

MINUTES

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMMING STUDY GROUP
Wednesday, December 3rd, 2014

Grand Valley Metro Council 678 Front Ave NW

Schweitzer called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. No introductions were necessary.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Terry Schweitzer (<i>Chair</i>)		City of Kentwood
Tim Cochran		City of Wyoming
Scott Conners		City of Walker
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Wayne Harrall	<i>Proxy for Mike DeVries</i>	County of Kent
		Grand Rapids Township
Paul Lott (Phone)		MDOT
Joe Slonecki		City of East Grand Rapids

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Mallory Avis (Phone)		MDOT
Tim Bradshaw		City of Kentwood
Andrea Faber		GVMC Staff
Erin Haviland		GVMC Staff
Abed Itani		GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for Mark Howe</i>	MDOT
		City of Lowell
Erick Kind		MDOT
Darrell Robinson		GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema		Allendale Township
Sandy Ayers		Village of Caledonia
Ron Carr		City of Grandville
Sharon DeLange		Village of Sparta
Mike DeVries		Grand Rapids Township
Bill Dooley		City of Wyoming
Ken Feldt		City of East Grand Rapids
Roy Hawkins		GRFIA
Mark Howe		City of Lowell
Brett Laughlin		OCRC
Steve Redmond		MDOT
Tom Stressman		City of Cedar Springs
Dan Strikwerda		City of Hudsonville
Roger Towsley		Village of Sand Lake
Phil Vincent		City of Rockford

APPROVED

Steve Warren
Chris Zull

APPROVED

ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A
KCRC
City of Grand Rapids

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Schweitzer entertained a motion to approve the August 20, 2014 and October 8, 2014 TPSG meeting minutes.

MOTION by Harrall, SUPPORT by Conners, to approve the August 20, 2014 and October 8th, 2014 TPSG meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. 2015 CONGESTION MITIGATION AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) FY 2015 REPROGRAMMING

Robinson introduced Mallory Avis and Paul Lott from MDOT, who joined the meeting via a teleconference. Robinson stated that staff has been informed that the M-11/28th Street 2014 sidewalk project was overbid. In order for the project to continue, \$388,770 in additional funding is needed. Staff approached different agencies to discuss possibilities to fund this project. Robinson stated that he spoke to Zull and that the City of Grand Rapids would be willing to delay their Michigan at College project in order for the sidewalk project to be fully funded. Robinson noted that ITP was also interested in delaying a bus from FY2015 to FY2016. However, this has not been confirmed, and Ghearing was unable to attend today’s meeting. DeVries agreed that the City of Grand Rapids is willing to delay the Michigan at College project, which still needs final approval from the statewide CMAQ committee. Kent added that the project is not technically approved as an eligible project at this point. Robinson stated that there is a project in 2017—IP Data Ring—which he believed was found to be ineligible for CMAQ funding. Kent stated he was unsure, but knew the “smart vehicle” project was found ineligible. Discussion ensued.

Itani stated that the results of the Downtown Circulation Study, which includes Michigan Street, access to the freeways, and takes into consideration the new development that Grand Valley is doing, will be completed by next year. The results of the study will have specific recommendations on what type of geometric improvements or traffic circulation modifications need to be in place for this area. Therefore, postponing the Michigan at College project until after the results of the Downtown Circulation Study are available makes a lot of sense.

Itani noted that in 2016, a new TIP will be developed and that will have different dynamics. Therefore, if there’s a Committee commitment to the Michigan at College Street project, it could go into FY2017, FY2018, FY2019, or FY2020. Robinson stated that it would be easiest to add the project in FY2018, since there won’t be enough funding in FY2017 to cover the entire project. Robinson also asked about the possibility of advanced construction. Lott clarified that his understanding was that advance construct could be used on local CMAQ projects. Itani asked him to double-check this. Lott went on to state there have been some changes to the program, the biggest of which was the change from a grant program to an allocated program. Ed Fowler, the Statewide Coordinator, has confirmed the use of advanced construction.

