

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, January 17, 2018
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW, Grand Rapids, MI**

Schmalzel, vice chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Those present introduced themselves to the Committee.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**Voting Members Present**

Terry Brod		Cannon Township
Dan Burrill		City of Wyoming
Mark DeClercq		City of Grand Rapids
Robert DeWard		Gaines Charter Township
Tom Doyle	<i>Proxy for</i>	MDOT
	<i>John Lanum</i>	MDOT
Darla Falcon	<i>Proxy for</i>	City of Cedar Springs
	<i>Michael Womack</i>	City of Cedar Springs
Tim Grifhorst		Tallmadge Township
Wayne Harrall	<i>Proxy for</i>	KCRC
	<i>Steve Warren</i>	KCRC
Tom Hooker		Byron Township
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for</i>	MDOT
	<i>Mike Burns</i>	City of Lowell
Ken Krombeen		City of Grandville
Brett Laughlin		OCRC
Greg Madura		Alpine Township
Betsy Melton		Kent County Commissioner
Jim Miedema		OCRC
Darrell Schmalzel		City of Walker
Terry Schweitzer		City of Kentwood
Dan Strikwerda	<i>Proxy for</i>	City of Hudsonville
	<i>Jim Holtrop</i>	City of Hudsonville
Julius Suchy		Village of Sparta
Peter Varga		ITP – The Rapid
Steve Warren		KCRC

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Faber	GVMC
Abed Itani	GVMC
Laurel Joseph	GVMC
Darrell Robinson	GVMC
Norm Sevensma	WMEAC-RWBC
George Yang	GVMC
Michael Zonyk	GVMC

Voting Members Not Present

Gail Altman
Tim Bradshaw
Mike Burns
Jamie Davies
Eric DeLong
Michael DeVries
David Dewey
David Ducat
Tom Ecklund

Adam Elenbaas
Betty Gajewski
Kevin Green
George Haga
Jerry Hale
Bryan Harrison
Jim Holtrop
Jim Holtvluwer
Doug LaFave
John Lanum
Tom Noreen
Rob Postema
Ben Swayze
Toby VanEss
Cameron Van Wyngarden
Rod Weersing
Mike Womak
Member awaiting appointment

Jamestown Township
City of Kentwood
City of Lowell
City of Rockford
City of Grand Rapids
Grand Rapids Charter Township
Village of Sand Lake
City of Cedar Springs
Gerald R. Ford International Airport
Authority
Allendale Township
OCRC
Algoma Township
Ada Township
Lowell Township
Caledonia Charter Township
City of Hudsonville
Ottawa County
City of East Grand Rapids
MDOT
Nelson Township
City of Wyoming
Cascade Charter Township
Tallmadge Township
Plainfield Township
Georgetown Township
City of Cedar Springs
Courtland Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Schmalzel entertained a motion to approve the November 15, 2017 Policy Committee minutes.

MOTION by Burrill, SUPPORT by Varga, to approve the November 15, 2017 Policy Committee minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Schmalzel stated that the tradition has been that the vice chair of the Policy Committee moves into the chairmanship role at the end of their two-year term, and the Committee votes to elect a new vice chair to serve a two-year term with the anticipation that they, too, would move into the chairmanship role at the end of their term. He asked the Committee for two motions—one to elect a chair, and the second to elect a vice chair, and stated that he would be willing to serve as chair if the Committee so chose. Schmalzel then entertained a motion to elect himself to the position of chair.

MOTION by Kent, SUPPORT by Varga, to nominate Schmalzel to serve a two-year term as chair of the Policy Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Schmalzel then entertained a new motion to elect a vice chair of the Committee.

MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Kent, to nominate Schweitzer to serve a two-year term as vice chair of the Policy Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**V. FY2017-2020 TIP AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS**

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Robinson stated that the City of Grand Rapids, ITP-The Rapid, the City of Kentwood, the City of Walker, Jamestown Township on behalf of the OCRC, and MDOT are requesting to amend/modify the FY2017-2020 TIP. The specific requests were as follows:

- The City of Grand Rapids requested to advance construct a FY2019 STPU project—Alger St. from Kalamazoo to Plymouth—in FY2018.
- ITP-The Rapid requested to add projects and update costs to their FY2018 and FY2019 projects list. The complete lists were included in the agenda packet.
- The TPSG and Technical Committees recommended approval of the City of Kentwood's request to use \$100,000 Federal CMAQ funding in FY2019 for their Sparks Drive/Forest Hill Avenue project, from East Paris to Burton, also programmed for STPU and CMAQ funding that year. This funding became available for the FY2019 fiscal year due to project scope and schedule changes by the City of Hudsonville.
- The City of Walker requested to advance construct their TAP funded FY2020 Leonard St. sidewalk project in FY2018. Walker also requested to move the reimbursement year to FY2019.
- On behalf of Jamestown Township and the Ottawa County Road Commission, Vriesman & Korhorn Consultants are requesting to add the Riley Street sidewalk TAP project to FY2018.

