that the project is on MDOT's radar, but that the needs of the system go beyond available funding. Discussion ensued.

Varga returned the motion in question to the floor. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IX. 2008-2011 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT

Speaking on **Item IX: Attachment A**, Robinson requested the Policy Committee recommend an amendment of the 2008-2011 TIP to Metro Council to add the MDOT project on I-196 from the Grand River/US131 to Fuller to the TIP.

Varga entertained a motion to recommend to Metro Council an amendment of the FY2008-2011 TIP.

MOTION by Rice, SUPPORT by Bush, to recommend an amendment of the FY2008-2011 TIP to Metro Council to add the MDOT project on I-196 from the Grand River/US 131 to Fuller to the TIP. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

X. FY2010-2011 SAFETY PROJECT ENDORSEMENT

Speaking on **Item X: Attachment A**, Robinson requested that the Policy Committee

endorse the list of submitted FY2010 and FY2011 Safety and High Risk Rural Road Program Projects. He stated that the Technical Committee had already endorsed the list and that it contains several more projects than will be ultimately selected by MDOT. Projects selected by MDOT will be amended into the TIP at a later date. Varga clarified that the list was not prioritized.

Varga entertained a motion to endorse the list of submitted FY2010 and FY2011 Safety Projects.

MOTION by Pastoor, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to endorse the FY2010 and FY2011 Safety Projects list submitted by local jurisdictions. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Kent stated that there was one additional item that he needed to take before the Committee for action. He said that in the current TIP, there was a bridge replacement project on M-21 in the City of Lowell for FY2010. MDOT is requesting to add \$110,000 to the FY2009 TIP for detour work associated with the project.

Varga entertained a motion to amend the FY2009 TIP to account for this additional funding.

MOTION by Rubley, SUPPORT by Pastoor, to amend the FY2009 TIP to include \$110,000 for detour work associated with the City of Lowell's M-21 bridge replacement project. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Stypula thanked the Committee, MDOT, and Staff for their work and provided the Committee with an update on the future of transportation funding. He stated that bills will be introduced shortly in the Michigan House of Representatives to implement some of the suggestions from the TF2 task force.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Varga entertained a motion to adjourn the March 18, 2009 Policy Committee Meeting.

MOTION by Pastoor, SUPPORT by Bush, to adjourn the March 18, 2009 Policy Committee Meeting at 10:25 am. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.