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I. APPENDIX

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Kent County Transit Needs Assessment
Workgroup
Monday, May 10, 2010
10:00 AM
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council Offices
Conference Room
678 Front Ave. N.W., Ste 200, Grand Rapids

KICKOFF AGENDA

- I. Introductions
- II. Study Goals and Objectives
- III. Discussion of Individual Tasks
- IV. Project Timeline
- V. Stakeholder Interviews
- VI. Other Business
- VII. Adjournment

Sign In Sheet

Matt Conover	RLS	937-299-5007
Kevin Misculer	RLS	937-299-5007
Alex Arends	Alpine Township	616-784-1262
David Bulkowski	Disability Advocates	616-949-1100
Bill Cousins	Cascade Township	616-949-1500
Michael DeVries	GRT	616-942-9143

Bob Homan	Plainfield Township	616-813-2278
Taiwo Jaiyeoba	The Rapid	616-774-1199
Joan Konyndyk	Hope Network	616-248-5193
Dean Peterson	MDOT	517-335-2544
Steve Redmond	MDOT	616-451-3095
Matthew VanZetten	Kent County	616-632-7566
Jeff Grutter	Gains Township	616-698-6640
Conrad Venema	The Rapid	616-774-1191
Abed Itani	GVMC	616-776-7606
Casey Dutmer	Disability Advocates	616-949-1100
Andera Dewy	GVMC	616-776-7601
Abed Itani	GVMC	616-776-7606
Meegan Joyce	The Rapid	616-774-1191

Meeting Overview

The focus of the kickoff meeting was to determine the goals and objectives of the study, as well as set time frames for stakeholder and public input meetings. During the meeting several interesting points were brought up and discussed among members of the Study/Technical Team. Study Area

There was discussion and evaluation to determine the exact definition and focus of the study area for this project. The main focus of the discussion was to determine whether the transportation assessment would include the six core areas currently served by The Rapid. Those who suggested including the six areas stated that the current service, while provided is limited and does not provide potentially need connections between each of the core six service areas or out to the county. Those who suggested the study should focus on only areas outside of the current service area stated that the study and request for proposal were designed only to provide analysis for the outlying area of the county. At the conclusion of the meeting the team seemed satisfied with limiting the study to only areas outside of the core six cities. However additional follow up in interviews will confirm the validity of this understanding.

Points of Interest

- ◆ Determine the demand for transportation outside of the core six existing service areas.
- ◆ The main objective identified during the kickoff meeting was that this is a knowledge based study, and requires defensible data that effectively identifies the existing need for service outside of the current service area.
- ◆ Funding should be creative and evaluated from many aspects.
- ◆ The need to provide funding analysis and identify potential funding resources was brought up. In recent times changing economies and the need to do more with less has created a need for unconventional forms of funding. It was indicated that the funding sources were a very important part of the study and should be explored to their full potential.
- ◆ Provide defensible data through valid surveys and stakeholder meetings.
- ◆ The desire to press forward to maintain the outlined time frame was expressed among the technical steering committee. To conduct the stakeholder and public meetings in necessary

time frame it was concluded that the county would be separated in to four zones. These zones would be made up of the North, South, East, and West portions of the county. It was advised that these meeting be scheduled during early evening to ensure participants could attend.

- ◆ Data and findings should be projected out from 2015 rather than 2010 due to the time frame of the study.
- ◆ Data should be provided at a census tract level or better whenever possible.
- ◆ Follow up meetings with the Study/Technical Team will be important and will be conducted on a quarterly bases to ensure the project continues to move in the correct direction and communication stay open.

**Kent County Transit Needs Assessment
Workgroup Meeting Agenda**

Thursday, July 29, 2010

10:00-11:00 am

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council Conference Room, 678 Front Ave NW, Suite 200

1. Introductions
2. Summary of June 2010 Stakeholder Meetings and Focus Group Meetings
3. Review of Household Survey Instrument
4. Status of Employer Survey
5. Additional Comments on Technical Memorandum #1
6. Other Business
7. Adjournment

Sign In Sheet

Matt Conover	RLS	937-299-5007
Kevin Misculer	RLS	937-299-5007
Alex Arends	Alpine Township	616-784-1262
David Bulkowski	Disability Advocates	616-949-1100
Bill Cousins	Cascade Township	616-949-1500
Michael DeVries	GRT	616-942-9143
Bob Homan	Plainfield Township	616-813-2278
Taiwo Jaiyeoba	The Rapid	616-774-1199
Joan Konyndyk	Hope Network	616-248-5193
Wayman Britt	Kent County	616-632-7566
Steve Redmond	MDOT	616-451-3095
Matthew VanZetten	Kent County	616-632-7566
Jeff Grutter	Gains Township	616-698-6640
Conrad Venema	The Rapid	616-774-1191
Abed Itani	GVMC	616-776-7606
Andera Dewy	GVMC	616-776-7601
Abed Itani	GVMC	616-776-7606
Meegan Joyce	The Rapid	616-774-1191
Frank Lynn	Disability Advocates	616-949-1100

Meeting Overview

The steering committee received a debriefing on the stakeholder meetings and focus groups meetings that were conducted in June. Additionally the status of the employer survey being conducted by Pertect Engineering was reviewed. The majority of the meeting was consisted of a review of telephone household survey instrument developed by CJI Research.

Points of Interest

- ◆ The importance of reaching individuals with cellular phones was discussed. It was explained that the majority of the population still used land lines and this would not affect the survey results.
- ◆ The length of the survey was brought into question. It is important to make the survey as brief as possible, while still collecting the necessary data.
- ◆ It was noted that any survey that is not fully completed would not count towards the guaranteed 1000 surveys.

Kent County Transit Needs Assessment
Workgroup
Friday, November 19, 2010
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council Offices
Conference Room
678 Front Ave. N.W., Ste 200, Grand Rapids

AGENDA

- III. Introductions
- IV. Kent County Transit Needs Assessment Progress Report
- VIII. Telephone Household Survey
 - a. Methodology
 - b. Summary of Results
 - c. Next Steps
- IX. Technical Memorandum #2
 - a. Questions & Comments
- X. Other Business
- XI. Adjournment

Sign In Sheet

Matt Conover	RLS	937-299-5007
Kevin Misculer	RLS	937-299-5007
Alex Arends	Alpine Township	616-784-1262
David Bulkowski	Disability Advocates	616-949-1100
Bill Cousins	Cascade Township	616-949-1500
Michael DeVries	GRT	616-942-9143
Bob Homan	Plainfield Township	616-726-8888
Taiwo Jaiyeoba	The Rapid	616-774-1199
Joan Konyndyk	Hope Network	616-248-5193
Steve Redmond	MDOT	616-451-3095
Don Stypula	GVMC	616-776-7601
Jeff Grutter	Gains Township	616-698-6640
Conrad Venema	The Rapid	616-774-1191
Abed Itani	GVMC	616-776-7606

Andera Dewy	GVMC	616-776-7601
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Meeting Overview

During this steering committee meeting the consultants from RLS and Associates and CJI Research presented the finding from the telephone household survey. Before the details of the survey were reviewed the consultants provided a brief overview of the three proposed service options; commuter express, route extensions, new routes, and countywide demand response. The responses gathered were by the survey broken down by service mode and explained. The survey identified the total latent demand of the county.

Points of Interest

- ◆ The committee was satisfied with the survey and commended the statistical support behind the latent demand estimate.
- ◆ In the next technical memorandum the steering committee would like a verity of service alternatives and an explanation of much of the latent demand served by each option.
- ◆ Cost will be very important when developing service alternatives. Any proposed option must be realistic.
- ◆ A comparison of how much is currently being spent compared to how much can be saved should be provided in the next technical memorandum.
- ◆ It is important to identify who will provided the proposed service.

