

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, April 17, 2013
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Varga, chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Varga announced that a sign-up sheet to host the Clean Air Action display was being circulated along with the attendance sheet.

Varga then opened a public comment period for comment on the list of projects to receive \$3.7 million in carryover funding. Being that there was no public comment, the comment period was closed.

Varga introduced Rod Ghearing to the Committee.

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

Peter Varga, *Chair*

Jerry Alkema

Alex Arends

Dan Carlton

Mark DeClercq

Ken Feldt

Tim Grifhorst

George Haga

Don R. Hilton, Sr.

Jim Holtrop

Rich Houtteman

Dennis Kent

*Proxy for
Mark Howe*

Ken Krombeen, *Vice Chair*

Dal McBurrows

Jon F. Rice

Brian Ryks

Darrel Schmalzel

The Rapid

Allendale Township

Alpine Township

Georgetown Township

City of Grand Rapids

City of East Grand Rapids

OCRC

Ada Township

Gaines Township

Ottawa County

City of Kentwood

MDOT-Grand Region

City of Lowell

City of Grandville

MDOT

KCRC

GRFIA

City of Walker

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Faber

Rod Ghearing

Abed Itani

Erick Kind

Darrell Robinson

Norm Sevensma

Jim Snell

Steve Warren

Mike Zonyk

GVMC Staff

ITP-The Rapid

GVMC Staff

MDOT

GVMC Staff

WMEAC-RWBC

GVMC Staff

KCRC

GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Dave Bulkowski
Jamie Davies
Eric DeLong
Mike DeVries
Bryan Harrison
Dennis Hoemke
Bob Homan
Mark Howe
Jim Miedema
Tim Nelson
Audrey Nevins-Weiss
Dave Pasquale
Richard Pastoor
Steve Peterson
Jack Poll
Chuck Porter
Dan Strikwerda
Martin Super
Thad Taylor
Toby VanEss

Kent County Commissioner
City of Rockford
City of Grand Rapids
Grand Rapids Township
Caledonia Charter Township
Algoma Township
Plainfield Township
City of Lowell
Jamestown Township
Cannon Township
Byron Township
Grand Rapids Township
City of Wyoming
Cascade Township
City of Wyoming
Courtland Township
City of Hudsonville
Village of Sparta
City of Cedar Springs
Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Varga entertained a motion to approve the March 20, 2013 minutes.

MOTION by Holtrop, SUPPORT by Krombeen, to approve of the March 20, 2013 Policy Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sevensma commented that there are certified bicycle safety instructors in his bicycle club, and that they advise to never ride against traffic. He said that the City of Grand Rapids is adding a two-way bike lane on Lyon, and that the current design will force bicyclists to ride against traffic because parts of Lyon are one-way. He suggested that the City look into this situation or reference the AASHTO standards for guidance. DeClercq explained the project as well as some of the safety measures that have already been taken, noting that the city also applied for a bicycle education grant. Discussion ensued.

IV. FY2011-2014 TIP AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson explained two TIP amendment/modification requests to the Committee.

The first request, from Hope Network, was to add several projects to the FY2014 TIP using section 5310 funds. These projects included:

- 3 cutaway buses
- 3 light duty small cutaways
- Electronic vehicle inspection system

- Snow plow for service truck
- Computer equipment

The second request, from MDOT, was to amend or modify the FY2011-2014 MPO TIP and the Draft FY2014-2017 TIP for the following projects:

FY2013-Trunkline Project Amendment/Modification (current TIP)

- US-131 10 Mile Rd. north to M-46 (17 Mile Rd.) (Job # 117992)
- M-37 (Broadmoor Ave.) 52nd St. north to 44th St. (Job #108915)

FY2014-Trunkline Project Amendment (new and current TIP)

- M-11 (28th St.) Kalamazoo Ave. East to Breton Ave. (Job #118134)
- M-37 (Broadmoor Ave.) 29th St. north to Lake Eastbrook Blvd. (Job 118845)

FY2015-Trunkline Project Amendment (new TIP)

- US-131 10 Mile Rd. north to M-46 (17 Mile Rd.) (Job # 119013)
- M-37 (Alpine Ave.) 3 Mile Rd. north to Alpenhorn Dr. (Job # 117998)

Kent added that the US-131 project from 10 Mile Rd. north to M-46 will be a substantial project. It's a \$40 million project that will be split over two years.

