

MINUTES

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMMING STUDY GROUP

Thursday, January 17, 2013

Grand Valley Metro Council

678 Front Ave NW

Zull called the meeting to order at 9:06 am. The Committee members, staff, and guests present introduced themselves.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Chris Zull (*Chair*)

Ron Carr

Scott Conners

Mike DeVries

Rick DeVries

Bill Dooley

Ken Feldt

Tim Haagsma

Wayne Harrall

Russ Henckel

*Proxy for
Tim Cochran*

Terry Schweitzer

Dan Strikwerda

Steve Warren

City of Grand Rapids

City of Grandville

City of Walker

Grand Rapids Township

City of Grand Rapids

City of Wyoming

City of East Grand Rapids

Gaines Township

County of Kent

City of Wyoming

City of Wyoming

City of Kentwood

City of Hudsonville

KCRC

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Bryan Armstrong

Andrea Faber

Jim Ferro

Abed Itani

Stephen Kepley

Steve Redmond

Darrell Robinson

Joe Slonecki

Mike Smith

Jim Snell

George Yang

MDOT

GVMC Staff

Ada Township

GVMC Staff

City of Kentwood

MDOT

GVMC Staff

City of East Grand Rapids

MDOT - OED

GVMC Staff

GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema

Sandy Ayers

Tim Cochran

Allendale Township

Village of Caledonia

City of Wyoming

APPROVED

Jamie Davies
Sharon DeLange
Roy Hawkins
Jan Hoekstra
Mark Howe
Brett Laughlin
Ray Lenze
Tom Stressman

APPROVED

ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A

City of Rockford
Village of Sparta
GRFIA
ITP-The Rapid
City of Lowell
OCRC
MDOT
City of Cedar Springs

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Zull entertained a motion to approve the December 11, 2012 Transportation Programming Study Group (TPSG) meeting minutes.

MOTION by Conners, SUPPORT by DeVries, to approve the December 11, 2012 TPSG meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. PROGRAMMING OF FY2013 AND FY2014 TAP FUNDS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A** and two handouts, Robinson stated that the primary purpose of today’s meeting was to program FY2013 TAP funds and to put together a preliminary list for FY2014 TAP projects. However, at this point, it wouldn’t be necessary to take action on FY2014 projects. For FY2013, \$668,000 was available in MPO funds. He also thanked Smith and Armstrong for their help in reviewing the applications and for their guidance during the process.

Zull asked Smith if he had any general comments about the TAP project applications received. Smith stated that his reviews showed that all of the projects submitted were most likely eligible. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Itani also noted that the Committee will need to select priority levels for the projects that do not receive MPO funding in FY2013 and FY2014. He also suggested that any unfunded projects be moved to an illustrative list. Smith suggested that the MPO assign projects a high, medium, or low priority. Armstrong added that Committee members should have formal knowledge of awarded projects by the end of March. Conners suggested meeting to discuss FY2014 projects after that time so that the Committee members would know what projects were and were not funded. For clarity, DeVries asked if the Committee would today program TAP projects for FY2013, and then place the unfunded projects on an illustrative list, where they would be ranked. This list could then roll into FY2014. Armstrong responded that whatever projects didn’t get funded in FY2013 would remain on the illustrative list for FY2014. Discussion ensued.

Zull stated that one proposal would be to program the \$668,000 in TAP funds the MPO has for FY2013 and to wait to program FY2014 projects until after MDOT's meeting in March, when it will be determined which projects the State will fund. Itani recommended that the Committee have a list together of TAP projects for FY2014-2017 by January 30th so that they would be ready for public comment. Projects identified in FY2013 would be final, whereas projects in the remaining years would be illustrative. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Zull returned the discussion to the programming of FY2013 projects. Robinson stated that there are seven projects that have been submitted for consideration for FY2013 TAP funding, and that the next step would be to determine project readiness. DeVries noted that the City of Grand Rapids submitted some pipeline projects for inclusion in the TIP a few months ago. Robinson responded that he did not include them on today's list since enough new projects were submitted to cover the \$668,000. Itani clarified that funding was already committed for these projects.