Kent County Transit Needs Assessment
Workgroup
Friday, January 21, 2011
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council Offices
Conference Room
678 Front Ave. N.W., Ste 200, Grand Rapids

AGENDA

- V. Introductions
- VI. Kent County Transit Needs Assessment Progress Report
- XII. Technical Memorandum #3
 - a. Questions & Comments
- XIII. Other Business
- XIV. Adjournment

Sign In Sheet

Matt Conover	RLS	937-299-5007
Kevin Misculer	RLS	937-299-5007
Bill Cousins	Cascade Township	616-949-1500
Jeff Grutter	Gains Township	616-698-6640
Steve Redmond	MDOT	616-451-3095
David Bulkowski	Disability Advocates	616-949-1100
Andera Dewy	GVMC	616-776-7601
Michael DeVries	GRT	616-942-9143
Taiwo Jaiyeoba	The Rapid	616-774-1199
Joan Konyndyk	Hope Network	616-248-5193
Bob Homan	Plainfield Township	616-813-2278
Conrad Venema	The Rapid	616-774-1191
Meegan Joyce	The Rapid	616-774-1191
Matthew VanZetten	Kent County	616-632-7566
Wayman Britt	Kent County	616-632-7566
Sue Thomas	Alpine Township	616-726-8888

Meeting Overview

The consultants provided an explanation of Technical Memorandum 3. IN the presentation there was a review of the proposed service options. For each option a variety of peer examples were provided. These peer examples identified how a service in Kent County might function, how much ridership could be expected, and how successful a particular services would be in a setting such as Kent County.

Points of Interest

- ◆ A fare comparison of peer express routes could provide useful information.
- ◆ While it was beyond the focus of this study it is important to note that the added population of Ottawa County would increase the estimates of many of these service options.
- ◆ It was noted that there was a discrepancy in population estimates in the report, as a result of the use of two different sources.
- ◆ A concern was expressed as to the omission of CHM trips. This was explained by stating that no peer groups had a similar program and the use of these numbers would have inflated the estimate of the population to be served.
- ◆ Ride link numbers were also omitted and should be added to the final estimate.
- ◆ In the next memorandum the committee would like to see detailed cost estimates of each route extension.
- ◆ The projected ridership for the proposed circulator was estimated very high. This number should be reviewed for accuracy.
- ◆ IN the next technical memorandum the consultants should identify who will provide the service as well as how that governance structure would work.
- ◆ In order to see an improved result in demand response transportation there needs to be a means of traveling countywide, including within the six cities.
- ◆ Look into a means of consolidating the existing services to improve the transportation and avoid creating more duplication of resources.
- ◆ A possible funding source for these improvements is a countywide base millage.

Kent County Transit Needs Assessment
Workgroup
Friday, March 4, 2011
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council Offices
Conference Room
678 Front Ave. N.W., Ste 200, Grand Rapids

AGENDA

- VII. Introductions
- VIII. Kent County Transit Needs Assessment Progress Report
- XV. Technical Memorandum #4
 - a. Questions & Comments
- XVI. Other Business
- XVII. Adjournment

Sign In Sheet

Matt Conover	RLS	937-299-5007
Kevin Misculer	RLS	937-299-5007
Bill Cousins	Cascade Township	616-949-1500
Jeff Grutter	Gains Township	616-698-6640
Steve Redmond	MDOT	616-451-3095
David Bulkowski	Disability Advocates	616-949-1100
Andera Dewy	GVMC	616-776-7601
Michael DeVries	GRT	616-942-9143
Meegan Joyce	The Rapid	616-774-1199
Joan Konyndyk	Hope Network	616-248-5193
Steve Hartman	Hope Network	616-248-5196

Meeting Overview

The consultants provided a progress report of the study, identifying that this meeting was a presentation of Technical Memorandum 4 and the final memorandum to be issued before the Draft Report. A presentation outlining the information included in Technical Memorandum 4 was conducted. This presentation outlined governance structures and the cost of establishing and operating each option.

Points of Interest

- ◆ The committee asked for other examples of Countywide Transit Authorities.
- ◆ In the final report all options should be present. This provides an overview of what options the steering committee reviewed and accepted as viable.
- ◆ The final option to allow townships to contract for services needs a more detailed explanation of how such a service could work better than it currently does.
- ◆ The steering committee asked the consultants to revise Technical Memorandum 4 and expand on the presented options.

Kent County Transit Needs Assessment
Workgroup
Friday, April 1, 2011
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council Offices
Conference Room
678 Front Ave. N.W., Ste 200, Grand Rapids

AGENDA

- IX. Introductions
- X. Kent County Transit Needs Assessment Progress Report
- XVIII. Technical Memorandum #4 revisions
 - a. Final review
- XIX. Schedule of remaining KCTNA meetings and presentations
- XX. Other Business
- XXI. Adjournment

Sign In Sheet

Matt Conover	RLS	937-299-5007
Kevin Misculer	RLS	937-299-5007
Bob Homan	Plainfield Township	616-813-2278
Alex Arends	Alpine Township	616-784-1262
Bill Cousins	Cascade Township	616-949-1500
Andrea Dewey	GVMC	616-776-7601
Michael DeVries	GRT	616-942-9143
Dave Bulkowski	DAKC	616-949-1100
Joan Konyndyk	Hope Network	616-248-5196
Steve Hartman	Hope Network	616-248-5196
Meegan Joyce	The Rapid	616-774-1199
Taiwo Jaiyeoba	The Rapid	616-774-1199
Jeff Grutter	Gains Township	616-698-6640

Meeting Overview

This meeting provided a more thorough and in depth analysis of the governance structures and services cost. The consultants took the comments made during the previous steering committee and revised the information presented in Technical Memorandum 4. This revised information was presented to the Steering Committee. Additionally during this meeting the committee chose a preferred service option and selected three levels of services that should be evaluated in the Draft Report.

Points of Interest

- ◆ The ridership projections in that table are designed to display a ramp up in ridership only not an increase in fares.
- ◆ The identified millage can be used for both capital and operating expenses
- ◆ If the new services was operated through a beg borrow and steal means it would be very important that the services was still good service.
- ◆ The existing facilities owned by the Rapid would no be large enough to hold the new vehicles need to operate the proposed services.
- ◆ New capital cost that should be included
 - New building to house buses
 - New maintenance facility
 - Bus shelters 10,000
- ◆ When adding these costs the buildings could be leased or bought.
- ◆ Split the cost between fixed route service and demand response
- ◆ The express bus service may or may not have shelters
- ◆ In any chosen scenario people should not have to transfer at city lines
- ◆ Add advantage to scenario 1b “Everyone receives improved services”
- ◆ It is likely that to create 2 transit authorities it would require the county to make a special assessment district.
- ◆ The fixed route service in Cascade cost \$26,000
- ◆ Made option 1b option 2
- ◆ Remove township savings from advantages
- ◆ Option 2 will require the vote of the people
- ◆ Develop a cost projection for each option
- ◆ Option 1b is the preferred option
- ◆ The cost difference between all services on demand response only is not very much and should be noted
- ◆ Develop 3 service level options
 - All 4 options
 - Express and demand response only
 - Demand response only
- ◆ Note service hours in next report

Kent County Transit Needs Assessment
Workgroup
Monday, May 9, 2011
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council Offices
Conference Room
678 Front Ave. N.W., Ste 200, Grand Rapids

AGENDA

- XI. Introductions
- XII. Kent County Transit Needs Assessment Draft Report Review
- XXII. Powerpoint presentation of Kent County Transit Needs Assessment Draft Report
 - a. Preparations for “Large” group meeting Tuesday, May 10
- XXIII. Schedule of remaining KCTNA meetings and presentations
- XXIV. Other Business
- XXV. Adjournment

Sign In Sheet

Matt Conover	RLS	937-299-5007
Kevin Misculer	RLS	937-299-5007
Bob Homan	Plainfield Township	616-813-2278
Frank Lynn	DAKC	616-949-100
Wayman Britt	Kent County	616-632-7566
Andrea Dewey	GVMC	616-776-7601
Michael DeVries	GRT	616-942-9143
Joan Konyndyk	Hope Network	616-248-5196
Meegan Joyce	The Rapid	616-774-1199

Meeting Overview

During the meeting the RLS team presented a summary of the Draft Report and reviewed the slide that would be presented during the May public meeting. The consultants also received comments regarding the presentation as well as the draft report.