Referring to separate handouts, Robinson explained three additional requests:

- The Ottawa County Road Commission has a FY2018 project in the Rural Task Force 8b TIP that has limits within GVMC's planning area, and therefore, they requested that the project be added to the GVMC FY2017-2020 TIP. The project is Osborn St/Bass Dr/Warner St: 104th Avenue to 68th Ave. with 4.83 miles of resurfacing. Laughlin provided additional details about this request.
- Georgetown Seniors requested the following for state operating/and or capital assistance:

Funding Source	Operating Amount	Total Amount
State Specialized	Georgetown Seniors \$48,113	\$48,113.00

Services for Ottawa County, Georgetown Seniors is requesting \$53,000 from:

Funding Source	Capital Amount & Project	Total Amount
Section 5310	\$8,000 Computers and Printers	
Section 5310	\$45,000 Mini Van with Lift	
		\$53,000.00

These items must be listed in the TIP and efile for them to receive funds.

- MDOT requested the following:

- JN 200149 (Currently in the TIP as a Trunkline Preservation GPA project)
Project: M-37 (Broadmoor Ave.): Patterson Ave. north to 44th St.
Construction Phase New Total: \$1,046,000 (NH 82/18% same funding as in the TIP)
- JN 202332 (New Trunkline Traffic Safety GPA Project)
Project: I-196 BS (Chicago Drive): Railroad crossing reconstruct on I-196 (BS) west of Burlingame Ave. in Wyoming.
Construction Phase Total: \$96,000 (STRH—90/10%)
- JN 202386 (New Trunkline Roadside GPA project and GPA Category increase)
Project: Rockford Rest Area (US-131): Rehab sanitary drain-field
Construction Phase Total: \$273,602 (ST-82/18%); PE: \$35,700 (M-100%)
- Increase Trunkline Roadside GPA budget to \$525,000 in project list (over 25%)
- Increase Trunkline Bridge Preservation GPA budget to \$3,500,000 (under 25%)

Schmalzel entertained a motion to approve the TIP amendments/modifications as presented.

MOTION by Miedema, SUPPORT by Varga, to approve of the amendments/modifications to the FY2017-2020 TIP requested by the City of Grand Rapids, ITP-The Rapid, the City of Kentwood, the City of Walker, Jamestown Township on behalf of the OCRC, and MDOT, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. NFC MODIFICATION

Referring to **Item VI: Attachment A**, Zonyk stated that the City of Grand Rapids has requested to modify the NFC classification for Hastings Street, Sinclair Avenue, and Coit Avenue to create a connection and alternate route for College Avenue traffic to get to Michigan Street. This proposed connection is for the area North of I-196 that has undergone extensive redevelopment with continuous expansions planned for the near future. There are four roads with extent and modification details identified in the table below. The request is to change the road designation of Federal Aid and reclassification from Local to Minor Collector. Additional details, including a map, were included in the agenda packet.

The Technical Committee has approved the modification and is advising that the Policy Committee do the same. Following approval from our committees this request will go on to MDOT.

National Functional Classification (NFC)/Summary of MPO Submission

Street	NFC/NHS Modification	NFC/NHS Change Detail	Length (Miles)
Hastings Street	Coit Ave. to College Ave.	Current NFC: Local– Proposed NFC: Minor Collector	.376
Sinclair Avenue	Hastings Street to North End	Current NFC: Local – Proposed NFC: Minor Collector	.087
Hastings/College Connector	Sinclair Ave. to College Ave. (Proposed Connection)	Current NFC: None– Proposed NFC: Minor Collector	.069
Coit Avenue	Michigan St. to Hastings	Current NFC: Local–	.116

	St.	Proposed NFC: Minor Collector	
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DeClercq provided additional background information about these requests and noted that this has been in the works for a number of years and coincides with the Michigan St. Corridor study. This reclassification will help the roads improve their level of service. Itani noted that the Corridor study was conducted by the City of Grand Rapids and the MPO, and that there were several recommendations, such as the reconfiguration of the Ottawa and Michigan Street interchange visible today. Discussion ensued.

Schmalzel entertained a motion to approve this request.

MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Burrill, to modify the NFC classification for Hastings Street, Sinclair Avenue, and Coit Avenue as requested. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VII. SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Referring to **Item VII: Attachment A**, Itani stated that the safety performance measures the Committee is being asked to support today are part of performance-based planning in the latest transportation bill. In order for GVMC to continue receiving federal funds, we must address performance measures in the planning process. Safety is the first performance measure that we are being asked to address.

