

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 20, 2017
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW, Grand Rapids, MI**

Warren, chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:33 am.

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

Doug LaFave
Rod Weersing
Cameron Van Wyngarden
Greg Madura
David Bulkowski
Tom Hooker
Tim Grifhorse
Terry Brod
John Lanum
Darrell Schmalzel
Jim Holtrop
Terry Schweitzer
Mike Womak
Steve Warren, *chair*
Mark DeClercq
Peter Varga

City of East Grand Rapids
Georgetown Township
Plainfield Township
Alpine Township
Kent County
Byron Township
Talmadge Township
Cannon Township
MDOT
City of Walker
City of Hudsonville
City of Kentwood
City of Cedar Springs
Kent County Road Commission
City of Grand Rapids
ITP – The Rapid

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Faber
Darrell Robinson
Laurel Joseph
Abed Itani
George Yang
Art Green
Steve Redmond
Norm Sevensma
Dan Strikwerda

GVMC
GVMC
GVMC
GVMC
GVMC
MDOT
MDOT
WMEAC-RWBC
City of Hudsonville

Voting Members Not Present

George Haga
Kevin Green
Adam Elanbaas
Bryan Harrison
Ben Swayze
Eric DeLong
Ken Krombeen
Mike Burns
Jamie Davies
Dan Burrill
Rob Postema
Chuck Porter
Robert DeWard
Tom Ecklund
Michael DeVries
Gail Altman
Jerry Hale
Tom Noreen
Jim Holtvluwer
Jim Miedema
David Dewey
Julius Suchy

Ada Township
Algoma Township
Allendale Township
Caledonia Charter Township
Cascade Charter Township
City of Grand Rapids
City of Grandville
City of Lowell
City of Rockford
City of Wyoming
City of Wyoming
Courtland Township
Gaines Charter Township
Gerald R. Ford Int'l Airport
Grand Rapids Charter Township
Jamestown Township
Lowell Township
Nelson Township
Ottawa County
Ottawa County Road Commission
Village of Sand Lake
Village of Sparta

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Warren entertained a motion to approve the May 17, 2017 Policy Committee minutes.

MOTION by Holtorp, SUPPORT by Schmalzel, to approve the May 17, 2017 Policy Committee minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sevensma mentioned that when the City of Chicago was out of compliance for air quality it restricted the sale of SUVs, and wondered if any of those restrictions have been rolled back or if they are still in effect. Itani stated he had not heard anything about it.

Bulkowski mentioned that The Rapid millage renewal is on the November ballot and encouraged everyone living in the six cities to vote yes, and said that if anyone had questions to feel free to get a hold of him.

IV. FY2017-2020 TIP AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson explained that MDOT, KCRC, Jamestown Township/OCRC, the City of Grand Rapids, the City of East Grand Rapids,

and the City of Hudsonville are requesting to amend/modify the FY2017-2020 TIP.
Specific Requests are as follows:

MDOT

MDOT is requesting the following amendments and/or administrative modifications to the GVMC FY 2017-20 MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project list and General Program Account (GPA) projects:

FY 2018-2020 – Trunkline Project TIP Administrative Modifications and Amendments

FY	JN	Route	Location	Work Description	Phase	Total Cost Est. (\$000)	Change
18	N/A	Various	Areawide-GPA	Trunkline Traffic Operation & Safety	Var.	\$12,000	Cost Increase
18	N/A	Various	Areawide-GPA	Trunkline Livability and Sustainability	Var.	\$500	New GPA Category
18	201094	Various	Areawide-GPA	Trunkline Scoping & Studies	Var.	\$2,050	Cost Increase
18	201096	Various	Grand Rapids TSC	Trunkline Scoping & Studies	EPE & PE	\$100	New GPA Project
18	201094	Various	Grand Region Road	Trunkline Scoping & Studies	EPE & PE	\$1,400	New GPA Project
18	201098	Various	Grand Region Bridge	Trunkline Scoping & Studies	EPE & PE	\$350	New GPA Project
18	200806	US-131	@ M-6	Freeway Lighting Upgrade	Const.	\$557	NEW TOS GPA Project Phase
18	200807	M-6	@ Kalamazoo Ave.	Freeway Lighting Upgrade	Const.	\$120	NEW TOS GPA Project Phase
18	201467	Various	Regionwide	Pavement Markings	PE	\$10	New TOS GPA Project
18	201467	Various	Regionwide	Pavement Markings	Const.	\$2,900	New TOS GPA Project
18	201471	Various	Regionwide	Special Pavement Markings	PE	\$7.5	New TOS GPA Project
18	201471	Various	Regionwide	Special Pavement Markings	Const.	\$870	New TOS GPA Project
18	201154	Various	Regionwide	Pavement Marking Reflectivity Reading and Assessment	Const.	\$20	New TOS GPA Project
18	200968	Various	Regionwide	Upgrade Freeway Pavement Delineation	PE	\$10	New TOS GPA Project
18	200968	Various	Regionwide	Upgrade Freeway Pavement Delineation	Const.	\$297	New TOS GPA Project
18	113355	Various	Regionwide	Non-Freeway Sign Upgrade	Const.	\$805	New TOS GPA Project
18	113362	Various	Regionwide	Non-Freeway Sign Upgrade	Const.	\$530	New TOS GPA Project
18	201291	US-131 NB	Over 6 Mile Road	Partial Superstructure Replacement - Emergency Repair	Const.	\$399	New Bridge Preserv. GPA Project/Exempt
18	200227	Various	Regionwide	Bridge Warranty Admin.	Const.	\$35	New Bridge Preserv. GPA Project
18	131376	US-131	Kent Co. Ln to 76 th Street	Resurface	PE	\$35	New Hwy. Preserv. GPA Project