Points of Interest

- ◆ A definition of Go!Bus expansion should be included during the presentation to clarify who will be served and at what level of service.
- ◆ The millage rate should be included for each option.
- ◆ The existing transportation service boundaries should be identified at the start of the study.
- ◆ Even with the Go!Bus expansion there are still boundary limitations that may need to be addressed.
- ◆ The steering committee requested the county confirm the inflation rate of the millage estimate.
- ◆ It was noted that Ridelink would be in direct competition with these new service and the service would likely end.
- ◆ The steering committee suggested that the mobility manager be a representative of the county.
- ◆ The functions of the mobility manager should be listed in the report.
- ◆ In the presentation to the public the problems with the existing services should be identified.
- ◆ Develop a slide that identifies the proposed fare structure.
- ◆ Define service terms.
- ◆ Identify savings to townships that contract for services.
- ◆ Start the presentation with final recommendations and then review the process.
- ◆ The steering committee suggested that individuals who participated in the focus groups be invited to the public meetings.

Kent County Transit Needs Assessment

Large Group

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Grand Rapids Township Hall

1836 East Beltline NE, Grand Rapids

AGENDA

XIII. Introductions

XIV. Refresher

a. Kent County Transit Needs Assessment Origins/Purpose

XXVI. Powerpoint presentation of Kent County Transit Needs Assessment Draft Report

a. Group Discussion

b. Approval of Draft KCTNA report per any changes/comments

XXVII. Schedule of remaining KCTNA meetings and presentations

May 23 – Public Meeting, MDOT Grand Rapids TSC, 6:30 pm

May 24 – Public Meeting, City of Lowell, 6:30 pm

May 25 – Public Meeting, City of Cedar Springs, 2:00 pm

May 25 – Public Meeting, Gaines Twp Hall, 6:30 pm

May 26 – Public Meeting, Hope Network, 9:30 am

May 26 – Public Meeting, Plainfield Twp Hall, 6:30 pm

June 2 – GVMC Board Meeting, Kent County Commission Chambers, 8:30 am

Tentative June 9 – Kent County Board of Commissioners, 8:30 am

XXVIII. Adjournment

Access Draft Report and Technical Memos online:

<http://www.gvmc.org/transportation/KCTNA.shtml>

Sign In Sheet

Matt Conover	RLS	937-299-5007
Kevin Misculer	RLS	937-299-5007
Bob Homan	Plainfield Township	616-813-2278
Alex Arends	Alpine Township	616-784-1262
Bill Cousins	Cascade Township	616-949-1500
Andrea Dewey	GVMC	616-776-7601
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Taiwo Jaiyeoba	The Rapid	616-774-1199
Jeff Grutter	Gains Township	616-698-6640
Dean Peterson	MDOT	517-355-2544
Conrad Venema	The Rapid	616-774-1191
Abed Itani	GVMC	616-776-7606
Steve Redmond	MDOT	616-451-3095
Rae Bower	DAKC	
Casey Duttmer	Association for the Blind	
Denny Howle	Alpine Township	

Meeting Overview

At the request of the steering committee a meeting was held to provide all townships in the county with an opportunity to comment on the report before the May public meetings. In addition to townships local advocacy groups were invited to attend. The consultants presented the information that would be provide be to the public and received comments.

Points of Interest

- ◆ The Go!Bus expansion does not include all major destinations outside of the six cities.
- ◆ Include information regarding ridership projection based on market sizes.
- ◆ Note that 45,000 trips is for one express route and the estimated 80,000 trips include all four proposed express routes.
- ◆ Display the survey results as an average instead of a range.
- ◆ The final slide should display the preferred option and provide a description of the cost and level of service.
- ◆ The potential for collaboration with Hope Network should be explained in the presentation.
- ◆ Identify savings to townships that contract for services.

Kent County Transit Needs Assessment
Workgroup
Wednesday, June 1, 2011
2:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council Offices
Conference Room
678 Front Ave. N.W., Ste 200, Grand Rapids

AGENDA

- XV. Introductions
- XVI. Kent County Transit Needs Assessment Draft Report
- a. Summary of Public Meetings/Comments
 - b. KCTNA Summary Handout
- XXIX. Remaining KCTNA Presentation Schedule
- a. Thursday, June 2, 2011, 8:30 a.m. GVMC Board
Kent County Commission Chambers, 300 Monroe, 3rd Floor
 - b. Thursday, June 9, 2011, 8:30 a.m. Kent County Board of Commissioners
Kent County Commission Chambers, 300 Monroe, 3rd Floor
- XXX. Other Business
- XXXI. Adjournment

Sign In Sheet

Matt Conover	RLS	937-299-5007
Kevin Misculer	RLS	937-299-5007
Bob Homan	Plainfield Township	616-813-2278
Alex Arends	Alpine Township	616-784-1262
Bill Cousins	Cascade Township	616-949-1500
Andrea Dewey	GVMC	616-776-7601
Michael DeVries	GRT	616-942-9143
Dave Bulkowski	DAKC	616-949-1100
Joan Konyndyk	Hope Network	616-248-5196
Meegan Joyce	The Rapid	616-774-1199

Don Stypula	GVMC	616-776-7601
Jeff Grutter	Gains Township	616-698-6640

Meeting Overview

This was the finally steering committee meeting for the Kent County Transit Needs Assessment. During this meeting the consultants briefly discussed the public meetings. The majority of the meeting was a review of the Kent County Transit Needs Assessment information pamphlet.

Points of Interest

- ◆ The pamphlet should always identify ITP as ITP/The Rapid.
- ◆ Identify a lack of dedicated funding in the shortcomings section.
- ◆ Define each service type by explaining who is eligible.
- ◆ Note that latent demand is the current unmeant need.
- ◆ List the full service as the first priority.
- ◆ Reorganize charts to identify the cost of all service compared to the cost of individual options.

FIRST ROUND OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

Flyer

Public Focus Group: Transit Needs Assessment



Please Plan to Attend & Share Your Insights about Public Transportation for Suburban/Rural Kent County

The General Public & Everyone Interested in Discussing the Potential Benefits of Public Transportation Should Attend One of the Following Meetings Hosted by GVMC or Hope Network.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Times</u>	<u>Locations</u>
Mon. 6/14/2010	6:30-8:00 pm	City of Lowell, City Council Chambers 301 E. Main St, Lowell
Tue. 6/15/2010	6:30-8:00 pm	Gains Twp, Lower Level Community Rm. 8555 Kalamazoo Ave.
Wed. 6/16/2010	6:30-8:00 pm	City of Cedar Springs, Council Chambers 66 S. Main St, Cedar Springs
Thurs. 6/17/2010	9:00-10:30 am	Hope Network, Education Center, Inspiration Rm. 755 36 th St. SE, Wyoming, MI 49548
Thurs. 6/17/2010	6:30-8:00 pm	Plainfield Twp. Board Rm. 616 Belmont Ave.

For information about the meeting, please contact Laura Brown at (937)
242-7136 or by e-mail lbrown@rlsandassoc.com

Press Release

Public Transportation for Suburban and Rural Kent County

The GMVC in cooperation with ITP/The Rapid, and with support from a technical working group will host a series of six public focus group meetings during the week of June 14, 2010 to discuss the unmet transportation needs and the benefits of public transportation for the areas of Kent County that are outside of the area served by The Rapid. Come to discuss the potential benefits that public transportation would create for you. Would it improve access to employment opportunities? Save money on gasoline and insurance? Help you maintain employment, attend classes, and/or keep important medical appointments? Give you new opportunities for socialization or entertainment?