Federal regulations require the use of five year rolling averages for each of the 5 safety performance measures shown below. The state has set the following targets for 2018:

1. Number of fatalities—1,003.2
2. Rate of fatalities per 100 million VMT—1.02
3. Number of serious injuries—5,136.4
4. Rate of serious injuries per 100 million VMT—5.23
5. Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries—743.6

MPOs are required to establish safety targets by either

1. Agreeing to plan and program projects so that they contribute to the accomplishment of the State DOT safety targets for the performance measures; or
2. Committing to a quantifiable target for the performance measures for their metropolitan planning area

MPOs are required to establish targets no later than 180 days after the state DOT established the state safety targets. MDOT published its safety targets on August 31, 2017, and GVMC will therefore be required to decide on our MPO safety targets for calendar year 2018 no later than February 27, 2018. Safety targets must be addressed in the TIP and MTP by May 27, 2018 in order to be able to amend both plans. The TPSG and Technical Committee both approved supporting the state's targets at their last meetings, at least for FY2018. All other MPOs in the state are also supporting the state's targets.

Itani noted that GVMC did an analysis of crash data in house and that the data for our MPO area is higher than the state's targets. However, by supporting the state's targets, we will not be responsible for meeting them in the GVMC region. Yang added that by supporting MDOT's targets, we just need to show we are making an effort to improve safety on our system.

DeClercq commented that if the Committee better understood the objectives at the federal level about safety and how MDOT is aligning their objectives with road and bridge transportation assets, it would be easier to tie these metrics into those objectives and understand why this is being done. He also asked how we can remove barriers to improve safety on the system. Itani commented that it's difficult to change driver behavior, such as cell phone use, and that the purpose of performance measures is to encourage the State and MPOs to look at all aspects of the system at the same time. Discussion ensued.

Schmalzel entertained a motion to support the state's safety targets.

MOTION by Madura, SUPPORT by Suchy, to support the state's safety targets as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VIII. REQUEST FOR FEDERAL FUNDS TO UPDATE WEST MICHIGAN TRANSIT LINKAGES STUDY

Referring to a letter included in **Item VIII: Attachment A**, Itani explained that the City of Hudsonville was requesting \$2,500 in order to update the West Michigan Transit Linkages study. Itani noted that this study, which dated back to 2012, originally investigated how we can have a transit service that connects Grand Rapids, Grand Haven, Muskegon, and Holland, and the MPO agreed to fund it. Ottawa County led the effort. The City of Hudsonville recently approached the MPO about investigating how they connect to other communities to ensure transportation mobility for all residents. The MPO suggested updating this study with 2017 data, which will be beneficial in developing the next MTP. Itani recommended to the Committee that they approve allocating \$2,500 in federal funds to update the study. The total cost to update the study is \$11,500. The City of Hudsonville will provide the match.

Strikwerda added that this will be a benefit to several local communities and that the MACC and other local cities have also given funds toward this effort already.

Schmalzel entertained a motion to approve the City of Hudsonville's request.

MOTION by Krombeen, SUPPORT by DeClercq, to approve giving the City of Hudsonville \$2,500 in federal funds in order to update the West Michigan Transit Linkages study. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Varga stated that Congress's appropriations bill has been pushed back to February 16, and that they are looking at another continuing resolution. Getting funding late has been delaying projects. He explained that the feds have been holding onto FY2017 appropriations markups for the capital investment grants, such as the Laker Line, and are continuing to say that this is under review. The fix for this is in the appropriations bill.

Hooker explained that the 100th St. bridge was recently hit and has been closed for six months for repairs. He stated that he wanted to see MDOT reconstruct and widen it to four lanes and that there were numerous stressors on the bridge, and that it would be better to make these repairs now rather than later. Kent explained that MDOT is looking into this and has a meeting scheduled with AECOM. Additional fixes will come down to money and timing, as bigger fixes will take more than six months to complete. Itani agreed that now would be a good time to address additional work on the bridge. Discussion ensued.

Harrall followed up Varga's comment by explaining that delayed funding, unfortunately, equates to projects being delayed, sometimes significantly. Robinson recommended that communities consider advance constructing their projects. Discussion ensued.

Melton introduced herself as a Kent County Commissioner and new appointee to the Policy Committee. She replaces Bulkowski.

Schmalzel thanked Warren for his chairmanship of the Policy Committee over the past two years.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Schmalzel entertained a motion to adjourn the January 17, 2018 Policy Committee meeting.

MOTION by Burrill, SUPPORT by DeClercq, to adjourn the January 17, 2018 Policy Committee meeting at 10:24 am. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.