Varga entertained a motion to amend/modify the TIP.

MOTION by Arends, SUPPORT by Krombeen, to approve of the amendments/modifications to the FY2011-2014 TIP and draft FY2014-2017 TIP requested by MDOT and Hope Network, as identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. FY2013 PROJECT LIST FOR \$3.7 MILLION IN CARRYOVER FUNDS

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Robinson explained how the \$3.7 million in carryover funds became available and stated that the TPSG Committee had met on March 21st to program these funds. This list was taken to the Technical Committee for approval on April 3rd, and the Technical Committee approved the list with several modifications. The project list brought before the Committee for approval today includes changing the limits of projects, adding cost to previously programmed projects, moving projects forward from FY2014 and moving projects from TIP illustrative lists into FY2013. There was one new project—3 mile Road—which required public involvement. Robinson noted that the TPSG Committee will convene to develop a list of FY2014 projects in the near future. Itani noted that FY2014 carryover funding would likely be a free-for-all. However, to use this funding, jurisdictions must obligate their existing projects first. Therefore, he encouraged the Committee to obligate their FY2014 projects as soon as possible. He stated that he has suggested to MDOT and FHWA that they go jurisdiction by jurisdiction instead of penalizing other jurisdictions because one is moving slower, which they are considering.

DeClercq asked if it would be necessary to create an additional list for carryover funding. Robinson and Itani confirmed that this list could be developed. DeClercq also asked for clarification on how the free-for-all 2014 funds would be allocated. McBurrows provided additional details about the process. Discussion ensued.

Varga entertained a motion to approve the proposed project list.

MOTION by Krombeen, SUPPORT by Ryks, to approve the project list to be funded with the 3.7 million in carryover funding.

Ryks asked why there wouldn't be carryover in years past FY2014. McBurrows explained that this additional funding was due to bid savings and noted that, this time, they gave the locals the opportunity to use these dollars instead of spending it internally. Itani added that there are a lot of scenarios that can leave money on the table and that, over the last several years, the MPO has spent every penny it's received. Warren added that, in the future, locals will need more obligational authority for remaining funding.

Rice noted that the Committee had discussed the possibility of putting together an MPO-wide preservation project in the future. He added that if additional funding becomes available, a preservation package can be put together quickly. Itani noted that the illustrative list had also been expanded, which will make it easier to move forward projects, should additional funding be received. DeClercq stressed that the area's asset management needs are great, and preservation is a key to that. Itani noted that preservation projects are simple and can slide easily into the TIP. Discussion ensued.

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

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Following up on a discussion from recent TPSG and Tech committee meetings, Kent informed the Committee that there are concurrent reconstruction/ rehabilitation projects on 28th St. between I-96 and Kalamazoo planned for the next couple of years. While sidewalk is being added, there are still some gaps. He stated that MDOT had previously offered to split the cost of the sidewalk with the locals, but this plan wasn't agreed to. Therefore, he explained a plan to fund the sidewalk from Patterson to Breton with local CMAQ funding by moving projects from FY2016 to FY2014. The 20% match would be split between the two cities. In FY2014, MDOT would finish the segment from Breton to Kalamazoo and fund the cost themselves. There is a meeting with the parties involved on April 26th. Itani added that the KCRC's Belmont project didn't qualify for CMAQ funds. He added that he spoke to Steve Warren from the KCRC and that he would support Kent's proposal so long as the Committee agreed to fund the Belmont project if additional funds become available in the future. ITP has also agreed to move the bus projects to 2016 to assist in this. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Warren encouraged the Committee to attend the state's Asset Management Council's annual conference on May 8th.

Varga congratulated Rice on his impending retirement and thanked him for his many years of valued service. Rice offered farewell remarks and thanked the Committee for their support. Cake was served in Rice's honor.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Varga adjourned the April 17, 2013 Policy Committee meeting at 10:24 am.