

**MINUTES**

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
POLICY COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007  
Kent County Road Commission  
1500 Scribner NW      Grand Rapids, MI**

Varga, Vice-Chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

**I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Voting Members Present**

Peter Varga	<i>(Vice-Chair)</i>	The Rapid
Marta Brechting		Alpine Township
Pat Bush		City of Grand Rapids
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Wayne Harrall	<i>Proxy for Jon Rice</i>	Kent County
		KCRC
Don Hilton, Sr.		Gaines Township
Jim Holtrop		Ottawa County
Jim Koslosky		GRFIA
Ken Krombeen		City of Grandville
Dal McBurrows		MDOT
Richard Pastoor		City of Wyoming
Joe VanderMeulen	<i>Proxy for Jeff Dood</i>	City of Rockford

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Patti Brink	GVMC Staff
Chris Dingman	GVMC Staff
Jim Fetzer	The Rapid
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Norm Sevensma	WMEAC-RWBC

**Voting Members Not Present**

James Beelen	Allendale Township
Larry Bruursema	Ottawa County
Bryan Chodkowski	Sparta
Jay Cravens	Cascade Charter Township
Dick Davies	Cannon Township
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township

**DRAFT**

Jeff Dood  
Ken Feldt  
George Haga  
Bryan Harrison  
Roger Haynes  
Bill Holland  
Jerry Homminga  
Jim McIntyre  
George Meek  
Jim Miedema  
Audrey Nevins  
Sandi Parrish  
Dave Pasquale, (*Chair*)  
Jon Rice  
Darrel Schmalzel  
Keith Van Beek  
Don VanDoeselaar  
Bill Wiersma

**DRAFT  
ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A**

City of Rockford  
City of East Grand Rapids  
Ada Township  
Caledonia Charter Township  
City of Wyoming  
Georgetown Township  
City of Cedar Springs  
Courtland Township  
Plainfield Township  
Jamestown Township  
Byron Township  
Kent County  
City of Lowell  
KCRC  
City of Walker  
City of Kentwood  
City of Hudsonville  
Tallmadge Township

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Varga entertained a motion to approve the February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION by Holtrop, SUPPORT by Koslosky, to approve of the February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**IV. FY2007/2008 TIP AMENDMENT**

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A** in the Agenda, Dingman discussed projects from the City of East Grand Rapids, the Kent County Road Commission and MDOT to be amended into the FY2007/2008 TIP. He noted that this was approved by the Technical Committee. Discussion followed.

Varga entertained a motion to amend the FY2007/2008 TIP to include the projects as identified by Staff.

**MOTION by Pastoor, SUPPORT by Brechting, to recommend to the GVMC Board approval of amending the FY2007/2008 TIP to include projects by the City of East Grand Rapids, MDOT, and the KCRC as identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. CMAQ 2007 TIP AMENDMENT

Dingman stated that a letter from FHWA confirms that eligibility determination for these projects is complete and the projects can be amended into the TIP for obligation this fiscal year.

Varga entertained a motion to approve the FY2007 TIP Project list as presented by Staff.

**MOTION by Bush, SUPPORT by Krombeen, to recommend to the GVMC Board approval of amending the FY2007 TIP to include the FY2007 CMAQ Project list as identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI. CMAQ 2008-2009 PROJECT LIST

Referring to **Item VI: Attachment A**, Dingman discussed the process by which the projects were chosen. He discussed the time line for eligibility determination.

Varga entertained a motion to approve of accepting the CMAQ 2008-2009 project lists as identified by Staff.

**MOTION by Koslosky, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to recommend to the GVMC Board approval of accepting the CMAQ 2008-2009 Project list as identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VII. 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Dingman noted that the Public Comment Period for the Plan ends today, and gave the committee the time line for final approval of the Plan. Upon approval by the GVMC Board, he identified the sources by which the Plan can be accessed (i.e. Web, CD, etc). With new regulations by FHWA, Itani discussed the tight approval schedule, and that the FY2008-2011 TIP cannot be developed without a SAFETEA-LU compliant plan. Discussion followed. Sevensma expressed his concerns that the Plan has a heavy emphasis on cars and SOV's (single occupancy vehicles) and believes that a Travel Demand Study should be conducted for those who do not have cars. Discussion and comments followed. Looking toward the future, it was noted that the Plan can be changed over time.

Varga entertained a motion to approve the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Draft.

**MOTION by Bush, SUPPORT by Pastoor, to recommend to the GVMC Board approval of the the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Draft as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**VIII: ITP MAJOR INVESTMENT STUDY STATUS REPORT**

Fetzer gave a Power Point presentation on ITP's Major Investment Study. He gave a historical overview of the GT2 Study, Corridors and Process by which this alternative was selected. He noted the benefits of BRT as the preferred alternative. Via a hand-out, he discussed the targeted funding source "Very Small Starts" and discussed the criteria required to obtain this funding. He also discussed cost estimates and funding for this project. He stated that ITP is requesting approval of the project to be included in the Long Range Plan, and that it is the locally preferred alternative for this area. Discussion, comments and questions followed.

As times are changing, Koslosky stressed that a regional mass transit system should be looked at by this community. He discussed some of the challenges encountered in meeting federal requirements. He is hopeful that Very Early Starts Funding will provide additional funding opportunities. He believes that this mode has the ability to evolve, and depending on its success opens doors for the system to grow. He commended ITP for all their hard work and effort. He will make the motion to support this project.

Varga entertained a motion to approve of a resolution of support and approval of including Bus Rapid Transit as the preferred alternative, and to include this project in the LRP as Illustrative.

**MOTION by Koslosky, SUPPORT by Krombeen, to recommend to the GVMC Board approval of a Resolution of Support of Bus Rapid Transit as the Preferred Alternative. Also, to recommend approval of including Bus Rapid Transit in the Long Range Transportation Plan as an Illustrative Project.**

As discussion continued, Varga gave the committee some additional background on this project. Discussion followed. He noted a delay in the Small Starts Funding as it is not currently in the reauthorization bill. He also discussed budget issues/possibilities at the State level as well. Discussion followed. The potential for local funding was addressed also.

Hilton had questions on plans for Park and Ride, bike racks and future extensions. Discussion followed. Varga noted that future extensions will be proposed once the project gets rolling. He also noted that with the evolution of bus size, bikes could be stored inside. Varga also discussed funding on the capital side and operating side, and stated that there will be no funding agreement from the feds until the local financial plan is approved. Discussion followed. He confirmed that the State legislature has approved that local financing efforts can be done over a longer period of time. Discussion followed.

Varga called to question the motion on the floor. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**IX: OTHER BUSINESS**

McBurrows reported that MDOT and FHWA conducted the pre fiscal year FY2008 Unified Work Program Meeting. He stated that the meeting went very well, and added that GVMC is leading in some areas.

Koslosky gave the committee a status report and time line on the construction plans for the airport's terminal area.

Discussion ensued regarding bus transportation to the airport. Sevensma is concerned that there are too many connections/transfers to take to get to the airport. Discussion followed. Koslosky identified other options, i.e. taxi and/or Air Porter. Varga described a service called "County Connection" as another alternative for transportation to the airport. Varga commented positively on GRFIA.

**X: ADJOURNMENT**

Varga entertained a motion to adjourn the Policy Committee meeting.

**MOTION by Pastoor, SUPPORT by Hilton, to adjourn the Policy Committee meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.