

**MINUTES**

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
Transportation Division  
POLICY COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, May 20, 2015  
Kent County Road Commission  
1500 Scribner NW      Grand Rapids, MI**

Krombeen, chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:32 am.

Ecklund announced that he was representing Ryks at today's meeting. LaFave introduced himself as the new City of East Grand Rapids' representative on the Policy Committee, replacing Slonecki. Harrall stated that he was representing Bulkowski and the County of Kent today.

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

Ken Krombeen, <i>Chair</i>		City of Grandville
Gail Altman		Jamestown Township
Alex Arends		Alpine Township
Terry Brod		Cannon Township
Tom Ecklund	<i>Proxy for</i>	GRFIA
	<i>Brian Ryks</i>	GRFIA
Wayne Harrall	<i>Proxy for</i>	County of Kent
	<i>Dave Bulkowski</i>	County of Kent
Doug LaFave		City of East Grand Rapids
John Lanum	<i>Proxy for</i>	MDOT
	<i>Dal McBurrows</i>	MDOT
Jim Miedema		OCRC
Chuck Porter		Courtland Township
Mark Rambo	<i>Proxy for</i>	KCRC
	<i>Steve Warren</i>	KCRC
Darrel Schmalzel		City of Walker
Terry Schweitzer	<i>Proxy for</i>	City of Kentwood
	<i>Rich Houtteman</i>	City of Kentwood
Ben Swayze		Cascade Township
Cameron Van Wyngarden		Plainfield Township
Peter Varga		ITP-The Rapid

**Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present**

Andrea Faber	GVMC
Rod Ghearing	ITP-The Rapid
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Steve Redmond	MDOT
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Norm Sevensma	WMEAC-RWBC
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff
Mike Zonyk	GVMC Staff

**Voting Members Not Present**

Jerry Alkema  
 Dave Bulkowski  
 Jamie Davies  
 Mark DeClercq  
 Eric DeLong  
 Mike DeVries  
 George Haga  
 Bryan Harrison  
 Don R. Hilton, Sr.  
 Dennis Hoemke  
 Jim Holtvluwer  
 Rich Houtteman  
 Mark Howe  
 Dal McBurrows  
 Audrey Nevins-Weiss  
 Richard Pastoor  
 Jack Poll  
 Brian Ryks  
 Dan Strikwerda  
 Thad Taylor  
 Roger Towsley  
 Toby VanEss  
 Steve Warren, Vice Chair  
 Rod Weersing

Allendale Township  
 Kent County  
 City of Rockford  
 City of Grand Rapids  
 City of Grand Rapids  
 Grand Rapids Township  
 Ada Township  
 Caledonia Charter Township  
 Gaines Township  
 Algoma Township  
 Ottawa County  
 City of Kentwood  
 City of Lowell  
 MDOT  
 Byron Township  
 City of Wyoming  
 City of Wyoming  
 GRFIA  
 City of Hudsonville  
 City of Cedar Springs  
 Village of Sand Lake  
 Tallmadge Township  
 KCRC  
 Georgetown Township

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Krombeen entertained a motion to approve the March 18, 2015 Policy Committee minutes.

**MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Schmalzel, to approve of the March 18, 2015 Policy Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sevensma announced that the Michigan House came up with a new proposal to fix the roads that redirects funding from existing sources. Varga noted that public transit does not support this proposal, since it excludes public transit from funding growth.

**IV. FY2014-2017 TIP AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS**

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson informed the Committee that several jurisdictions were requesting to amend/modify the FY2014-2017 TIP. Their specific requests were as follows:

1. The Kent County Road Commission requested to add several approved FY2016 safety projects to the TIP, which included: (1) Vergennes St. at Cumberland Avenue, (2) Cedar Springs Avenue at Egner St., and (3) Division Avenue from 84th St. to 76th St. In addition, the KCRC was recently awarded 2016 funds for an HMA resurfacing and road reconfiguration (4 lanes to 3 lanes) of Division Avenue between 84th St. and 76th St. This project was in the TIP using 2016 NHS funds. The KCRC

requested that the 68th St. project be added to the FY2014-2017 TIP from the illustrative list for fiscal year 2016 to fill the funding gap left by the Division Ave. project. The Division Avenue project would be funded with \$600,000 in safety funds, \$100,000 in federal NHS funds, and \$175,000 in local funds for a total project cost of \$875,000.

2. The City of Kentwood requested to add several approved FY2016 safety projects to the TIP, including: 52<sup>nd</sup> St. at Eastern Avenue and Shaffer Avenue at 32<sup>nd</sup> St.
3. ITP-The Rapid requested to modify the cost of several projects in FY2015 of the TIP. The Laker Line Project Development project would increase in cost from \$560,000 to \$2,019,870. The Intelligent Transportation System project would decrease in cost from \$1,346,090 to \$766,219, and the Preventative Maintenance project would decrease in cost from \$958,666 to \$78,667.
4. The City of Grand Rapids requested to remove several projects from the FY2016 and FY2017 TIP that were funded with local funds due to an approved income tax extension that was dedicated to street and sidewalk investment and replace them with projects from the illustrative list. These projects included:

FY2016:

- Eastern Avenue—28<sup>th</sup> St. to Alger St.
- Eastern Avenue—Alger St. to Burton St.
- Plymouth Avenue—Michigan St. to Leonard St.

FY2017:

- 32<sup>nd</sup> St.—Kalamazoo Avenue to East City Limits
- Monroe Avenue—Michigan St. to 6<sup>th</sup>/Newberry St.
- Alpine Avenue—Stocking Avenue to Leonard St.
- Fulton St.—250' West of Somerset Drive to Maryland Ave.
- Grandville Avenue—Franklin St. to Bartlett St.
- Coit Avenue—North Park Street to 4 Mile Road and North Park Street—Monroe Avenue to Coit Avenue
- Fuller Avenue—Alexander St. to Franklin St.