Harrall suggested that the Committee members who submitted projects describe them and their readiness to the committee. He began the discussion, noting that the KCRC's Townsend Park to Village of Cannonsburg project is not ready to go. He suggested moving this project to the illustrative list. Discussion ensued.

Next, Harrall described the KCRC's Paul Henry Trail (East Paris Avenue) project to the Committee. He noted that funds for this project could be obligated in FY2013. Smith noted that this would be a competitive project at MDOT.

Harrall referred discussion of the KCRC's 3 Mile Road and East Beltline Trail project to DeVries, who explained the project to the Committee. He noted the project is tied to a new Spectrum Health facility and that Spectrum Health has contributed \$92,000 toward the project. Smith added that the contribution of private money to the project speaks volumes and asked if the project would be ready for FY2013. Harrall and DeVries concurred that it would be. Discussion ensued.

Kepley described the City of Kentwood's East/West Trail Phase III project to the Committee, and noted that the City of Kentwood had submitted the plans for the GI, which came back requiring changes to the design. Furthermore, during the public meeting, the public wanted to add a spur to connect the public road to the boardwalk, which will also increase the project cost. Therefore, they are seeking additional funding for the project. He added that the City of Kentwood is planning on a June start date for this project. Smith noted the Silverline bus transit connection and that MDOT liked the multi-modal aspect of this project. Discussion ensued.

Harrall described the KCRC's Knapp Street Trail Connection project to the Committee. He deferred questions about the design of the trail to DeVries and Ferro because it is a joint Ada Township/Grand Rapids Township project, and they provided additional details about the project. Smith noted that MDOT appreciated

the linking of 17 miles of trail in Grand Rapids Township with 20 miles of trail in Ada Township. Discussion ensued.

Harrall described the KCRC's Pine Island Drive Bridge over the Rogue River project to the Committee, adding that he would prefer to move the project to FY2014 or to the illustrative list. Smith added that because this project involves a historic bridge, it would be highly competitive for state funding. The only question would be timing.

Carr described the City of Grandville's Wilson Avenue Pedestrian Refuge Island project to the Committee. He added that Grandville has wanted to complete this project for safety reasons for a number of years. The project will be built this summer. Smith added that this project is very likely to succeed at the state level.

Itani stated that if the Committee chose to fund the Kentwood project for \$164,730, the City of Grandville's project for \$118,400, and the KCRC's Knapp St. Trail Connection for \$385,200, the Committee would have spent almost exactly \$668,000. He suggested that the remaining two projects on the list for FY2013 funding—the Paul Henry Trail and the 3 Mile Road and East Beltline Trail—be submitted for consideration for state funds. Smith agreed that both projects would be competitive at the state level. However, Smith also suggested that the Committee consider overprogramming their project list by 20%, since the exact project cost won't be known until bids come in, and bids typically run 20% below budget. DeVries agreed that he would prefer State funding for the 3 Mile Road project, since this is a large project and would open up the door for other projects to receive MPO funding. Smith added that this project had a high likelihood of getting funded at the State level. DeVries did, however, state his concern about taking this risk. Harrall stated that it would be better for the traveling public to fund the Knapp St. project now and take a risk on the 3 Mile Road project, since the Knapp St. project coincides with an intersection project. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Zull asked for clarification on how to rank the remaining projects. Smith responded that MDOT is looking to the MPO to tell them which projects beyond their budget they would fund next. Robinson asked if MDOT needed more projects added to the list of projects to receive MDOT funding. Harrall stated that while the Pine Island Dr. bridge project wouldn't be ready until FY2014, that the project could still be ranked and submitted for state funding. He requested that MDOT review this project for eligibility at their March meeting. Smith suggested that all FY2014 projects be added to the illustrative list.

Zull asked how the Committee preferred to rank the Paul Henry Trail project, the Three Mile project, and the Pine Island Dr. bridge project. Kepley encouraged the Committee to rank the projects as "high, medium, or low." Conners suggested ranking all projects as "high."

Zull entertained a motion to approve the Committee's selection of FY2013 TAP projects and to rank the remaining FY2013 TAP projects.