Public transportation can benefit rural communities in many ways. Please come out to discuss how it could improve the quality of life Kent County.

Focus groups are being conducted by a team of public transportation consultants who will use the information shared by the local community about unmet transportation needs to develop a Kent County Transportation Needs Assessment. This is the study's first round of public meetings and the purpose is to gain input and insight from the community about unmet transportation needs that could be addressed through public transportation.

The general public is invited and encouraged to attend the focus group that is most convenient to their schedule. Representatives and clients from human service agencies, government, private, and private-non profit organizations, and employers are also strongly encouraged to attend. Each meeting will be an open discussion and offer ample opportunity for everyone to voice their opinion about the future of transportation in suburban and rural Kent County.

Meetings are scheduled at multiple locations, times, and days in an effort meet a variety of schedules. The meeting schedule is as follows:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Times</u>	<u>Locations</u>
Monday, June 14 Main St, Lowell	6:30-8:00 pm	City of Lowell, City Council Chambers - 301 East
Tuesday, June 15	6:30-8:00 pm	Gaines Twp, lower level community room (lower level parking area and entrance) - 8555 Kalamazoo Ave.
Wednesday June 16	6:30-8:00 pm	City of Cedar Springs, Council Chambers - 66 S. Main, Cedar Springs
Thursday June 17	9:00-10:30 am	Hope Network, Education Center, Inspiration Room - 755 36 th Street SE Wyoming, MI 49548
Thursday June 17	6:30-8:00 pm	Plainfield Twp, Board Room - 616 Belmont Ave

Meeting sign in sheets

Lowell

Sign In Sheet			
Name	Address	E-mail	Would you like to receive information regarding other transportation studies?
FRANK LYON	DAKC	FRANK1@dakc.us	Yes
Casey Dotmer	5940 Bayberry Farms Apt 66 DR SW Wyoming MI 49418-9218	Casey354@comcast.net	yes
Bill Gelineau	Lowell		NO
Jim Hall	724 Monroe Lowell	SHOWBOAT@TRITON.NET	YES
ERWIN HAAS	Kentwood	erwinhaas@YAHOO.COM	yes
Monique Pierre	Kent County Community Dev. Dept. 82 Tonia, Suite 390, Grand Rapids 49503	monique.pierre@kentcounty.mi.gov	yes
Bucky Koolstra	521 LAFAYETTE ST., LOWELL	RKOOIS@SBCGLOCAL.NET	YES
Kristin Cyronoski	DAKC	kristin.c@dakc.us	Yes
Dennis Kent	1700 FAITH DR, Lowell 49331	Kentd@Michigan.gov	yes
Margia Roth	10880 Vergennes	lowellcenter@seniornighbors.org	yes
Vicki Peterson	1242 E Main St Lowell	vickipeterson@ymail.com	yes
Mike Sorensen	4538 Meridian COLLEGE LOWELL	MIKE@SOPCO@ATTNAD.COM	Yes
Meegan Joyce	The Rapid	mjoyce@ridetherapid.org	yes
Fred R. Dryg	1573- E Terrace St NE	fredoit@aol.com	Yes
Paul Mayhue	244 Heritage Commons SE	pmayhue@stcglobal.net	yes
Ann Johnston	911 N. Hudson St Lowell, MI	johnstna@grandrapids.org	Yes
Steve Vanderziel	12166 52 nd St Lowell MI		yes
Dave B.			

Sign In Sheet			
Name	Address	E-mail	Would you like to receive information regarding other transportation studies?
Jamie Lewis	46 Fontenelle SE	JKL620@yahoo.com	Yes
Malania Vondorbel	6975 Green Creek Pk SE Calhoun	Malanh@IServ.net	yes
Jim Vanderlaan	3690 92nd St SE ⁴⁹³¹⁶ Caledonia	Vander11@fnwusers.com	yes
Jean Konyndyk	2797 Gullmont Dr SW Grandville	jkonyndyk@openfunk.org	yes
Jennifer Kalczuk	The Rapid/300 Ellsworth SW	JKALCZUK@ridetherapy.org	
Bonnie VanValkenburg	820 Piney Woods Dr. Caledonia	bonnie@ecomall.com	yes
Joe Beaver	4425 Benton Rd SE	vabeaver@gmail.com	Yes
Joe Norman	8100 Jackson St		No
Craig Ressler	"		

Gaines

Sign In Sheet

Name	Address	E-mail	Would you like to receive information regarding other transportation studies?
Beth Asbury	5600 Beech Tr Ln; Caledonia MI	beth.asbury@foremost.com	Yes
Ken Soper	6918 Glen Creek Dr Caledonia ⁴⁹³¹⁶	kensoper@yahoo.com	Yes
Steve Redman	5949 Windbrook SE ^{Kentwood} ⁴⁹⁵⁰⁹	Redmans@michigan.com	Yes
FRANK NUN	3600 Campbell SE GR416	FRANK@DATE.US	Yes
Lolita Grant	201 Sheldon SE	lolitah@TZ-GIL.COM	Yes

Copies

Sign In Sheet			
Name	Address	E-mail	Would you like to receive information regarding other transportation studies?
Kevin Wisselink	300 Auburn Ave SE ^{CR. 22} 49306	kwisselink@ridetherapid.org	Yes
Bill Cousins	2865 Thandville ^{6/29/46}	BCousins@encsco.net	YES
Chris Burns	PO BOX 310 - Cedar Springs 49319	manager@wingsisp.com	YES
Christina Cakes	2450 Ross Casa NE Rockford 49341	Talmidah@ISERV.NET	Yes
Dianna Wilson	6251 Meta Dr. Coral 49322	harleydi@Charter.net	Yes
LINDA LARSON	DISABILITY ADVOCATES OF KENT COUNTY	linda.l@dkc.us	YES
☺ Dennis Kaminski	Tyrono Township	dkaminski@Tyrono-Township.org	Yes
Linda McKown	7120 Carolyn Dr	lmcckown@gmail.com	yes
Robert McKown	7120 Carolyn Dr. Sand Lake ⁴⁹³⁴³	rhmcckown@gmail.com	YES
Linda Brauer	7269 De Costa Dr. Rockford ⁴⁹³⁴¹	LindaKbrauer@gmail.com	Yes

Cedar Springs

Sign In Sheet			
Name	Address	E-mail	Would you like to receive information regarding other transportation studies?
Bob MateS	510 Clover Ridge Ave Apt 46 GR	Blues Bob @ATT. Net	yes
Doric MateS	510 " " " " " "	Miss Dorie_4006 @ATT. Net	yes
Bruce Seaman	750 Firts St. NW GR	Bruce@peoplescottswestkent.com	yes
Wendy Yarrington	3371 Mistywood St, Caledonia ⁴⁹³¹⁶		yes
Clark Goodrich	4634 Norton Breton Ct. ⁴⁹⁵¹⁸	Clark.Goodrich@att.net clark.goodrich@att.net	no
Nancy Mast	P.O. Box 8777 ⁴⁹⁵¹⁸	nancymast@comcast.net	yes
Will Kennedy	WFD 36th St SE	willkennedy@hopenetwork.org	Yes
Bill Shaffer	Guiding Light Mission 255 S. Division ⁴⁹⁵⁰³	bill@lifeonthestreet.org	Yes
Dean Peterson	MDCT BPT, P.O. Box 30045 ^{Lansing MI 48909}	peterschde@t.michigan.gov	No
W Tracy B	2143 S. Cedar	tracyband@pypi	
Gloria McMullan	781 36th Street	gmcullan@hopenetwork.org	yes
Dan Holtrop	City of Kentwood	dholtrop@aol.com	yes
John James	781 36th St SE w/psm	JJames@hopenetwork.org	yes
Ron Irvine	755 26th St SE	irvine@hopenetwork.org	yes
David Bouck	" "	dbouck@hopenetwork.org	yes