The City of Grand Rapids also requested to add their awarded safety projects into the TIP: Signal improvements safety projects for Fulton at Monroe and Market, 44<sup>th</sup> at Kalamazoo, and 44<sup>th</sup> and Breton.

It was also noted that the Kalamazoo Avenue 42<sup>nd</sup> St. to 36<sup>th</sup> St. (FY2016) and Kalamazoo Avenue 36<sup>th</sup> St. to Forrester Avenue (FY2017) will be done this year as part of the region-wide preventative maintenance GPA project. Additionally, one project from the STP-Urban proposed list for FY2016 was moved into the TIP: Leonard St.—Plainfield to Lafayette Ave. They are looking to advance construct this project in FY2015 with advance construct conversion for FY2016. The Wealthy St.—US 131 to Division Avenue project will also be changed to Wealthy St.—Commerce Avenue to Division Avenue and the federal grant will be reduced from \$957,000 to \$357,000.

Robinson noted that the Technical Committee recommends approval of all of these TIP amendment/modification requests.

Schmalzel asked for clarification on the City of Grand Rapids' Fulton at Monroe and Market project. Snell stated that this project was for signal work. Krombeen entertained a motion to approve all of the TIP amendment/modification requests, as presented.

**MOTION by Varga, SUPPORT by Porter, to approve of the amendments/modifications to the FY2014-2017 TIP requested by the Kent County Road Commission, the City of Kentwood, ITP-The Rapid, and the City of Grand Rapids.**

Harrall noted that the KCRC's Division Avenue project was previously funded with NHPP before it was funded with safety funds. However, \$100,000 in NHPP would still stay with the project since the project was more costly than the safety funds could cover. Robinson stated that this was included in the motion.

Krombeen called the motion to question. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Itani stated that FTA is also requesting to include ITP-The Rapid's Laker Line project as a fiscally constrained project in the main project list of the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. He noted that the GVMC Board approved the 2040 MTP earlier this month and that the Policy Committee can amend the plan without going back to Metro Council. Varga explained why the project needed to be included in the 2040 MTP and noted that the fund sources for the project will be FTA small starts, MDOT match, and local funds from GVSU. Snell added that there is \$64 million available for the project in the MTP.

Krombeen entertained a motion to amend the 2040 MTP.

**MOTION by Schmalzel, SUPPORT by Schweitzer, to move the Laker Line project from the illustrative list in the 2040 MTP to the main constrained project list, with the funding sources for the \$64 million to be small starts and local match, with the overall match 75/25.**

Lanum asked if this will be coordinated with the MDOT office of passenger transportation. Varga replied it would be.

Krombeen called the motion to question. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Itani gave the Committee an overview of the proposed FY2016 Unified Planning Work Program Activities and Budget. He explained that the UPWP includes the budget for all federally assisted transportation planning activities that the GVMC Transportation Division, the Interurban Transit Partnership (ITP) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will undertake. GVMC must submit the UPWP annually to the sponsoring federal agencies, Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration prior to October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Itani added that, included in the agenda packet, was a general outline of the FY2016 UPWP transportation tasks related to the GVMC Transportation Department and associated budget to complete these tasks, as well as the dues structure proposed for FY2016. The GVMC Transportation Program receives its local match through dues assessed to the 32 participating member agencies. The ITP and MDOT activities and associated budgets will be made available to GVMC upon completion before the end of May. Discussion ensued.

Krombeen entertained a motion to approve the proposed FY2016 UPWP.

**MOTION by Swayze, SUPPORT by Varga, to approve the proposed FY2016 UPWP, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**VI. NHS/NFC STATEWIDE REVIEW**

Referring to **Item VI: Attachment A**, Zonyk presented a table to the Committee of the summary of modifications for submission to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) as requested by GVMC's MPO road agency members. The Policy Committee will need to sign a resolution to signify the involvement and approval from all the regional government agencies to finalize the review process for our MPO. Formal document submission to MDOT for the statewide review will take place by the end of May. Zonyk noted that the Technical Committee already approved this request. Itani added that this revision is needed because the latest census showed that our MPO area grew slightly, which means that the MPO needs to add more roads to the federal aid network. Once the Policy Committee approves this, it will become final for the next 10 years. Lanum added that he will work with the MPO to make recommendations for changes.

Krombeen entertained a motion to adopt the modifications to the NFC/NHS system and approve the corresponding resolution.

**MOTION by Altman, SUPPORT by Lanum, to adopt the modifications to the NFC/NHS system as presented and approve the corresponding resolution. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**VII. 2014 PAVEMENT CONDITION REPORT**

Referring to **Item VII: Attachment A**, Snell informed the Committee that GVMC releases a technical report on the general pavement conditions on major streets and highways in the region every year. He noted a few highlights of the report, stating that the roads are better than they were two years ago, but that overall, we continue to lose about 1% of the condition every year. He added that this report is for informational purposes only and that formal approval of the report is not necessary. Discussion ensued.

**VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Itani stated that FHWA presented the certification report at the May GVMC Board meeting. They are scheduled to give a similar presentation at the July Policy meeting.

Itani added that the extension for funding will expire on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Congress is on vacation next week, so he stated that he was unsure about what was going to happen. Lanum stated he heard there may be an extension until the end of July, which is when the highway trust funds will dry up. Discussion ensued.

Krombeen reminded the Committee members that the Policy Committee won't be meeting in June. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 15.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Krombeen adjourned the May 20, 2015 Policy Committee meeting at 10:19 am.