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MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
JOINT TECHNICAL AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, March 17th, 2004
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner Grand Rapids, MI**

The meeting was called to order by Carol Sheets, Chair of the Policy Committee at 9:35 a.m. Fetzer introduced Lisa Ives, the new Project Manager for the Major Corridor Study.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Carol S. Sheets (Chair)	City of Wyoming
James Beelen	Allendale Township
Roger Belknap <i>Proxy for Steve Warren</i>	KCRC
Tom Byle <i>Proxy for Jon Rice & Wayne Harrall</i>	KCRC
	Kent County
Patrick Bush	City of Grand Rapids
Bill Cole	City of Grand Rapids
Jeff Dood	City of Rockford
Bill Dooley	City of Wyoming
Ken Feldt	City of East Grand Rapids
Jim Fetzer	The Rapid
Dave Groenleer	Plainfield Township
Cindy Heinbeck	Alpine Township
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Jim Holtvluwer	Georgetown Township
Sandra M. Cornell-Howe	MDOT-Lansing
Dick Johnston	City of Rockford
Ken Klomparens	GRFIA
Kenneth J. Kuipers	Kent County
Dal McBurrows	MDOT-Lansing
Gerald Mears	City of Wyoming
Tom Palarz	OCRC
David Pasquale (Vice-Chair)	City of Lowell
Steve Peterson	Cascade Township
Bob Rinck,	Ottawa County

Item II Attachment A

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Terry Schweitzer
Darrel Schmalzel
Larry Silvernail
Robert Swenson
Keith Van Beek
Peter Varga
Don VanDoeselaar
Peter Varga
Frank Wash
Bill Wiersma

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City of Kentwood
City of Walker
Byron Township
Cannon Township
City of Kentwood
The Rapid
City of Hudsonville
The Rapid
Alpine Township
Tallmadge Township

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Patti Brink
Ann Christensen
Jim Cramer
Chris Dingman
Kenneth Hoskins
Abed Itani
Lisa Ives
Dennis Kent
Jerry Lovell
Steve Redmond
Darrell Robinson
Frank Sessions
Norm Sevensma
Don Stypula
Conrad Venema

GVMC Staff
GVMC Staff
FHWA
GVMC Staff
Faith in Motion
GVMC Staff
The Rapid/DMJM+Harris
MDOT – GR
Public
MDOT-GR
GVMC Staff
Tallmadge Township
WMEAC-RWBC
GVMC Staff
The Rapid

Voting Members Not Present

Larry Bruursema
Evelyn J. Champney
Jay Cravens
Mike DeVries
George Haga
Bryan Harrison
Hon. Douglas Hoekstra
Ron Howell
Jim Koslosky
Jim McIntyre
Jim Miedema
Jon Rice
Joseph Sierawski

OCRC
Village of Sparta
Cascade Charter Township
Grand Rapids Township
Ada Township
Caledonia Charter Township
City of Wyoming
City of Cedar Springs
GRFIA
Courtland Township
Jamestown Township
KCRC
City of Grandville

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Jay VanSoestberg
Steve Warren

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City of Walker
KCRC

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

With no comments or corrections, Sheets stated that the February 18th, 2004 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes are accepted as read and approved.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. FY2004 TIP AMENDMENT

Robinson briefed the committees on ITP's request to amend the TIP to reduce the cost of a project and to add FY2003 carry-over funds to another project.

Fetzer noted that the para transit vehicle line will be cut back, and that \$998,600 carry over apportionment from FY2003 will be used to help purchase the land where the Surface Transportation Center is located.

Fetzer also explained the application submittal from Senior Neighbors, Inc. to MDOT for Section 5310 Capital funding in FY2005 through ITP. He discussed the details of the request, as well as the funding/splits.

Sheets entertained a motion to amend the FY2004 TIP to incorporate ITP's requests.

MOTION by Silvernail, SUPPORT by Cole, to recommend to the GVMC Board approval of amending the FY2004 TIP to cut back the para- transit vehicle line by \$353,404, and to add \$998,600 carry-over apportionment from FY 2003 to help purchase land where the Surface Transportation Center is located. Also, to include ITP's funding request for Urban Applicants (attached), with the understanding that financial constraint of the TIP will not be impacted by these changes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. REQUEST BY THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS/WYOMING

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A** in the Agenda packet, Robinson discussed the request by the cities of Grand Rapids and Wyoming to approve amending the scope of a project – Division Avenue from 28th Street to Alger Street. He noted that the cities are

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planning on adding a continuous left turn lane for the length of the project as well. Cole discussed the reasons for breaking this project into 2 sections. He also noted that the Cities can apply for Critical Bridge funding for Division Avenue Bridge over Plastic Creek at some future date. Dooley clarified that this request does not change the amount of the federal share of the project. Discussion followed.

Sheets entertained a motion to recommend to the GVMC Board approval of amending the TIP to accommodate this request.

MOTION by Holtvluwer, SUPPORT by Varga, to recommend to the GVMC Board approval of amending the scope of the FY2004 TIP for the following: Division Avenue from 28th Street to Alger Street be changed to Division Avenue from 28th Street to Kenosha Drive, and Division Avenue from Plaster Creek Boulevard to Alger Street, with the understanding that this does not affect the financial constraint or air quality conformity determination of the FY2004 Program. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. REQUEST BY THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Via a hand-out, Redmond discussed MDOT's request to make amendments and administrative changes to the FY2004 -2006 TIP. Discussion followed.

Sheets entertained a motion to approve MDOT's proposed changes outlined on the hand-out.