Hopen Network

Sign In Sheet

Name	Address	E-mail	Would you like to receive information regarding other transportation studies?
Ben Rosa	781 34 th St.	brosa@hopenetwork.org	yes
Reos Lieffers	" " "	rlieffers@hopenetwork.org	Sure
Luther Ajim	" " "	lajim@hopenetwork.org	yes
Sue Hydon	" " "	shydorn@hopenetwork.org	yes
Don Polkowski	795 36 th Street	DPOIKRAPPER@Yahoo.com	yes
Michael Krulich	4292 Willow Lane Dr NE	---	yes
Sherry Jousma	4407 Royal Glen Constock Pl 49231	---	yes
Sue SeFron	2641 Heathcliff SE GR 49596	suesefron@kentcounty.mi.gov	yes
Egon Ringberg	1955 Three Mile Rd NE	JbJRFAN@GMAIL.COM	yes
Sarah Green	2203 Edgewater NE	sarah129@aatt.net	yes
FRANK KRON	DARC		
Gail Marsh	3701 Stuyvesant NE	gtmarsh1@comcast.net	yes
KAYLA MARSH	"		
Diane DOSTIN	4292 Willow Lane Dr	diane.dostin@kentcounty.mi.gov	yes
Robyn Meller	1797 Blue Hill Dr NE	rmmeller@comcast.net	yes
Steve Hartman	795 36 th St.	shartman@hopenetwork.org	yes
Alex Arends	5255 Alpine NW	a.arends@alpinetwp.org	yes

Helle Marvot

Plainfield

Public Meeting Comments

The first public meeting of The Kent County Needs Assessment was held in the City of Lowell. The meeting took place in the City Council Chambers, located at 301 East Main Street Lowell. There were 20 individuals in attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain an understanding of transportation needs that exist in the county.

Many points of interest were brought up during the meeting, and included the following:

- Currently the access to service is very limited and in many cases rationed.
- To use the existing County Connection service requires advanced scheduling.
- The County Connection service is costly, with fares of \$14 for trips scheduled a day in advance and \$19 for trips scheduled the same day.
- There is an existing need for transportation service for seniors in Lowell.
- Many different agencies provide transportation through the ride link program. These organizations include The Rapid, Hope Network, (UNCH), and Senior Neighbors.
- Currently there is no county service for individuals who are not a senior or do not have a disability.
- There needs to be multiple levels of service, because seniors, individuals with disabilities, and general users have different needs.
- The addition of transportation to the county would allow choice riders the freedom to choose transit or drive a car.
- Park and ride options have a strong potential for work and shopping trips. This kind of service is also favored, because it is environmentally friendly.
- Use of private providers should be looked at as an alternative option to public systems.
- Express bus systems provide options that would be useful in lower density areas.
- Options like Zipcars have the potential to work in county areas.
- Partnerships between existing transportation providers are key in ensuring the system will function well.
- There is a need for transportation from Lowell to Grand Rapids for work trips.

The second public meeting of The Kent County Needs Assessment was held in Gains Township. The meeting took place in the community room, located at 8555 Kalamazoo Avenue Gains Township. There were 17 individuals in attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain an understanding of transportation needs that exist in the county.

Many points of interest were brought up during the meeting, and included the following:

- Go! Bus does not provide adequate access to family and doctors, especially for those who live outside of contracted townships.
- The cost of County Connection is too expensive to justify short trips.
- Go! Bus has limited service area of the six cities and contracted townships.
- North Kent transit is a good service, but limits on number of rides are an issue.
- Bike paths could provide a good connection to public transportation.
- Currently it is difficult to identify bus stop, because of placement behind shopping centers.
- Highway M6 provides a potential road for public transportation, because of its access to medical facilities and shopping.
- There is a need for east and west transit in addition to a need for north south transportation to Grand Rapids.

- There is a need for public transportation on 68th Street to and from gains market.
- There is a need for transportation like van pools offered by The Rapid that can be used for work trips
- There was well used public transportation to Davenport University, but the contract expired and service was canceled.
- Artificial boundaries like city and township lines create transportation limits. Examples included Davenport University, Farmers, and Porter Hill.
- Township contracts are confusing and create additional limits. It appears inefficient for a Go! Bus to pass through a Township without providing any rides.
- Go! Bus has a limit of 16 rides per month. This makes using Go! Bus for work trips difficult.
- Go! Bus requires a one day notice. This can cause scheduling problems in the case of an emergency or sudden appointment.
- The Kent County Needs Assessment should work with The Rapid's master plan, which is looking at express service and other county options.
- North and south transportation on highway 131 to Cutlerville is a needed service for shopping and work trips.
- Service from Rockford to Davenport University is needed for work trips.
- Transit dependent riders are limited to working within existing service areas.

The third public meeting of The Kent County Needs Assessment was held in The City of Cedar Springs. The meeting took place in the Council Chambers, located at 66 South Main Street Cedar Springs. There were 12 individuals in attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain an understanding of transportation needs that exist in the county.

Many points of interest were brought up during the meeting, and included the following:

- The North Kent Transit has a limit of 6 trips per month, making it difficult to use the service for medical or work trips.
- The cost of County Connection is very high at \$14 one way.
- County Connection runs well generally, while North Kent Transit is often over booked and requires in long waits
- North Kent Transit has different limitations on number of rides in each township
- Any transit needs to be convenient for user. This means the service should be timely and frequent.
- The 14 Mile Cascade and Cedar Springs Park and Ride lot is a popular service and has the potential of working well with public transportation.
- Car travel from North Kent County is costly. This makes public transportation appealing to commuters.
- Transportation would help the parking and congestion of downtown Grand Rapids.
- Transportation from the northern part of the county to Grand Rapids for medical, work, and shopping is needed.
- The North Kent Mall S-curve had a park and ride that was well used, and might be a good location for a public transportation service.
- Public transportation would provide an alternative option to the expressway, which is often slow due to repairs and accidents.

- High occupancy vehicle Lanes and express bus lanes would make public transportation more appealing.
- The recent growth of Cedar Springs has made the area a better candidate for public transportation than it would have been in the past.
- Cost of any new service can be an issue and lead to lost support of officials.
- Cost of Go! Bus to Cascade is high and creating a strain on funding that cannot be maintained.
- Work transportation for one vehicle or zero vehicle households would be useful.

The fourth public meeting of The Kent County Needs Assessment was held at Hope Network. The meeting took place in the Education Center, located at 755 36th Street SE Wyoming. There were 20 individuals in attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain an understanding of transportation needs that exist in the county.

Many points of interest were brought up during the meeting, and included the following:

- There is currently a lack of transportation service to work as well as service times that meet the needs of individuals who work.
- There is no service to areas outside of the six cities or areas that do not have contracts.
- County boundaries create transit restrictions for individuals who may work outside of the county.
- Jobs outside of the bus line pay more on average, but there is no access by bus, so transportation dependent individuals cannot access those jobs.
- Any created service should improve quality of life including shopping, community access, and not just work access.
- Countywide transportation is needed. The existing service leaves many without any options and those with options have very limited choices.
- The current systems make it difficult to get timely service and require advanced notices, which are sometimes impossible to give.
- Go! Bus pickups and drop offs can be early or late and create timing issues.
- Door to door service provides safer service and is the preferred method of many current riders.
- Medical appointments out of Grand Rapids are costly and can be limited due to a lack of services.
- Cascade and Plainfield Township have had issues transporting people to medical appointments due to service boundaries.
- Employers and public transit have a disconnect that could be improved through the use of needs marketing and information.
- Employers want people with drivers license, because under the current system they are more dependable.
- The general public has a poor understanding of public transportation and what services it can provide.
- Reverse commute for areas outside of existing service contracts is need and imperative to make the system work properly.