MOTION by Conners, SUPPORT by Warren, that the MPO select the KCRC's Knapp St. Connection Project, the City of Kentwood's East/West Trail Phase III project, and the City of Grandville's Wilson Avenue Pedestrian Refuge Island projects to receive MPO TAP funds for FY2013, and that the MPO forward to the State the remaining projects—Paul Henry Trail (East Paris Avenue), 3 Mile Road and East Beltline Trail, and the Pine Island Dr Bridge over the Rogue River (with a construction date as determined by the Road Commission) with ratings of "high priority" for all projects. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Itani clarified that any additional projects the MPO receives between now and the end of January will be considered for TAP funding in FY2014-2017. Snell stated that the submission deadline should be January 28th to be ready for the January 30th meeting. Smith added that if the Committee decided to use MDOT's quarterly schedule, they would have the benefit of seeing their technical review of the submitted projects, which would work with a January 28 deadline. Smith also noted that the FY2013 projects have not received a technical review, but that he gave his rough opinion as to the eligibility of the projects. He noted that if a project is determined to be ineligible after it has been awarded funds, the Committee will be faced with a decision of how to proceed. Itani added that it is important to ensure the eligibility of the projects. Smith asked for a few weeks to put them through the technical review process. Itani agreed that he would bring the FY2013 TAP projects forward to the Tech and Policy Committees for approval, but that their approval would be conditional on MDOT's and FHWA's approval of the projects. Harrall noted that waiting for a Technical Review could be an issue with the City of Kentwood's project. Smith responded that the technical review wouldn't be necessary for the Kentwood process because it has already been through a GI. Itani stated that as soon as he receives word from Smith that the project can be funded, it will be added to the TIP. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

V. PROGRAMMING OF FY2014-FY2017 EDF-C FUNDS

Robinson explained that all of the projects that had been submitted for FY2015-2017 EDF-C funding were included on a spreadsheet, which he passed out to the Committee. Itani explained the requirements for a project to receive EDF-C funding, and noted that out of the six projects submitted, only three qualified for funding: 52nd St. from Patterson to Kraft, Post Dr. from Pine Island Dr. to Samrick Ave, and 56th St from Byron Center Ave. to Ivanrest Ave. Itani noted that the 52nd St. project does not qualify for EDF-C in 2015, but will by 2025, since a new plant is expected to be built in the area that will lead to additional traffic. The three projects that did not qualify for funding were Cascade Rd. from Hall St. to Burton St., 68th St. from Plaza Center Ave to Leisure Creek, and Belmont Ave. S. of 10 Mile Rd.

Warren asked why the Belmont project, which was an intersection realignment, didn't qualify. Harrall stated that the project had previously qualified for CMAQ funding. Itani said that he would need to call the EDFC office to determine this, and

APPROVED

APPROVED
ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A

suggested that the KCRC fund this project with CMAQ or STP funds. Discussion ensued.

Robinson informed the Committee that \$987,000 is available per year for EDF-C funding. Since FY2014 EDF-C funds have already been programmed, the Committee would only need to program FY2015-2017 funds. In order to move the process forward, Itani proposed that the Committee elect to fund the KCRC's 52nd St. project in FY2015, the KCRC's Post Dr. project in FY2016, and the City of Wyoming's 56th St. project in FY2017. He noted that there would be approximately \$200,000 in carryover funds from FY2015 and FY2016 because the 52nd St. and Post Dr. projects would only cost \$800,000 in federal funds. The \$400,000 in carryover funds could be put toward the 56th St. project, which would give the City of Wyoming \$1.4 million in EDF-C funds for the project. Discussion ensued.

Zull entertained a proposal to approve Itani's proposal.

MOTION by Dooley, SUPPORT by DeVries, to approve funding the KCRC's 52nd St. project in FY2015 with \$800,000 in EDF-C funds, the KCRC's Post Dr. project in FY2016 with \$800,000 in EDF-C funds, and the City of Wyoming's 56th St. project in FY2017 with \$1,400,000 in EDF-C funds. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Haagsma asked when the call for CMAQ projects would take place. Snell responded early February.

Conners asked that Robinson send out an email to the TPSG Committee stating that TAP projects can be sent by January 28th for consideration for FY2014-2017.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Zull entertained a motion to adjourn the January 17, 2013 TPSG Committee meeting.

MOTION by DeVries, SUPPORT by DeVries, to adjourn the January 17, 2013 TPSG Committee meeting at 11:03 am. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.