18	200149	M-37	Patterson Ave. to 44 th St.	Concrete Repairs	Const.	\$832	New Hwy. Preserv. GPA Project
18	200228	Various	Regionwide	CPM Warranty Admin.	Const.	\$50	New Hwy. Preserv. GPA Project
18	200591	US-131	44 th Street to M-11 (28 th St.)	Resurface	PE	\$30	New Hwy. Preserv. GPA Project
18	201238	Various	GR TSC area	Crack Treatment	PE	\$15	New Hwy. Preserv. GPA Project
18	200226	Various	Regionwide	Highway R & R Warranty Administration	Const.	\$35	New Hwy R & R GPA Project
18	200579	I-196	Grand River (Market Ave.), east to Lane Avenue	Joint Repairs and High Friction Treatment	PE	\$75	New Hwy R & R GPA Project
19	131376	US-131	Kent Co. Ln to 76 th Street	Resurface	Const.	\$2,300	New Hwy. Preserv. GPA Project
19	200591	US-131	44 th Street to M-11 (28 th St.)	Resurface	Const.	\$2,500	New Hwy. Preserv. GPA Project
19	201238	Various	GR TSC area	Crack Treatment	Const.	\$300	New Hwy. Preserv. GPA Project
19	123922	I-196	@ US-131	Ramps Friction Treatment	Const.	\$200	New TOS GPA Project Phase
20	200348	Various Locations	Regionwide	Signal Modernization	Const.	\$1,766	New TOS GPA Project Phase
20	200579	I-196	Grand River (Market Ave.), east to Lane Avenue	Joint Repairs and High Friction Treatment	Const.	\$4,300	New Hwy R & R GPA Project

These TIP revisions are the result of Statewide and Region, road and bridge program, cost and revenue modifications. Please amend and/or modify the GVMC FY 2017-2020 MPO TIP to include these project revisions as needed.

KCRC

KCRC is working with MDOT and the County Road Association on the pilot program that allows a local agency to purchase Federal Aid from other local agencies. KCRC plans to purchase \$900,000 of 2018 Rural STP funds from Newaygo and Montcalm Road Commissions. The purchase of those funds will allow KCRC to move the following 2019 project to 2018:

13 Mile Road

Location: Kenowa Ave to Fruit Ridge Ave

Rural STP Funds: \$900,000

Total Project Cost: 1,200,000

City of Grand Rapids

The City has submitted for a Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant for bike lanes in Covell Avenue from O'Brien Road to Lake Michigan Drive (M-45). The grant request is presently being reviewed by Michigan Department of Transportation staff. As the scope of the work has been developed, the cost of the project will be more than

anticipated. The current estimate for the work is \$275,171. The initial grant amount was \$70,000. The City understands that there may be additional grant funding available from projects that aren't ready to move forward, and is asking that the grant amount be increased from \$70,000 to \$154,000. The \$154,000 amounts to 69% of the costs of the participating items.

The City has submitted for a Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant (TA-17074) for sidewalk improvements in 3 Mile Road from Monroe Ave to Coit Ave. The grant request is presently being reviewed by Michigan Department of Transportation staff. As the scope of the work has been developed, the cost of the project will be more than anticipated and the project scope has been expanded to include the north side of current project limits. The current estimate for the work is \$546,447. The City is asking that the project year for this project be changed from 2019 to 2018. The grant request of \$321,587 amounts to 70% of the costs of the participating items.