- The ability to change a scheduled ride not only cancel would provide additional flexibility.
- Circulator routes that connected to express buses would be useful in areas of higher population densities.
- Trips need to be able to handled people with groceries and other goods.
- Cost of transit is an issue form many people and especially for people who receive no assistance.
- Limit of 16 rides per month in Caledonia creates a strain on individuals who use transit for work and medical trips.
- A fee based on income system would be preferred by groups who help individuals with low income find jobs.
- There is a need for information about public transportation and what it can do for individuals.

The Fifth public meeting of The Kent County Needs Assessment was held in Plainfield Township. The meeting took place in the Board Room located at 6161 Belmont Avenue Plainfield Township. There were 13 individuals in attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain an understanding of transportation needs that exist in the county.

Many points of interest were brought up during the meeting, and included the following:

- Advanced notice is needed and service is not always available for the existing county services.
- Individual addresses determine who has access to public transportation, based on Go! Bus contracts.
- Access to employment is limited to individuals in the county, because they do not have an adequate means of transportation to get to work.
- Young adults and college students are a potential market and should not be over looked.
- Parking and congestion issues downtown make a transportation service from the county appealing.
- Grand Valley College contributes 1 million rides to The Rapid each year. It is very likely some of this demand exist in the county.
- Park and Ride lost have been successful throughout the county and have potential of acting as a location for public transportation.
- Trips require advanced notice and result in missed medical rides when emergencies arise.
- Convenient, fast, and modern amanitas such as wireless internet would make county transportation attractive to commuters.
- Transit to Alpine Ave. and the ball field would be a popular recreational route.
- Rather than one large county system use a system that connects areas of higher density.
- The East Beltway, 5 Mile, and the Plainfield apartments provide a potential route for work trips and shopping.
- There is a need for transit from Grand Rapids to Comstock Park

- Lack of existing transportation hurts the quality of life and creates a negative impact socially.
- To use transportation for school commutes would reduce the need for county residents to drive downtown and fight congestion and parking.
- Townships create phony divisions that are the underlying issue to many of the existing transportation problems.

A separate public input meeting was held at the Grandville Senior Center. The meeting took place in the center located at 3380 Division SW Grandville. The meeting was attended by seniors who attend the center.

Many points of interest were brought up during the meeting, and included the following:

- The high cost of County Connection makes the service impractical for everyday use.
- Transportation service is needed to the medical offices on the beltline.
- Transportation service is needed to the IRS offices in Plainfield Township on 3 Mile.
- Transportation service is needed to the medical offices in Walker.
- A service that provided rides between Cedar Springs, Rockford, and Grand Rapids would be useful for shopping and travel.
- There is currently no Sunday service and it is difficult to get to church services in Kentwood or Fulton.
- There is a need for transportation to Eagle Park medical offices in Cascade.
- The current system requires two reservations for a doctor's appointments and can be difficult to schedule.
- Door to door trips for medical and grocery trips is preferred.
- There is lack of knowledge as to what services currently exist and who is eligible to use them.

A presentation was provided to the county commissioners to explain the goals of the Kent County Needs Assessment and obtain input from the Counties perspective. The meeting was held in County Administration Building located at 300 Monroe Avenue NW Grand Rapids.

The commissions expressed three points of interest:

- The study needs to include some focus on younger ages, because they are a growing population interested in public transportation.
- Any transportation into the county needs to help reduce sprawl, rather than encourage it.
- Information from the Agency on Ageing would provide information useful to the study.

Additional Comments

Comment Sheet

Kent County Transit Needs Assessment

Please list any additional comments you have below and mail to:
Andrea Dewey
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
678 Front St NW, Suite 200 • Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504
Phone: (616) 77-METRO (776-3876) • Fax: (616) 774-9292

I AM 84 yrs old HAVE SCOOTER FOR PAST
5 yrs GAVE UP DRIVING MY CAR LAST FOUND
MYSELF IN TOO MANY CLOSE CALLS WITH ME
ALWAYS WHO ALMOST GOT HIT. BEEN DRIVING
FROM AGE 13 MANY YRS ON THE ROAD 40,000 -
50,000 MILES A YR. VERY HARD TO ADMIT THAT
MY RESPONSE TIME HAD TAKEN A VERY LARGE
DROP. COMMON SENSE FINALLY PREVAILED. BY
SELLING CAR WHICH I USED AVERAGE 1 OR 2 TIMES
A WEEK. THIS MADE A \$200 MO DIFFERENCE
IN SPENDABLE IN SOME INS. GAS, & KEEP.
FOUND THAT THE BUS PROVIDED ACCESS TO 90%
OF MY NEEDS. JUST NEEDED A LITTLE ATTITUDE
ADJUSTMENT - JUST A LITTLE MORE DISCIPLINE ON MY
SCHEDULING - BUS RAMP DRIVE SCOOTER RIGHT ON
AIR CONDITIONED SUMMER HEATED IN WINTER.
NO CONCERN FOR ALL OF THOSE RECKLESS DRIVERS
NO FEAR OF CAUSING SOMEONE A LONG TERM
DISABILITY - JUST TOOK A LITTLE ADJUSTMENT ON MY
PART. TO MANY OF US OLD FOGGIES ON THE HIGHWAY
CAUSING MANY HAZARDS THAT CAUSE ACCIDENTS FOR
OTHERS.

John Jenkinson

Comment Sheet

Kent County Transit Needs Assessment

Please list any additional comments you have below and mail to:

Andrea Dewey

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council

678 Front St NW, Suite 200 • Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504

Phone: (616) 77-METRO (776-3876) • Fax: (616) 774-9292

In an ideal world the transit system in Kent County would reach out to all corners of the county to provide affordable access.

Communities like Cedar Springs Rockford Cutlerville Cascoonia Casroua etc have no affordable service now

Even urban areas like Cascade, 28th St at the east end, Plainfield north and east of 4 mile have no service.

This situation makes it hard if not impossible for our clients (indigent recently released ex-offenders) to reach employers in these areas or to come into the city from those areas

We must remember that somebody has to pay for this, in the current economy how can we afford to subsidize this.

People make choices as to where they live and don't remember that transportation is not an entitlement

Comment Sheet

Kent County Transit Needs Assessment

Please list any additional comments you have below and mail to:

Andrea Dewey

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council

678 Front St NW, Suite 200 • Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504

Phone: (616) 77-METRO (776-3876) • Fax: (616) 774-9292

Question for Household Survey:

For Seniors (and anyone age 40+), do you expect to work beyond traditional retirement age? Do you anticipate a need to use public transportation to get to your work place(s)?

Do you work at home?

How much of your time is spent working at other locations than home?

Comment Sheet

Kent County Transit Needs Assessment

Please list any additional comments you have below and mail to:

Andrea Dewey

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council

678 Front St NW, Suite 200 • Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504

Phone: (616) 77-METRO (776-3876) • Fax: (616) 774-9292

"Circulator" routes around populations
that are lower income areas can give
access ~~to~~ to employment and to shopping
and entertainment

(see reverse for an example in
a "new" business center)

Ken Soper
Kensoper@yahoo.com



June 14, 2010

Peter Varga
The Rapid
300 Ellsworth SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-4005

Dear Mr. Varga,

The Comstock Park Downtown Development Authority (CP-DDA) has been approached by Alpine Township Supervisor Alex Arends regarding the prospect of bringing the Rapid to the Comstock Park area. This effort has been initiated by members of the community who feel that there is a need for public transportation between Alpine and Plainfield Townships.

The CP-DDA is interested in opening up discussions on this issue to assess the transportation needs of our community, enhanced economic efficiencies and growth offered by providing public transportation, and funding options.

