

**MINUTES**

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
POLICY COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2007  
Kent County Road Commission  
1500 Scribner NW      Grand Rapids, MI**

Pasquale, Chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. Rob Beahan from Cascade Township introduced himself as the temporary representative for the Policy Committee.

**I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Voting Members Present**

Dave Pasquale <i>(Chair)</i>	City of Lowell
Rob Beahan	Cascade Township
James Beelen	Allendale Township
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Rick DeVries	City of Grand Rapids
Jeff Dood	City of Rockford
Jim Fetzer <i>Proxy for Peter Varga</i>	The Rapid
Ken Krombeen	City of Grandville
Dal McBurrows	MDOT
Rich Pastoor	City of Wyoming
Jon Rice <i>Proxy for Kent County</i>	KCRC
Keith Van Beek	City of Kentwood
Frank Wash <i>Proxy for Darrel Schmalzel</i>	City of Walker

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Patti Brink	GVMC Staff
Andrea Dewey	GVMC Staff
Chris Dingman	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Eric Kind	MDOT
Steve Redmond	MDOT
Norm Sevensma	WMEAC-RWBC
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff
Steve Warren	KCRC
George Yang	GVMC Staff

**Voting Members Not Present**

Marta Brechting  
 Larry Bruursema  
 Pat Bush  
 Dick Davies  
 Mike DeVries  
 Ken Feldt  
 George Haga  
 Bryan Harrison  
 Roger Haynes  
 Don Hilton, Sr.  
 Bill Holland  
 Jim Holtrop  
 Jim Koslosky  
 Jim McIntyre  
 George Meek  
 Jim Miedema  
 Audrey Nevins  
 Sandi Parrish  
 Darrel Schmalzel  
 Don Van Doeselaar  
 Peter Varga (*Vice-Chair*)  
 Bill Wiersma

Alpine Township  
 Ottawa County  
 City of Grand Rapids  
 Cannon Township  
 Grand Rapids Township  
 City of East Grand Rapids  
 Ada Township  
 Caledonia Charter Township  
 City of Wyoming  
 Gaines Township  
 Georgetown Township  
 Ottawa County  
 GRFIA  
 Courtland Township  
 Plainfield Township  
 Jamestown Township  
 Byron Township  
 Kent County  
 City of Walker  
 City of Hudsonville  
 The Rapid  
 Tallmadge Township

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Pasquale entertained a motion to approve of the June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION by Van Beek, SUPPORT by DeVries, to approve of the June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**IV. FY2007/2008 TIP AMENDMENTS**

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A** in the Agenda as well as a hand-out which includes additional projects submitted after the Agenda mailing, Dingman identified and discussed the FY2007/2008 TIP Amendment requests with the committee. Discussion followed.

Pasquale entertained a motion to recommend to the GVMC Board approval of the FY2007/2008 TIP Amendment requests as identified.

**MOTION by Rice, SUPPORT by Beelen, to recommend to the GVMC Board approval of the FY2007/2008 TIP Amendment as identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. FY2008-2011 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMING (2035) LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE**

Dingman updated the committee on the status of the FY2008-2011 TIP. He also explained that the FY2008 version is the same in both the FY2006-2008 and 2008-2011 TIP documents, and any changes made are reflected in each. Itani discussed the TIP process as it relates to financial constraint and air quality conformity regulations. McBurrows commented on the status of the MPO TIPs and the STIP. Discussion and comments followed.

Dingman noted that all timeline goals for the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan have been met and are SAFETEA-LU compliant. The Plan is in tact for implementation. Discussion and comments followed.

**VI. PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM/INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM UPDATE**

Snell gave the committee an update on the Pavement Management System. He noted the completed miles on the federal aid and local systems, and indicated that the data will be provided in mid October. He provided the committee with the status of data collection of various jurisdictions. Discussion followed. Van Beek inquired as to current availability of data and its accessibility in the future. Snell noted that REGIS staff is being utilized, and identified some of the physical constraints encountered in implementing the data. Discussion followed. He stated that currently the information is located in the Transportation framework, and is anticipating full functionality of REGIS in the future. Van Beek recommends keeping the data in one location to make it as easy as possible to retrieve. Discussion, comments and questions followed.

Snell gave the committee an update on the progress of the ITS Study. He noted that the consultant has been selected, and that the contract should be in place by October first. He discussed the planning stages and made projections as to when the results would be available. Discussion and comments followed.

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Via a hand-out, Rice gave his reasons why he feels immediate action should be taken for the State to raise gas taxes to meet road needs. He discussed the "Drive Michigan" campaign which supports a gas tax, a diesel gas tax and an increase on motor vehicle registration fees. As the legislature is currently prioritizing other issues at this time, Rice made a **motion** "that the Policy Committee adopt a position on supporting the Drive Michigan Campaign, forward it to the Legislative Committee/ GVMC Board who would notify legislators accordingly".

Discussion continued on the pros, cons, and likelihood of GVMC adopting a position on this issue.

Discussion ensued regarding the price of gas in Michigan as compared to other states. Pastoor had concerns that this part of the state would not receive an appropriate share of dollars from a gas tax increase. Rice commented that funding would be distributed through the current formula. Itani had concerns as to how this would be coordinated on a federal level with the new reauthorization bill. Discussion and comments followed. Stypula briefed the committee on the prior presentation made to the Legislative Committee on this issue. He also discussed future funding for transportation, which may be done on a state by state basis with the next reauthorization bill. Discussion followed.

Van Beek and DeVries are supportive of a position being taken, but recommend going through the Legislative Committee to review this in context of shrinking federal dollars. Itani suggested that a subcommittee be formed, consisting of representatives from the KCRC, The Rapid, and the City of Grand Rapids to make the case for support. Van Beek offered to make a motion to appoint a subcommittee to make a presentation to Legislative Committee. Discussion, comments and questions followed.

Pasquale entertained a motion to amend the motion on the floor.

**MOTION by Rice, SUPPORT by DeVries, to amend the motion on the floor and recommend that the Legislative Committee take up the issue of transportation funding as soon as possible.**

Discussion continued. Fetzter commented on this issue and its effect on The Rapid.

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

Stypula paid tribute to Pasquale for his 20 years of service as City Manager of the City of Lowell. A cake was provided in his honor.

Sharon DeLange was introduced as Village Manager from the Village of Sparta.

#### **VIII: ADJOURNMENT**

Pasquale entertained a motion to adjourn the Policy Committee Meeting.

**MOTION by Krombeen, SUPPORT by Pastoor, to adjourn the Policy Committee Meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Pasquale adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.