

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, May 19th, 2004
Kent County Road Commission**

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

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Carol S. Sheets (Chair)	City of Wyoming
Larry Bruursema	OCRC
Ken Feldt	City of East Grand Rapids
Cindy Heinbeck	Alpine Township
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Jim Holtvluwer	Georgetown Township
Jim Koslosky	GRFIA
Kenneth J. Kuipers	Kent County
Peter Lewak <i>Proxy for Bill Cole</i>	City of Grand Rapids
Dal McBurrows	MDOT-Lansing
David Pasquale	City of Lowell
Jon Rice	KCRC
Bob Rinck <i>Proxy for</i>	Ottawa County
<i>James Beelen &</i>	Allendale Township
<i>Bill Wiersma</i>	Tallmadge Township
Robert Swenson	Cannon Township
Jay VanSoestberg	City of Walker
Peter Varga	The Rapid

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Patti Brink	GVMC Staff
Jim Fetzer	The Rapid
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	MDOT – GR
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Norm Sevensma	WMEAC-RWBC
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff

APPROVED

Don Stypula
Steve Warren

APPROVED

GVMC Staff
Kent County Road Commission

Voting Members Not Present

James Beelen
Bryan RH Chodkowski
Bill Cole
Jeff Dood
Jay Cravens
Mike DeVries
Dave Groenleer
George Haga
Bryan Harrison
Hon. Douglas Hoekstra
Jerry Homminga
Jim McIntyre
Jim Miedema
Joseph Sierawski
Larry Silvernail
Keith Van Beek
Don VanDoeselaar
Bill Wiersma

Allendale Township
Village of Sparta
City of Grand Rapids
City of Rockford
Cascade Charter Township
Grand Rapids Township
Plainfield Township
Ada Township
Caledonia Charter Township
City of Wyoming
City of Cedar Springs
Courtland Township
Jamestown Township
City of Grandville
Byron Township
City of Kentwood
City of Hudsonville
Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

With no comments or corrections, Sheets stated that the March 17th, 2004 Joint Technical and Policy Committee Meeting Minutes are accepted as read and approved.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Kuipers inquired as to which entity has the technical ability to control the sequence of traffic lights where multiple jurisdictions are impacted, such as Division Avenue. He also addressed concerns with air quality emissions and gas prices relative to this matter. Lewak noted that the City of Grand Rapids controls the signal system metro-wide, and will forward this comment to the City's Traffic Safety Engineer. Discussion and comments followed. Sheets requested that Lewak provide the Committee with a brief report on this subject at next month's Policy Committee meeting. Itani noted that once the bill is passed, there is 13 ½ million federal dollars earmarked for this MPO which will be used to improve these and other types of issues. Discussion followed. Snell noted that an ITS Study will be taking place in September, and the progression for intersection and corridors will be addressed in that Study. Varga explained the ways that transit is

APPROVED

impacted by this issue as well. Discussion followed. Itani acknowledged that there are different philosophies on how to time signals. He commented on the combined efforts of this MPO, MDOT and The Rapid in working together to address Safety and other matters.

Koslosky suggested informing the public that this region is working closely together for the enhancement of the system. He also suggested that the ITS Study and transit frequencies be tied in with this effort as well. Discussion followed.

IV. POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR PROGRAMMING PROJECTS

Referring to Item **IV: Attachment A** in the Agenda packet, Robinson noted that the 2 unresolved issues in this document are Funding Sidewalks and Condition Deficient Project Eligibility.

As Dingman updated the committee on the status of Funding Sidewalks, he distributed a hand-out that addresses questions regarding the use of federal funds for non-motorized facility development. He will be meeting with each jurisdiction to review their policies on sidewalks and non-motorized matters. He also noted that there is a question as to whether Act 51 dollars can be used for sidewalks on State facilities. Kent commented on MDOT's perspective. Discussion followed. Sevensma suggested that road construction projects include a 10 foot width to incorporate pedestrian and non-motorized facilities. Itani noted that these projects are only eligible when Safety is involved. Discussion followed.

Dingman will distribute at the next meeting a regional map which shows sidewalk and multi use facilities , and then a decision can be made by the committee as to what is a priority for the region. He stated that funding sources on an area wide basis will be identified as well. He stressed that at this time there is no MPO in Michigan using federal funds for sidewalks. Discussion followed. The use of Enhancement Funds and CMAQ funds for the non-motorized system were addressed by some members and staff. Discussion followed. Varga addressed The Rapid's perspective on the importance of sidewalks and their impact on safety. Dingman noted that transit routes will be identified which will help facilitate movement. Heinbeck discussed sidewalk replacement and widening projects. Kent clarified that sidewalks will be replaced if part of the project. Discussion followed.

Dingman noted that the current process will be used to identify projects for the future, and this committee will coordinate and allocate funds accordingly. Itani clarified that this is a funding issue and a policy decision and cautioned that if sidewalks are funded there will not be enough dollars for resurfacing. Discussion followed.