We would like to meet with a representative of the Rapid as well as Mr. Arends to discuss the feasibility of implementing a Rapid route between Alpine and Plainfield Townships and will be contacting you in the near future.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Ericksen", written over a horizontal line.

Rick Ericksen
CP-DDA Chairman



Alex Arends

From: Robert Homan [homan@plainfieldchartertp.org]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 2:38 PM
To: Alex Arends
Subject: FW: GVMC transit needs

Alex: If you are there, can you bring this along and convey it on Mr. Ray's behalf?

Bob Homan

Nice lunch today....

From: Ethan [mailto:rayethan@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 12:49 PM
To: Robert Homan
Subject: GVMC transit needs

Bob: I saw that the GVMC is holding a meeting at the township hall on Thursday to discuss transit needs. I think it is unlikely that I can attend. I would like it however if you could pass my thoughts along to the GVMC.

I'm assuming that PCT is in favor of expanding transit options for residents, if not it should be. I am interested in having the Rapid serve the Plainfield Avenue corridor. I would hope that someday it would go as far as Northland Drive. I would also like to see some sort of express route. I think express service would be a valuable benefit to folks with long commutes that are just coming to downtown GR.

I also think that it is unlikely that any sort of countywide millage to fund this type of thing would be approved. I think there is a better chance at targeting specific communities.

I would really like to see the GVMC and the Rapid do a better job of assisting communities that are interested in expanded transit options. Perhaps PCT would like to explore various funding options such as grants or federally funded transit plans, I have no idea if those things are even available.

What if a community wanted to be served by the Rapid. Is there a method for communities to become part of the taxing authority that funds the Rapid? They should do a better job of putting that out there and working with those communities on getting them in.

Thanks,
Ethan Ray
3597 Riverwoods Drive NE

6/17/2010

SECOND ROUND OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

Flyer

Public Meeting: Transit Needs Assessment



Please Plan to Attend & Review the Draft Transportation Needs Assessment Study for Kent County

Everyone Interested in Reviewing and Commenting on the Study for Public Transportation in Kent County Should Attend One of the Following Meetings Hosted by GVMC.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Times</u>	<u>Locations</u>
Mon. 5/23/2011	6:30-8:00 pm	MDOT Grand Rapids TSC Conference Rm. 2660 Leonard St, NE, Grand Rapids
Tue. 5/24/2011	6:30-8:00 pm	City of Lowell, City Hall 301 E. Main St., Lowell
Wed. 5/25/2011	2:00-4:00 pm	City of Cedar Springs, City Hall 66 S. Main St., Cedar Springs
Wed. 5/25/2011	6:30-8:00 pm	Gaines Township Hall Rm. A&B 8555 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, Caledonia
Thurs. 5/26/2011	9:30-11:00 am	Hope Network, Education Ctr., Motivation Rm. 775 36 th St. SE, Grand Rapids
Thurs. 5/26/2011	6:30-8:00 pm	Plainfield Township Hall 616 Belmont Ave. NE, Belmont

**For information about the meeting, please contact Laura Brown at (813) 482-8828 or
by e-mail lbrown@rlsandassoc.com**

Press Release

Public Transportation for Suburban and Rural Kent County

The GMVC in cooperation with ITP/The Rapid, and with support from a technical working group will host a series of six public meetings during the week of May 23rd, 2011 to discuss and receive comments on the Draft Report of the Kent County Transit Needs Assessment.

Please come out to review the information and findings related to the existing transit service in Kent County and the transportation needs of the area. The study team is looking forward to receiving input from the public about the recommendations and conclusions that have been developed for future transit efforts in Kent County.

This is the second round of public meetings to be conducted by a team of public transportation consultants who will use the information shared by the local community to refine the Kent County Transportation Needs Assessment.

The general public is invited and encouraged to attend the public meetings that is most convenient to their schedule. Representatives and clients from human service agencies, government, private and private-nonprofit organizations, and employers are also strongly encouraged to attend. Each meeting will be an open discussion and offer ample opportunity for everyone to voice his or her opinion about the future of transportation in suburban and rural Kent County.

Meetings are scheduled at multiple locations, times, and days in an effort meet a variety of schedules. The meeting schedule is as follows. Light refreshments and snacks will be served.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Monday, May 23	6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	MDOT Grand Rapids TSC Conference Room 2660 Leonard St., NE Grand Rapids 49525
Tuesday, May 24	6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	City of Lowell, City Hall 301 East Main St. Lowell 49331
Wednesday, May 25	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	City of Cedar Springs, City Hall 66 S. Main St. Cedar Springs 49319
Wednesday May 25	6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Gaines Township Hall 8555 Kalamazoo Ave., SE Caledonia 49316
Thursday, May 26	9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Hope Network Motivation Room in Education Center 775 36 th St., SE Grand Rapids 49548
Thursday, May 26	6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Plainfield Township Hall Board Room

		616 Belmont Ave., NE Belmont 49306
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Sign In Meeting sign in sheets

Kent County Transit Needs Assessment
 Public Meeting
 May 23, 2011 at MDOT TSC

PLEASE SIGN IN

Name (Please Print)	Email and Phone	Organization Name (if applicable)
DENNIS KEUT	451-4894	
Stephanie Brigle	785-1967	
Catherine Hayward	334-6789	
GOPAL JI	531-1299	CCIT
Mike Schmidt	949-4197	None
Joel Anderson		
Melgan Joyce		
David Bukowski	949-1100 dave.b@okpc.us	DAKC
Regina Hickery	458-2018	XXXXXXXXXX

Kent County Transit Needs Assessment
 Public Meeting
 May 23, 2011 at MDOT TSC

PLEASE SIGN IN

Name (Please Print)	Email and Phone	Organization Name (if applicable)
Doug Koster	954-9896 (w)	Citizens Advisory Committee
Chris Austin		
Casey Dutmer		
Sharon Dutmer		
Linda Stacey		
Tressa Conrad		
Jan Luustma		
David Wells	Carhino@msn.com	KCFCK River City Patriots
Mark Petzold	petzoldmark@yahoo.com	River City Patriots
Deb Wilde		

Kent County Transit Needs Assessment
 City of Lowell
 Sign In Sheet
 Date: 5/24/11

Name	Agency	Phone and Email
Rebecca Koistra	Public	
Charles Homeyer	Public Faith in Motion	616-634-3446 chomeyer@me.com
Rahel Brink		
Dennis KENT		1700 FAITH DR Lowell, MI 49331
Jennifer Kalczak	The Rapids	
ROB BEAHAN	CASCADIA township	RBEAHAN@CASCADIA.TWP.MI 949 1500 956 2282
Casey Joppie		706-7401 Casey Joppie@yahoo.com
Lamy		

Kent County Transit Needs Assessment Study
 Wednesday, May 25, 2011 at 2:00 PM
 City of Cedar Springs, City Hall

PLEASE SIGN IN:

Name (Please Print)	Email/Phone Number	Organization
Jana W. Kim	Email: Kimj@grps.k12.mi.us Phone: (616) 519-6765	OTM Specialist GRPS
Brandon Winkle	Email: wink5@ferris.edu Phone:	DAKL
STAN ROTH	Email: STAN.R @dake.us Phone: 949-1100 EXT 232	Dgarden W. D. D. D.
Steve Redmond	Email: Redmonds@michigan.gov Phone: 451-3091	MISO T
Conrad Venema	Email: cvenema@deltherapid.org Phone: 734-1191	The Rapid
Roger Belknap	Email: rbelknap@cityofcedarsprings.com Phone: 696-1330 x 108	City of Cedar Springs
Lawrence Bergen	Email: Phone: 696-1330 x 108	City of Cedar Springs - Intern
	Email: Phone:	
	Email: Phone:	
	Email: Phone:	
	Email: Phone:	
	Email: Phone:	
	Email: Phone:	
	Email: Phone:	
	Email: Phone:	

