

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, May 7, 2014
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Zull, chair of the Technical Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:31 am. All Committee members, staff, and guests present introduced themselves.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Chris Zull (<i>Chair</i>)		City of Grand Rapids
Alex Arends		Alpine Township
Ken Bergwerff		Jamestown Township
Scott Conners		City of Walker
Rick DeVries		City of Grand Rapids
Tim Haagsma		Gaines Charter Township
Wayne Harrall	<i>Proxy for Mike DeVries</i>	Kent County
		Grand Rapids Township
Roy Hawkins		KCDA/GRFIA
Jan Hoekstra	<i>Proxy for Rod Ghearing</i>	ITP-The Rapid
		ITP-The Rapid
Mark Howe		City of Lowell
Brett Laughlin		OCRC
Paul Lott		MDOT-SPS
Terry Schweitzer (<i>Vice Chair</i>)		City of Kentwood
Joe Slonecki		East Grand Rapids
Rick Sprague	<i>Proxy for Steve Warren</i>	KCRC
		KCRC
Tom Stressman		City of Cedar Springs
Dan Strikwerda		City of Hudsonville

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Faber	GVMC Staff
Abed Itani	GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Erick Kind	MDOT
Roger Marks	C2AE
Darrell Robinson	GVMC Staff
Norm Sevensma	WMEAC-RWBC
Jim Snell	GVMC Staff
George Yang	GVMC Staff
Mike Zonyk	GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township

Ron Carr
Timothy Cochran
Mike DeVries
Bill Dooley
Jim Ferro
Bill Fischer
Rod Ghearing
Dennis Hoemke
Jim Holtrop
Tim Nelson
Audrey Nevins Weiss
Steve Peterson
Chuck Porter
Toby VanEss
Phil Vincent
Steve Warren

City of Grandville
City of Wyoming
Grand Rapids Township
City of Wyoming
Ada Township
Plainfield Township
ITP-The Rapid
Algoma Township
Ottawa County
Cannon Township
Byron Township
Cascade Charter Township
Courtland Township
Tallmadge Township
City of Rockford
KCRC

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Zull entertained a motion to approve the March 5, 2014 Technical Committee minutes.

MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Howe, to approve the March 5, 2014 Technical Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sevensma stated that the City of Grand Rapids’ tax increase to repair roads and sidewalks passed yesterday. However, this funding won’t be available until July 1, 2015, and because it only applies to the City of Grand Rapids, it didn’t appear that there would be any big changes in the immediate future. He also asked if the Technical Committee had ever supported a gas tax for road repair. Itani responded that GVMC and the Grand Rapids Chamber sponsored a Street Summit on Friday, April 25, and that both organizations, along with much of the business community, support a tax increase. He also noted that the Michigan House may pass a bill for \$500 million to fix the roads. The Senate may double that amount. Zull provided a brief synopsis of the tax increase as well as how the funding will be utilized. Discussion ensued.

IV. FY2014-2017 TIP AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson stated that the American Red Cross and MDOT were requesting to amend/modify the FY2014-2017 TIP. Their specific requests included the following:

- The American Red Cross requested to add an expansion vehicle to the FY2014-2017 TIP utilizing 5310 funds.
- MDOT requested to amend/modify the FY2014-2017 TIP to add funding to two projects (I-96 under Cascade Road bridge replacement for construction and PE in FY2015 and FY2014, respectively), to add a new phase to an existing project (M-21 over the GRE/G&W RR in FY2014), and to add a new project for FY2014 (M-11 Indian Mounds Drive to Church Avenue).

Kent provided additional details and clarification about MDOT's requests. Haagsma requested that Kent have MDOT's designers meet with his signal people about the I-96 under Cascade Road bridge replacement project. Kind stated that this would be possible. Discussion ensued.

Zull entertained a motion to approve of the requested amendments/modifications to the FY2014-2017 TIP.

MOTION by Haagsma, SUPPORT by Conners, to recommend to the Policy Committee approving of the amendments/modifications to the FY2014-2017 TIP requested by the American Red Cross and MDOT, as identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. **NON-MOTORIZED PLAN APPROVAL**

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Zonyk stated that the draft version of the Non-Motorized Plan was announced in March at the Technical and Policy Committee meetings, and it was officially opened up for public comment. The comments and changes received have been incorporated into the document. The 2014 Non-Motorized Plan was approved by the Non-Motorized Committee and is being brought forward to the Technical Committee today for final approval. The document itself will guide non-motorized improvements over the next four years. Itani also added additional details about the development process of the document, noting that it would need to go to the Policy Committee for final approval.

Schweitzer asked if staff would create an executive summary of the Non-Motorized Plan. Zonyk affirmed that staff would do this, and stated that the executive summary would be included as a chapter of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Itani added that the full Non-Motorized Plan will be an appendix to the MTP. Discussion ensued.

Schweitzer congratulated Staff on their accomplishment of completing the document.

Zull entertained a motion to recommend approval of the Non-Motorized Plan to the Policy Committee.

MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Harrall, to recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the Non-Motorized Plan. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. **METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Snell provided the Committee with a status update on the development of the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. He noted that staff met with 34 different stakeholders individually to learn about their respective areas and that the SE data will be better because of this effort. Moving forward, staff will put out a draft form of the SE data from now through 2040. The data will be shared with the members individually, and everyone will have an opportunity to review and comment on the data. He asked that the Committee members respond to him as soon as possible. He also stated that, for efficiency, staff may ask for the Committee's blessing to move forward with this data in draft form with final approval at the July Technical Committee meeting. Snell also noted that the Non-Motorized Plan is now finished, the Safety component is moving along, and that the Asset Management Committee will be meeting at the end of the month to discuss future needs in that area. Staff also met with ITP and their portion of the MTP is also in progress. Overall, the MTP is moving forward on schedule.

Itani noted that the 2040 MTP is falling between two different sets of regulations, which means that some MAP-21-mandated performance-based planning and programming regulations will need to be addressed. He noted that, over the next couple of months, staff will be engaging with Committee members to adopt targets in various areas. He added that this is especially important for safety because if the Committee fails to meet the goals set for safety projects, the feds can force the Committee to use their funding on safety projects. Failure to adopt performance measures could also impact the future certification of the MPO. Zull noted that it may be difficult to establish targets without guaranteed funding. Itani added that staff plans to take the amount of funding the MPO receives every year and run a base scenario from this. Staff will look at the needs list as well as certain deficiencies and the prioritization system the MPO already has in place to develop goals and targets. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Zull asked if there's a public engagement component to the MTP as well. Snell stated that the public involvement process for the MTP has been ongoing and will continue throughout the development of the MTP. He also described the various ways that MPO staff has engaged the public so far, noting that GVMC's survey response rate increased this year.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Zonyk announced that he informed the Traffic Count Committee to come today to pick up their traffic count supplies. Six boxes of tubes are still missing, and he will deliver those when they are received.

Referring to two handouts, Zonyk also stated that the City of Lowell is requesting GVMC's support in changing the functional classification of the following streets:

- Jefferson from Main Street (M-21) to Fremont Street
- Fremont Street from Jefferson Street to Monroe Street
- Monroe Street from Main Street (M-21) to Fremont Street

Zonyk noted that the formal reapplication process won't be opened up until August, and the state is still developing a process for it. He added that actual approval and acceptance of the submissions won't happen until 2016. Itani stated that, in principal, no additional miles have been added to the MPO's federal aid system because Lowell competes for funding through a statewide program. Because of this, he stated that GVMC supports this request. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Zull asked that the current policy for determining functional classification be distributed to the Committee members. Snell said that the policy and system may need to be reviewed. Itani added that one strategy may be to have the Committee members look at their system and reclassify their roads. However, adding more roads to the system won't change the amount of funding received, since that is based mostly on population. Discussion ensued.

Zull entertained a motion to change the functional classification of the three road segments requested by the City of Lowell.

MOTION by Arends, SUPPORT by DeVries, to recommend to the Policy Committee to support the City of Lowell's request to change the functional classification of the three road segments they requested.

Laughlin stated that he would need more information before he could support this motion. Discussion ensued. Kent stated that one option would be to approve this request for

inclusion on the federal aid system with the actual functional classification to be determined later. Snell stated that this item could be included on the July agenda. Discussion ensued.

Zull asked Arends if he wished to withdraw his motion. **Arends confirmed that he wished to withdraw his motion.**

Howe asked if the classification given by MDOT would conflict with the classification given by the Policy Committee. Snell stated that this request won't get turned down because the Committee asked for the wrong classification. MDOT will work with staff to find an appropriate classification. He added that staff will research ACT 51 and traffic count information before the requests are submitted.

Zull asked if everyone was comfortable postponing until July. All agreed that they were.

Itani noted that he recently met with MDOT and FHWA about the UPWP, which is the work plan that staff will undertake next year. He stated that there will be an emphasis on performance-based planning and programming in the future, and therefore, FHWA and MDOT would like GVMC to reflect this in the UPWP. Itani added that Staff will be finishing the UPWP in the next couple of weeks, and that it will go to the Policy Committee later this month for approval. The dues for activities next year will remain mostly the same. He noted that next year, the UPWP needs to be at MDOT in early June, so UPWP meetings will start in February.

Kent notified the Committee about GVMC's upcoming certification review, which will take place on June 18-19. A public meeting will be held the evening of June 17. Itani stated that, at GVMC's last certification review four years ago, FHWA gave staff 21 recommendations and 2 corrective actions. He described the corrective actions and stated that all of the corrective actions and recommendations have been addressed. He noted that FHWA recommended that staff meet on May 21st to go through a pre-certification meeting before the actual certification review itself. Itani also noted that the June Policy Committee meeting will be cancelled because of certification. GVMC will receive a certification report 3-4 months after the certification review. Schweitzer asked that GVMC send a notification of the public meeting to everyone. Itani stated that staff would do this. Discussion ensued.

Faber thanked everyone who responded to her recent email and signed up to host the Clean Air Action display. She noted that she had more locations sign up to host the display than ever before and invited anyone who hadn't yet signed up to host the display to see her after the meeting.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Zull entertained a motion to adjourn the May 7, 2014 Technical Committee meeting.

MOTION by Haagsma, SUPPORT by Arends, to adjourn the May 7, 2014 Technical Committee meeting at 10:27 am. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.