Jamestown Township/OCRC

Jamestown Township, on behalf of OCRC, requested that the 32nd Ave Connector project be removed from the TAP program list for consideration for funding at this time. OCRC will be doing major work on 32nd Ave within the next two years and this changes the scope of this project, as a paved shoulder would no longer be a safe alternative to a pathway. The township would like to make significant changes to the project and resubmit it at a later date.

City of East Grand Rapids

The City of East Grand Rapids requested a modification to the project limits for the Breton Rd project in the 2018 TIP. The project was planned for a reconstruct of Breton between Lake and Hall to coordinate with a utility project that will no longer be taking place through traditional open cut construction. Given the change in scope of the project to a rotomill/resurface project, the City would like to extend the project limits on Breton Rd. The project limits would be extended on Breton from Hall to the south city limit. The project funding programmed amount of \$651,796 of STP-U funds in the TIP remains unchanged.

City of Hudsonville

Project name: Buttermilk Trail Underpass

Grant number: TA 2017002.01

Project year 2018 shift to 2019 due to requested hydraulic analysis that is currently under MDOT review.

Path type: Shared use path

Project name: Buttermilk Creek Pathway

Grant number: CMAQ: [2016102](#)

Project year: 2018, change to 2019 since this is the same project as TA 2017002.01 listed above.

Project scope adjustment: Prospect Street to Van Buren Street instead of to Oak Street.

Path type: Shared use path

Project name: Buttermilk Trail

Grant number: TA 2016077.01

Project year: 2017, change to 2018

Project scope adjustment: New Holland Street to 32nd Avenue change to New Holland Street to north park limit.

Path type: Shared use path

The original intent was to construct this pathway in 2017. Due to construction currently taking place on the site in preparation for a subdivision on the adjacent property, and pathway realignment that has more than doubled the pathway length, it is requested to shift this project to 2018.

Further explanation:

The city and Hudsonville Public Schools originally agreed that the pathway could extend through the school's campus along Buttermilk Creek. The school already has pathway for most of this location. After discussions at the school, they changed their mind and did not want the main pathway route along the Buttermilk Creek since it goes between their two main buildings and would conflict with students going between the two buildings. They will allow this route to be used, but not as the main route during school hours.

The pathway location was then proposed to extend to 32nd Avenue at the next best location but since Hudsonville Public Schools expanded their parking lot, this was no longer viewed (including by MDOT) as a good location due to the number of conflict points with vehicular traffic.

Hudsonville Public Schools have since agreed to a new pathway location that extends to Allen Street at the intersection of Cherry Avenue. This greatly extends the pathway length but also adds the benefit of creating a downtown link that will increase pathway use. Hudsonville Public Schools commissioned a Regulatory Wetland Delineation Report that helps define the new pathway location. This route has preliminary acceptance from MDOT. TAP funding is being requested for this new path extension, which is listed here:

Project name: Buttermilk Trail phase II – high school

Project scope: north park limits to Allen Street.

Path type: Shared use path

MOTION by Bulkowski, SUPPORT by DeClercq, to approve the FY2017-2020 TIP amendments/modifications requested by MDOT, KCRC, the City of Grand Rapids, the City of Hudsonville, the City of East Grand Rapids, and Jamestown Township/OCRC. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

V. FY2017-2020 TIP UPDATE

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Robinson reported that GVMC staff made several modification to the FY2017-2020 TIP over the summer. He noted that these modifications were small in cost/scope and all allowable under the approved Policies and Practices document.

Specific requests staff acted on included the following:

- The City of Kentwood requested to adjust the limits of the FY2018 Breton Avenue project.
- ITP-The Rapid requested several modifications to their program for FY2017 and FY2018.
- KCRC requested to move an HPP (Earmark) Projects from FY2014 to FY2017 in order to expend the remaining funds associated with the Fred Meijer Pioneer Phase 2 project. KCRC also added a FY2017 MDOT funded TAP project on Kenowa Avenue.
- The City of Grand Rapids requested to add a FY2017 and a FY2018 MDOT funded TAP project. The City then requested to adjust the limits of the Lake Michigan Drive TAP project.
- The City of Walker requested to increase the local funding on their FY2017 Richmond Street TAP project.
- MDOT requested to modify several projects listed in the FY2017-2020 TIP.

Schweitzer asked whether the Kenowa trail project had been taken over M-6. Robinson said it was taken north of M-6. Warren said that the trail connection over Division exists. Discussion ensued.

VI. NON-MOTORIZED PLAN PROJECT LIST AMENDMENT

Referring to **Item VI: Attachment A**, Itani stated that the City of Kentwood is requesting to add projects from their City Non-Motorized Plan to the GVMC Non-Motorized Plan project list. Kentwood adopted their plan this spring and as a result, is making this request. These projects will become official during next plan update and go through public involvement at that time.