Kent County Transit Needs Assessment Study
 Wednesday, May 25, 2011 at 6:30 PM
 Gaines Township Hall

PLEASE SIGN IN:

Name (Please Print)	Email/Phone Number	Organization
Pattie Hopp	Email: iruka.1984@yahoo.com Phone: 616-956-4351	Self
ROGER AUSEMA	Email: ROG.SOGG@AK.COM Phone: 616-455-3031	SELF
Joan Konyrdyk	Email: jkonyrdyk@hopenetwork.org Phone: 616-248-5193	Hope Network
Nancy Duiven	Email: grannyd2@charter.net Phone: 616-891-1804	Self
^{LOWERCASE} MALAINA VANDERWAL	Email: MALAINA@I.SERV.NET Phone: 616-308-9644	self
JIM HALL VANDERLAAN	Email: Phone: 616-891-0475	SELF
CHARLES BOOKER	Email: CABOOKER@hopenetwork.org Phone: 243 6826	HOPE Network
Jim Holkeboer	Email: jsholke@i2k.com Phone:	
Kevin Wisselink	Email: k.wisselink@nidetherapid.org Phone:	The Rapid
	Email: Phone:	
	Email: Phone:	
	Email: Phone:	
	Email: Phone:	
	Email: Phone:	
	Email: Phone:	

E.M.1
AOC

Kent County Transit Needs Assessment Study
 Thursday, May 26 at 9:30 AM
 Hope Network

PLEASE SIGN IN:

Name (Please Print)	Email/Phone Number	Organization
Salina Durston	Email: SalinaDurston@comcast.net Phone: 206-719-7955	Student
Robyn Saylor	Email: SurpriseMentorsAdmin@yaho.com Phone: 454-8658	
Diana Zukowski	Email: Phone: 905-3541	
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Michelle Vischer	Email: vischer.m@michigan.gov Phone:	MCB

Kent County Transit Needs Assessment Study
 Thursday, May 26 at 9:30 AM
 Hope Network

PLEASE SIGN IN:

Name (Please Print)	Email/Phone Number	Organization
Margo Sue Sibley	Email: Phone:	VAPP
Linda Stacey	Email: Phone:	VAPP
Bill Cole	Email: Phone:	Hope Network
Steve Remond	Email: Phone:	MDOT
Kim Greenewald	Email: Phone:	Hope Network
Sue Sifton	Email: Sue.Sifton@kentcounty.mi.gov Phone: 632-6951	Kent County Health Dept
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	Email: Phone:	

Kent County Transit Needs Assessment Study
 Thursday, May 26, 2011 at 6:30 PM
 Plainfield Township Hall

PLEASE SIGN IN:

Name (Please Print)	Email/Phone Number	Organization
Gordon Moeller	Email: GORDIEMOELLER@COMCAST.NET Phone: 293-4727	ADVOCATE FOR FOOD SECURITY RETIREE
Gail Manewitz	Email: gailman@att.net Phone: 863-9545	Rockford Resident
Cindy Scocos	Email: cindy.scocos@aol.com Phone: 866-7691	Rockford Resident
Victor Matthews	Email: victor.mathews@att.net Phone: 887-1978	Plainfield Resident
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Linda S. Likely	Email: linda.likely@kentcountymingov Phone:	Kent County
Gene Likely	Email: Phone:	Resident
Alex Arends	Email: a.arends@alpine.twp.org Phone: 616-784-1262	Alpine Township Supervisor
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Public Meeting Comments

PUBLIC MEETINGS

The second round of public meetings were held on the week of May 23. Meetings were held in the MDOT facility in Grand Rapids, the City of Lowell, the City of Cedar Springs, Gaines Township, Hope Network, and Plainfield Township. During the presentations the public was encouraged to ask question and proved comments. The following points outline the discussion that occurred during each of the meeting.

MDOT

The first public meeting was held in Grand Rapids. The meeting took place at the MDOT Grand Rapids TSC Conference Room 2660 Leonard ST. NE, Grand Rapids 49525. There were 19 individuals in attendance.

Points of discussion included:

- ◆ The difference between general public transportation and ADA countywide service should be explained in more detail.
- ◆ Expand on how the ADA expansion and countywide service work together.
- ◆ If ADA expansion is limited to only select areas people within the six cities are still unable to travel to where they need to go.
- ◆ The map depicting ADA expansion and countywide service is confusing.
- ◆ The ADA expansion area just creates a different imaginary transportation boundary.
- ◆ A preferred option would be a seamless countywide service area that had no boundary limitations for people in the six cities.
- ◆ A question was asked regarding the support for these new services.

Lowell

The second public meeting of The Kent County Needs Assessment was held in the City of Lowell. The meeting took place in the City Council Chambers, located at 301 East Main Street Lowell. There were 8 individuals in attendance.

Points of discussion included:

- ◆ Did the study separate the difference between “wants and needs”?
- ◆ Transportation needs and wants are relative depending on your situation.
- ◆ Did the study look at who would operate the service?
- ◆ In addition the Rapid and other current providers would a privet operator be eligible to provide these services?
- ◆ The express bus would need to perform a route downtown to make it useful.
- ◆ Using the existing park and rides is a good plan and use of existing resources.

Cedar Springs

The third public meeting of The Kent County Needs Assessment was held in The City of Cedar Springs. The meeting took place in the Council Chambers, located at 66 South Main Street Cedar Springs. There were 8 individuals in attendance.

Points of discussion included:

- ◆ Was there a demand for transportation to work outside of the six cities?
- ◆ Would the increase in gasoline price increase the number of likely transportation users?
- ◆ Was there any interest for local high schools to use public transportation instead of school buses?
- ◆ The savings for the townships who currently pay for North Kent Transit and Go!Bus will be appealing to those communities. The Savings of County Connection and Ride Link will be appealing to the whole county.
- ◆ Would the express service require a downtown transfer?
- ◆ Covering area like the medical mile and other major destinations would make the express service ideal.

Gaines Township

The fourth public meeting of The Kent County Needs Assessment was held in Gaines Township. The meeting took place in the community room, located at 8555 Kalamazoo Avenue Gaines Township. There were 11 individuals in attendance.

Points of discussion included:

- ◆ The calculation of the cost per ride would be a good figure to include in the report.
- ◆ How does the fare box recovery rate of the current services compare with the national average?
- ◆ The Survey estimates and consensus are not the same. What is the reason for this difference and is it realistic?
- ◆ What are the chances that the plan will be implemented?
- ◆ Would Hope Network continue to play a role as a transportation provider?
- ◆ Do these new services duplicate what Hope Network and other smaller providers are currently doing?
- ◆ The difference between general public transportation and ADA countywide service should be explained in more detail.
- ◆ The use of a countywide system would be much more user friendly and more preferable than an expansion of ADA service with a countywide connection.

Hope Network

The fifth public meeting of The Kent County Needs Assessment was held at Hope Network. The meeting took place in the Education Center, located at 755 36th Street SE Wyoming. There were 21 individuals in attendance.

Points of discussion included:

- ◆ The projections indicate that MDOT funding will decrease. Is this realistic and could this funding end all together?
- ◆ Explain the difference between ADA expansion and countywide demand response.

- ◆ Was any research conducted to estimate the likelihood that people would travel from the six cities to the county?
- ◆ When with the county commissioners make a decision regarding this information?

Plainfield Township

The sixth public meeting of The Kent County Needs Assessment was held in Plainfield Township. The meeting took place in the Board Room located at 6161 Belmont Avenue Plainfield Township. There were 9 individuals in attendance.

- ◆ These new services would greatly improve mobility options for people in the county.
- ◆ Is transportation in other countries subsidized as much as in Kent County?
- ◆ There is a potential to use the route extensions as or the express route in conjunction with the proposed BRT that the Rapid has been interested in.
- ◆ Using the express bus to get to downtown would be provide several benefits, including traffic, parking, and environmental.