

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, May 18, 2016
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Steve Warren, chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM.

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

Steve Warren, <i>Chair</i>	<i>Proxy for</i>	KCRC
	<i>Dave Bulkowski</i>	Kent County
	<i>Mike DeVries</i>	Grand Rapids Township
Alex Arends		Alpine Township
Mark DeClercq	<i>Proxy for</i>	City of Grand Rapids
	<i>Eric DeLong</i>	
Jim Holtrop		City of Hudsonville
Dennis Kent	<i>Proxy for</i>	MDOT
	<i>Dave Pasquale</i>	City of Lowell
Ken Krombeen		City of Grandville
John Lanum		MDOT
Jim Miedema		OCRC
Darrel Schmalzel, <i>Vice Chair</i>		City of Walker
Terry Schweitzer		City of Kentwood
Peter Varga		ITP-The Rapid

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Faber	GVMC
Abed Itani	GVMC
Laurel Joseph	GVMC
Norm Sevensma	WMEAC-RWB
Dan Strikwerda	City of Hudsonville
George Yang	GVMC

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Gail Altman	Jamestown Township
Terry Brod	Cannon Township
Dave Bulkowski	Kent County
Jamie Davies	City of Rockford
Eric DeLong	City of Grand Rapids
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
George Haga	Ada Township
Bryan Harrison	Caledonia Township

Don Hilton, Sr.
 Dennis Hoemke
 Jim Holtvluwer
 Doug LaFave
 Tom Noreen
 Dave Pasquale
 Rich Pastoor
 Jack Poll
 Chuck Porter
 Brian Ryks
 Julius Suchy
 Ben Swayze
 Thad Taylor
 Roger Towsley
 Toby Van Ess
 Cameron Van Wyngarden
 Rod Weersing
 Audrey Nevins Weiss

Gaines Charter Township
 Algoma Township
 Ottawa County
 City of East Grand Rapids
 Nelson Township
 City of Lowell
 City of Wyoming
 City of Wyoming
 Courtland Township
 GRFIA
 Village of Sparta
 Cascade Township
 City of Cedar Springs
 Village of Sand Lake
 Tallmadge Township
 Plainfield Township
 Georgetown Township
 Byron Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Warren entertained a motion to approve the March 16, 2016 Policy Committee minutes.

MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Schmalzel, to approve the May 16, 2016 Policy Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (GENERAL)

Sevensma noted that Amtrak has introduced bicycle service on the train from Grand Rapids to Chicago, but that if one wants to travel west from Chicago they'd have to get a box to put the bicycle in the baggage car.

No other public comments.

IV. FY2014-2017 TIP AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson informed the committee that MDOT, the City of Grand Rapids, and GVMC Staff (on behalf of several members) were requesting to amend/modify the FY2014-2017 TIP.

Specific requests included the following:

- MDOT requested to amend/modify the FY 2016 and FY 2017 projects and GPAs listed in the FY2014-2017 TIP, including some phasing changes and cost increases. Additionally, MDOT has requested a phasing change to a 2018 project, which has a phase listed in the FY 2014-2017 TIP.
 - Kent noted that these are all smaller, general projects.

- The City of Grand Rapids has requested the addition of some sections of a project for which they are applying to fund with a TIGER Grant. Some of the projects were already in the TIP, but in order for all projects to be eligible for TIGER grant funding, they must be listed in the TIP.
 - Schweitzer asked about the public hearing/notice requirements if the City were to get the grant. Itani said the City would have to do public involvement, etc. if that were to happen.
 - Sevensma commented regarding the project on Lyon Street saying that the hill is too steep for most bicyclists to ride up – most have to get off and walk their bikes up the hill. DeClercq noted that the project is consistent with the bicycle plan map to make an east-west connection. Varga stated that ITP is most supportive of the Lafayette to Plymouth section, which would provide an alternative route allowing ITP to implement BRT service along Michigan.
 - Schmalzel asked if implementation of these projects is contingent upon the City receiving the TIGER Grant and if they impact whether the TIP is financially constrained. Robinson stated that the projects that are contingent on grant funding are in the illustrative list. Itani stated that the illustrative list projects do not need to be financially constrained. Varga stated that ITP may do “BRT-light” on Michigan if grant funding is not secured for these projects.
- GVMC staff requested to add nine FY 2017 safety projects to the TIP.

