

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, April 21, 2010
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Koslosky, Chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Jim Koslosky (<i>Chair</i>)		GRFIA
Jerry Alkema		Allendale Township
Alex Arends		Alpine Township
Larry Bruursema		OCRC
Dan Carlton		Georgetown Township
Sandra M. Cornell-Howe	<i>Proxy for Dal McBurrows</i>	MDOT
		MDOT
Mark DeClercq		City of Grand Rapids
Eric DeLong		City of Grand Rapids
Mike DeVries		Grand Rapids Township
Jeff Dood		City of Rockford
Rich Houtteman		City of Kentwood
Ken Krombeen		City of Grandville
David Pasquale		City of Lowell
Rich Pastoor		City of Wyoming
Steve Peterson		Cascade Township
Jon Rice	<i>Proxy for Dick Bulkowski</i>	KCRC
		Kent County Commissioner
Darrel Schmalzel		City of Walker
Don VanDoeselaar		City of Hudsonville
Peter Varga		The Rapid

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Steve Besser	Plainfield Twp Resident
Scott Conners	City of Walker
Andrea Dewey	GVMC Staff
Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Tim Rau	Belmont Avenue Resident
Steve Redmond	MDOT
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Norm Sevensma	WMEAC-RWBC
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff
Don Stypula	GVMC Staff
Steve Warren	KCRC

APPROVED

George Yang
Mike Zonyk

Voting Members Not Present

Dick Bulkowski
Christine Burns
Dick Davies
Sharon DeLange
Ken Feldt
George Haga
Bryan Harrison
Don R. Hilton, Sr.
Dennis Hoemke
Jim Holtrop
Bob Homan
Dal McBurrows
Jim Miedema
Audrey Nevins
Jack Poll
Chuck Porter
Toby VanEss

APPROVED
ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A

GVMC Staff
GVMC Staff

Kent County Commissioner
City of Cedar Springs
Cannon Township
Village of Sparta
City of East Grand Rapids
Ada Township
Caledonia Charter Township
Gaines Township
Algoma Township
Ottawa County
Plainfield Township
MDOT
Jamestown Township
Byron Township
City of Wyoming
Courtland Township
Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Koslosky entertained a motion to approve of the March 17, 2010 Policy Committee minutes.

MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Bruursema, to approve of the March 17, 2010 Policy Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sevensma commented on the sidewalk going in along 28th Street.

Besser, who lives in Plainfield Township, stated several concerns to the Committee regarding the Belmont Avenue project. These concerns included communication problems between the citizens of Belmont, the KCRC, and Plainfield Township; the accuracy of the traffic count numbers for the road; the safety of children crossing the road to attend school; the project's effect on property values; and the legitimacy of the project, among others.

Rau, who lives on Belmont, also questioned the safety of the project. He stated that the studies he had read indicated that widening the road would jeopardize safety. He submitted two such studies: "Improving Traffic Safety: Reducing Deaths and Injuries through Safer Streets" and "Appendix B: Design for Safe Streets" from the Dane County Model TND Ordinance to support his argument. Rau stated that he would like the residents of Belmont and the KCRC to work together as a group to address the safety issues regarding this project.

IV. FY2008-2011 TIP AMENDMENTS

Speaking on **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson informed the Committee that MDOT was requesting to increase the amount of funding on the trunkline bridge rehabilitation project on US-131 under 32nd Street from \$202,000 to \$581,000. Redmond provided additional information about this project. Discussion ensued.

Koslosky entertained a motion to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP, as identified.

MOTION by DeVries, SUPPORT by Alkema, to recommend to the Metro Council Board amending the FY2008-2011 TIP to increase the amount of funding on MDOT's trunkline bridge rehabilitation project on US 131 under 32nd Street from \$202,000 to \$581,000. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Robinson continued, referring to an additional handout. He stated that a meeting of the TPSG committee was recently held in order to reprogram approximately \$370,807 in STP-Urban funding that was available due to bid savings on a City of East Grand Rapids project. During the TPSG meeting, the Committee decided to allocate funding to the City of Hudsonville's 36th Avenue project for \$110,466 in federal funds, to increase the funding of the KCRC's Pettis Avenue from Honey Creek to M-21 project by \$31,352 in federal funds, and to increase the federal funding of the OCRC 's 8th Avenue from M-45 to Ironwood Dr project by \$228,989 in federal funds .