Schweitzer noted that there are a lot of sidewalk projects on the list. He knows that based on policy GVMC doesn't typically fund a lot of sidewalk projects, but Kentwood wanted to include them in the request to help get other sources of funding, especially Safe Routes to School funding.

MOTION by LaFave, SUPPORT by Schmalzel to approve the addition of the City of Kentwood's Non-Motorized Plan projects to GVMC's Non-Motorized Plan project list. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VII. ITP STATE OF GOOD REPAIR TARGETS

Referring to **Item VII: Attachment A**, Itani requested that the committee look at and approve ITP's State of Good Repair targets, which it was required to established based on the current federal transportation legislation.

Schweitzer stated that these targets are reflective of the policy ITP has now, but noted that there might be updates at the federal level so changes might be made in the future.

Bulkowski noted that at an APTA event in Chicago this summer he learned that transit agencies are being asked to put unfunded liabilities in the books, look at the gaps, and see how meaningful it is. In this way agencies will be looking at what is and what they want to be.

Itani talked about the gap between needs and funding.

Warren asked if The Rapid has stats about current condition.

Schweitzer said yes, and that The Rapid is always looking at the fleet and coming back to Metro Council, in part, to make those updates as necessary.

MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Van Wyngarden to accept and support ITP's State of Good Repair targets. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VIII. PERFORMANCE MEASURES TIMELINE

Referring to **Item VIII: Attachment A**, Itani provided an overview of the performance measures timeline that was provided by Dennis Kent from MDOT. He noted that the State's safety targets have already been adopted and that GVMC and other MPOs have been working with the state on this. MPOs have the option to either support the State's targets or develop their own, and at this point he said staff is thinking it will probably be best to support the State's targets, and that the State is responsible for implementation. Itani also noted that the Planning Rule is final and that if the MTP or TIP need to be amended after May of 2018 they will need to comply with the performance measures requirements, and that staff is working on this. He also pointed out that the Pavement and Bridge and System Performance Rules have been published, and that the State is working on finalizing the targets, which the MPO will review. Staff will meet with tech committee and TPSG to go over these in more detail starting in October and going through March.

DeClercq noted that we should reflect on what is attainable when we're looking at targets and support the state since they support us. Itani mentioned that there is not penalty for MPOs if targets are not met. We just have to show we have a process, and noted that we already have a performance based planning process in place. Reporting is what is going to change.

Lanum stated that for MPOs and TIPs, in terms of addressing performance measures, it'll be sufficient for the feds if there is a demonstration of a good faith effort. Especially if you're adopting the state's targets, you don't have to produce your own metric, you just have to show the feds that certain projects in your TIP are illustrative of a good faith effort to meet the state target.

Itani noted that this is all a learning process. GVMC has excellent relationships with the state and feds so he is sure we will come up with a process that pleases everyone.

IX. FY2017 WORK PROGRAM UPDATE

Referring to **Item IX: Attachment A**, Itani noted that September 30 is the end of the fiscal year and the end of the 2017 work program, so he is sharing with the committee what staff has done this year. Some highlights include spending time updating the travel demand model – it will have time of day analysis, new modes, transit, nonmotorized, and freight; it will be sensitive to changes in land use, and give GVMC capabilities we haven't had before. GVMC hired a consultant to do this and have been working to update the information they need to make the model updates. Itani also

stated that at the end of next year we will be beginning the process of updating the MTP.

DeClercq asked if upon request staff and the consultant would sit down with municipalities to go over the data output. Itani said yes, staff is here to help with any technical assistance and is more than happy to share the data.

Itani also noted that staff finished pavement on federal aid and local system, and also did Kalamazoo County Road Commission the City of Portage.

Discussion ensued.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Robinson stated that many of the Technical Committee members were invited to a meeting in October for coordinating efforts for future year projects and thanked Art Green of MDOT for helping set that up.

Bulkowski mentioned the essential needs task for survey, thanking those that have participated, and stating that he will be following up with others.

Redmond stated that the Grand Region Nonmotorized Plan is being finished and that MDOT will be printing 30,000 maps, which folks should keep an eye out for.

DeClercq noted that for ArtPrize on the weekend of September 28th a lane on the Bridge St bridge will be closed down to showcase materials that will be used for the Grand River Edges Trail and taking public input.

Varga stated that the Laker Line funding is coming from the feds and that he expects service to start in May 2020. The operating funding will come from GVSU mostly – only a very small portion will be coming from the Rapid and it won't affect the millage. This project was the only uncapped project. Varga thanked the committee for all the support so The Rapid could be in line to get this funding.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Warren adjourned the meeting at 10:32 am.