Hilton noted that the public would like trails to be looked at more seriously. Discussion

APPROVED
followed.

Robinson updated the committee on the second unresolved issue, Condition Deficient Project Eligibility. He noted that we are still working with the consultant, and once the analysis is completed this committee can make an informed decision.

Referring to page 4 and 5 on the attachment, Itani stated this item (Condition Deficient Project Eligibility) has not been discussed at the TIP Committee level, and at this point is a suggestion by Staff and not a policy. Rice expressed concerns with the match ratio. Discussion followed.

V. REVIEW OF FY2004 TIP PROJECTS

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A** in the Agenda packet, Robinson noted 3 projects that have not been submitted to MDOT due to changes at the last minute. Feldt noted that one of these projects, the East Grand Rapids project (Lake Drive, Plymouth to Bagley) has not been submitted. As all projects in the state are competing for obligation authority, Staff urged Feldt and others to submit projects expeditiously. Rice commented that if we are going to lose obligation authority, another project should be moved up quickly. Discussion and comments followed.

VI. FY2005 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Itani discussed the areas of focus in the FY2005 Unified Planning Work Program, including the Transit/Mode Split Model, The City of Walker/Alpine/Kent County Road Commission Corridor Study, and the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Study. He also noted that MDOT is the same as last year plus 2%. Discussion, comments and questions followed.

McBurrows commented positively on the status of the 2004 program in this region.

Dingman discussed 2 non-motorized projects M-6 Trail, and a regional trail connector project (Muskatawa and White Pine Trail) that will receive federal funds.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Itani updated the committee on the reauthorization of TEA21. He noted that an extension has been obtained until June 30th, 2004, and anticipates that another extension will be passed as well. Discussion followed.

Koslosky announced the recent passage of the Air Bill. He discussed the benefits of staying the course even as it takes a long time for a bill to pass.

APPROVED

Stypula handed out for the committee's review and input a GVMC recommendation in Opposition of SB1147 and HB5762. Itani explained that if passed the local involvement will no longer be included in the selection process, and the approval process will be prolonged. Rice commented that MDOT's 5 year plan is affected, and not this region's projects. Discussion followed. Koslosky inquired as to whether this is non compliant with federal law. Itani noted that FHWA has been sent a clarification request. As Stypula gave background on how the origins of this issue, he urged the members to contact their legislators right away in opposition of these bills.

Sheets stated upon review by the jurisdictions a resolution could be drafted and taken to the Executive Committee. Discussion followed.

MOTION by Rice to recommend to the GVMC Board support of a joint resolution that this MPO and SEMCOG are in opposition to SB 1147 and HB 5762.

Discussion continued. Sheets requested support for the motion.

MOTION by Rice, SUPPORT by Koslosky, to recommend to the GVMC Board approval of supporting a joint resolution that this MPO and SEMCOG are in opposition to SB 1147 and HB 5762. MOTION CARRIED.

McBurrows abstained. Kent noted that he is a non voting member of the Policy Committee.

Robinson informed the committee that the FY2003 Traffic Count books are available, and can also be accessed on the web. He requested that all traffic counts be forwarded to staff.

Robinson discussed Illustrative Projects, and with the completion of the Long Range Plan and TEA 21 it is a good time to submit FY2005 projects. Discussion followed.

Via a hand-out, Christensen briefed the committee on the FY2004 Ozone Action! Season. She also noted the milestones of the program.

Christensen requested that construction projects be forwarded to staff for inclusion in the Advance Newspaper.

Christensen discussed possible celebration initiatives for the 20 year anniversary of the Pere Marquette. She is currently working with Westrain to plan an event, and will keep the committee apprised of the progress.

APPROVED

APPROVED

Snell distributed a map depicting the Kent and Ottawa County National Functional Class network, and requested that upon review each jurisdiction furnish Staff with updates and changes. He noted that new thresholds are needed according to federal guidelines. Staff will be gathering comments to submit to the technical representatives in each jurisdiction. Warren requested that the KCRC be copied on any of the townships comments.

Koslosky commented that business at the GRFIA is up 10% in traffic, which is well above the national norm. He stated that they are working in a collaborative fashion with the coalition community and are looking at enhancing air service in the region. He noted that the 20 Year Airport Master Plan will be completed in July.

Koslosky also noted that a preliminary environmental on the recommended Capital Program and financial capability is being done. While revitalization efforts are on target, the airport is challenged in the terminal area and parking structure. A capital improvement deficit is currently being run, and financing to accomplish the needed projects will be figured. This will be brought back to the committee for a full presentation.

Dingman updated the committee on the progress of the North South Corridor Study in Ottawa County, and stated that there is a Public Meeting today at 7 p.m. in Allendale Township where the Study will be released to the public. He noted that the final Study will be on the web.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Sheets adjourned the Policy Committee meeting at 11:07 a.m.