Conners stated that it appears many projects are coming in over budget and that this is going to be an ongoing issue. He stated that while he supported this project in the past and thought it was a good project, he expressed his concern that, by allocating additional funding for it, it would become a precedent for future projects with many committee members coming back to the Committee asking for additional funding. Itani stated he agrees and that, if Grand Rapids did not move their Michigan at College project, there is no way that the MPO could accommodate the sidewalk project. Itani went on to state that if a project comes in over budget, it would be up to the local communities to figure out a way to generate the extra funding needed. The sidewalk project is a unique project, and the fact is that Grand Rapids has the funding available for the Michigan and College project but are unable at this time to move forward with the project. Harrall stated that he does not like the concept of adding money after a project was bid, regardless of the project, since this has never been done at a local level. He stated that MDOT also includes CE, but typically if it was local, it wouldn't include CE, which he didn't agree with. Harrall stated that he cannot support this request, as it sets a bad precedent. He noted that the KCRC has rejected several bids because they were more than 20% over, or paid the additional share. Lastly, he stated that, typically, if College at Michigan wasn't able to move forward, there'd be a meeting to see if anyone else had a project that could be moved up. Itani stated he agrees with the logic, but disagrees in this case because half of the sidewalk project has been completed. The MPO needs to complete the project. Harrall responded that no CMAQ money has ever been used for a sidewalk project like this. Itani stated that the Committee has endorsed this project and that it is a special project, and that in the future, projects and requests are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Conners added that it was very important to note that this project was unique so that it didn't set a precedent. Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Conners, SUPPORT by Cochran, to approve the additional funds to the sidewalk project from the Michigan at College project conditional on MDOT funding reconciliation at the state level based on the following: (1) the unique nature of the project, (2) that there are three regional partners involved, and (3) because of the City of Grand Rapids' willingness to delay their Michigan at College project for several years in the TIP.

Itani asked Lott if 2015 funding can be added to a 2014 project if it's not advance construction. Lott stated that he is trying to get more information on this. Discussion ensued.

Robinson noted that, due to the urgency of the project being approved and an MDOT commission meeting tomorrow, this project will not need to be approved by the Tech and Policy Committees. Robinson stated that he will call the Tech and Policy chairs to get their approval. Discussion ensued.

Schweitzer called the motion to question. **MOTION CARRIED.** Harrall voted against this motion.

V. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Robinson mentioned a handout from Kent which included several minor FY2015 trunkline project modifications and amendments. Kent explained the requests, which included the following:

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ITEM II: ATTACHMENT A

- M-6/US-131 various bridge and road segments (joint sealing/CPM)
- I-196 Kent Trails to Butterworth (bridge repairs/CPM)
- M-11 at Remembrance Road (round-about)
- I-96 West River Drive to the Grand River (reconstruction)
- M-6 I-196 to I-96 (scoping)
- I-196 EB over M-45 WB ramp (bridge rehab)

MOTION by Harrall, SUPPORT by Cochran, to support MDOT's FY2015 trunkline project modifications and amendments as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Harrall stated that at a previous TPSG Committee meeting to develop the FY2015 TAP project list, the Committee decided to have those with TAP projects in FY2015 get together to further refine the list. Harrall asked when this subgroup would be meeting. Robinson stated that he had spoken with Mike Smith at MDOT and that some of the projects might qualify for state funding in FY2015 or FY2016. Robinson asked for a status report on the FY2015 TAP projects from the Committee members. Walker's TAP project was the only project that has not completed the constructability review. Robinson stated that the group should be ready to meet within the next week or so. Conners suggested moving forward to set up the meeting. Robinson agreed to do that. Schweitzer asked about the process that would be used for these projects. Robinson explained that, at this point, TAP funding is not guaranteed for FY2015. There will be another meeting to program FY2016-2017 TAP projects. Discussion ensued.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Schweitzer adjourned the December 3rd, 2014 TPSG Committee meeting at 9:58 am.