The floor was opened for questions and Schweitzer asked about a project on Fruit Ridge. It was noted this project is on the illustrative list. Discussion ensued.

Warren entertained a motion to amend the FY2014-2017 TIP.

MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to recommend the approval of the amendments/modifications to the FY2014-2017 TIP requested by MDOT, the City of Grand Rapids, and GVMC. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (FY 2017-2020 TIP)

None.

VI. APPROVAL OF DRAFT FY2017-2020 TIP

Referring to **Item VI: Attachment A**, Robinson requested Committee approval of the draft FY2017-2020 TIP. Once approved, it will go to the Metro Council Board, then to MDOT, and eventually to FHWA/FTA. Robinson stated that GVMC performed all federal requirements including environmental justice and public involvement processes, which were both successful.

Warren recognized the contributions of everyone on the committee in developing the project list.

Lanum stated that the projects have also successfully been logged into the ESTIP system, and that he appreciates GVMC approving and submitting the document ahead of the June deadline.

Itani stated that not having to do an air quality analysis this time saved staff time, but that it will need to be done for the next TIP, potentially affecting the types of projects that are able to be included in the document.

Warren entertained a motion to approve the draft FY 2017-2020 TIP.

MOTION by Schmalzel, SUPPORT by Krombeen, to recommend the approval of the draft FY2017-2020 TIP. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VII. UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Warren and Itani introduced the UPWP. Itani stated that the document includes brief explanations of the activities GVMC will focus on in the next fiscal year, staff assignments, and membership dues, which will need to be approved by the Policy Committee before the document becomes final. Itani noted that the document also includes ITP activities.

Itani discussed activities related to the federal planning factors and emphasis areas and noted that some FTA Section 5303 money has been flexed to PL funding for the year. Itani stated that during FY2017 GVMC will not be developing a TIP or MTP, but staff will be engaging in major activities related to performance measures and performance based planning, including coordination with MDOT and improving the travel demand model. Kent stated that MDOT will also be working with GVMC on the freight network.

Itani stated that he does not expect any big staffing changes next FY, and that the dues are the same as last year; additional dues in the total reflect new members.

DeClercq, Itani, Lanum, and Kent further discussed the need to coordinate regarding performance measures and targets to ensure targets align with local/regional goals and needs.

Kent noted that the \$50,000 in SPR funding listed for short-range planning has not been approved yet.

Lanum stated that in addition to the flexed Section 5303 funds, there are still statewide Section 5303 funds available for FY2016 and FY2017. Requests must be made by June. Discussion ensued.

Warren entertained a motion to approve the proposed activities/budget for the FY2017 UPWP.

MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by DeClercq, to recommend the approval of the FY2017 proposed activities/budget for the FY2017 UPWP. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Warren stated that the Governor has appointed members to the 21st Century Infrastructure Commission. This group has a broad charge, but roads/transportation is one element of it. The Director of MDOT is chairing the Transportation Systems Subcommittee, which will be meeting on June 8th. The governor gave the Commission (and Subcommittees) the option to have open or closed meetings and they chose to have closed meetings. Warren will be providing testimony to the Transportation Systems Subcommittee on the 8th. Warren asked if others are aware of the Commission and urged members to keep their ears open and look for opportunities to participate. There are two West Michigan representatives on the commission, Eric DeLong from the City of Grand Rapids and Mike DeVries from AECOM. Warren suggested reaching out and inviting one or both of them to tell the committee what's going on.

Itani stated he would talk to DeVries after the next Council meeting.

Warren stated that DeLong seems to be optimistic about the Commission, and noted that their report is due out in November. DeClercq stated he is curious about what the report will be like, given the short time frame and the effort that is required to perform an asset management-style gap assessment.

Warren also pointed out that this week is National Public Works Awareness Week and that several members are participating in events.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Warren adjourned the meeting at 10:32 AM.