MOTION by Cole, SUPPORT by Dooley, to recommend to the GVMC Board approval of MDOT's amendments and administrative changes to the FY2004-2006 TIP. (Attached)

Discussion continued. In order to have adequate time for review and input on action items, Kuipers inquired as to whether there is a deadline for receipt of such requests.

Itani noted that most action items are included in the Agenda packets which are mailed a week prior to meetings, however in an attempt to accommodate requests there are occasions where approval of straightforward items can be expedited.

Discussion followed.

Sheets called to question the motion on the floor.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VII. DRAFT APPROVAL OF THE FY2030 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

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Dingman gave a presentation on the Draft FY2030 Long Range Transportation Plan and distributed to the committee a hard copy of the presentation as well. He addressed the Plan Highlights, the Planning Process and the Goals and Objectives. He noted that while much has been accomplished, more help is needed in identifying the vision. He elaborated on the efforts made by Staff to further engage the public with regard to the Public Involvement Process and Environmental Justice.

Dingman discussed the process for plan implementation, funding, and utilization of the web to access the Long Range Plan and other such documents.

Itani noted that Safety, CMAQ, and Enhancement projects are not in the plan. He also addressed Land Use, which is the basic building block for transportation investments, and that all projects in the Plan are a reflection of current and future land use. Discussion and comments followed. Itani also noted that some projects cannot move forward until the plan is approved. Itani also stressed that in order to receive federal funds a Plan must be in place.

Sheets entertained a motion to approve the Draft 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan.

MOTION by Rinck, SUPPORT by Groenleer, to recommend to the GVMC Board approval of the Draft 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan with the understanding that there will be changes,

With regard to future projects, Groenleer inquired as to who determines the final design of a facility. Itani noted that decision belongs to the owner of the facility. Discussion followed.

Groenleer also addressed the sidewalk issue. Dingman responded that this policy is not complete, and that there is no clear direction as to how to deal with this in the future. Discussion followed.

Varga thanked Dingman and Staff for their effort for working in a unified manner to complete the Plan. He was concerned that ITP's Illustrative Projects are not reflected in the document, however Dingman noted that they can be located in the appendices. Dingman will add a sentence in the transit section that refers to the ITP- the Rapid Illustrative projects located in Appendix I. Discussion and comments followed.

Varga also commented that on page 3-31 the table should reflect that the Revenues

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& Expenditure's are the ITP-The Rapid's, not GVMC's. Dingman will change the title of the table.

Cramer noted that per the federal certification requirement the MPO, ITP, and MDOT are working closely together. He also addressed Illustrative Projects, and suggested including a sentence that explains that the projects included in the plan beyond 2006 are listed as "conceptual Improvements". The improvements will not become projects until further study is completed through the transportation planning process.

Schweitzer recommended adding a goal/concept to connect non-motorized facilities with each other and with other transportation modes throughout the region. Discussion and comments followed.

Sevensma suggested a goal of including pedestrian facilities along roads that has more than 5,000 vehicles ADT (Average Daily Travel). Dingman noted that the Non-Motorized Committee will be meeting to determine what thresholds should be. Swanson inquired as to the time line for completion of the Non-Motorized Plan. Discussion followed. Silvernail noted that the continuing process is laid out in the document. Discussion followed.

Itani discussed the possibility of obtaining a Grant using SPR dollars to develop a Walkable Community rating.

Varga addressed the adoption process and how the comments/concerns of MPO members that are not on the GVMC Board will be addressed. Itani noted that the plan will incorporate all of the changes. He also clarified that all comments and responses will be included in the Plan. Discussion followed.

Cramer addressed timing issues relative to projects. He noted that this issue is being resolved by MDOT and Staff.

Kuipers inquired as to how staff will handle approval of potential changes. Discussion followed. Sheets stated that comments and responses can be emailed prior to the GVMC Board meeting.

Sheets called to question the motion on the floor.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Sheets enlisted the committee's opinion on receipt of the Plan and other such documents on a disk form. Discussion followed.

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VIII. MAJOR CORRIDOR STUDY

Varga reported that Tier 1 of the Major Corridor Study is completed. He discussed future meetings with Public Transportation Tomorrow and welcomed anyone interested to attend. He noted that the new Project Manager, Lisa Ives, is working on this project. Discussion followed.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Itani updated the committee on the progress of the reauthorization of TEA21, which expires in April. He described the three bills (House, Senate, President's) that are competing for approval at this time. He noted that with the Budget deficit, much re-evaluation is taking place. Discussion followed.

Robinson distributed a hand out of the City of Lowell's request to submit an application for STP funds under the small Urban Program to reconstruct Bowes Road from Valley Vista Drive west 1,900 feet. Pasquale discussed the project and the public's responses to the project. Robinson also distributed a hand-out of the KCRC request to submit an application for STP funds for the resurfacing of Vergennes St. for FY2005, as this project also meets the guidelines established for the Small Urban Areas Surface Transportation Program.

MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Heinbeck, to recommend to the GVMC Board approval of endorsing the City of Lowell and the Kent County Road Commission's requests as submitted (Attached). MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Groenleer had questions regarding the travel character study being conducted by MDOT called "My Travel Counts". Discussion followed. Itani noted that the results of this study will be used to improve the travel demand model and the statewide model. Cramer further explained the need for a comprehensive survey. Discussion followed. Redmond noted that the survey may be on the website. Discussion followed.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Sheets adjourned the Joint Technical and Policy Committee meeting at 11:02 a.m.