Koslosky entertained a motion to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP to include the changes identified by Robinson.

MOTION by Bruursema, SUPPORT by Peterson, to recommend to the Metro Council Board amending the FY2008-2011 TIP to include the City of Hudsonville's 36th Avenue project for \$110,466 in federal funds, as well as \$31,352 in additional federal funds for the Pettis Avenue project, with \$228,989 to go to the OCRC for their 8th Avenue project. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) PROCESS UPDATE

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Dewey explained that, at the March Policy meeting, the Committee had conditionally approved a refinement to the project selection process aspect of the LRTP. Based on the feedback she received during the meeting, Dewey revised the process diagram and included it with the agenda packet. Dewey also explained that under a conditionally approved process for developing and selecting projects for the LRTP, the Policy Committee would be responsible for producing and approving regional MPO goals. The Technical Committee would revise and approve the Policies and Practices of the LRTP document, creating a framework for assessing needs that will guide subcommittee need prioritization. In order to address the many modes of transportation, six subcommittees, using information about transportation needs and analysis tools developed by staff, would prioritize system needs and prepare cost estimates for presentation to the Policy Committee. Some of these subcommittees already exist, and some would need to be developed. The Policy Committee would, with this information, develop an investment strategy for the transportation system. The Technical Committee, using the Policy Committee's investment strategy and the prioritized needs by subcommittee, would select projects for inclusion in the LRTP. The subcommittees would be notified of the Technical Committee project selections and the

Technical Committee would then pass the project list onto the Policy Committee for final review and approval. Itani provided additional information and clarification.

DeLong suggested that the appointing of members to the ad hoc committees be very strategic to ensure there is varied representation. Itani added that the intent is to have as much participation as possible. Rice questioned if this new process was a form of suballocation, and stated that projects should stand on their own merit. He also added that the Technical Committee should be involved in this discussion. Itani addressed Rice's comments and explained that the process is not the form of suballocation by jurisdiction that is disallowed by the federal government, but that this process assures attention to each mode of transportation, which is a federal requirement of the MPO. Itani also explained that the Technical Committee would be provided with updates concerning the process for developing and selecting projects for the LRTP; however the process itself is the discretion of the Policy Committee. Discussion, comments, and questions ensued.

VI. 2035 LRTP GOALS AND OBJECTIVES APPROVAL

Speaking on **Item VI: Attachment A**, Dewey provided an overview of the goals and objectives for the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). She explained that, along with consideration of the SAFETEA-LU transportation planning factors, the 9 goals and objectives have been modified and are now more simple, specific, and measurable. Dewey requested the Committee's approval of the revised LRTP goals and objectives, and stated that the performance measures of the goals and objectives are informational, pending the approval of the Technical Committee.

Koslosky entertained a motion to approve of the revised Long Range Transportation Plan goals and objectives.

MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Pastoor, to approve the revised Long Range Transportation Plan Goals and Objectives, as identified by GVMC Staff.

DeLong commented that the individual evaluation criteria could be turned into targets and provided examples of how this could be done. Varga discussed the connection between land use and transportation planning, and the importance of master plans and form based codes in managing growth. Rice recommended that goals 1, 5, and 7 be condensed into one goal, and that the Technical Committee review the LRTP revised goals and objectives before Policy officially approves them. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

DeLong suggested that the original motion be revised, and it was revised as follows:

MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Pastoor, to conditionally approve the revised Long Range Transportation Plan goals and objectives, subject to the review of the Technical Committee, with a report on this matter to be brought to the Policy Committee at the May meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Itani provided details regarding an upcoming latent demand transit study. A meeting regarding this will be held the second week of May. He also added that GVMC is

beginning to develop the FY2011 UPWP soon.

Varga added that the draft transit master plan should be approved by ITP's board in May.

Faber asked interested Committee members to sign up to host the Clean Air Action display at their jurisdictions.

Koslosky encouraged the Committee to continue to actively participate in meetings.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Koslosky adjourned the April 21, 2010 Policy Committee meeting at 10:49 am.