Zull, chair of the Technical Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present
Chris Zull (Chair)          City of Grand Rapids
Alex Arends                Alpine Township
Terry Brod                 Cannon Township
Ron Carr                   City of Grandville
Scott Conners              City of Walker
Rick DeVries               City of Grand Rapids
Bill Dooley                City of Wyoming
Jim Ferro                  Ada Township
Rod Ghearing               ITP-The Rapid
Wayne Harrall              Kent County
                        Proxy for
Rod Weersing               Mike DeVries
                        Tim Haagsma
Roy Hawkins                Grand Rapids Township
Jim Holtvluwer             Gaines Charter Township
Doug LaFave                KCDA/GRFIA
John Lanum                 Ottawa County
Brett Laughlin             East Grand Rapids
Matt McConnon              MDOT
Terry Schweitzer           OCRC
Dan Strikwerda             Courtland Township
Steve Warren               City of Kentwood
Rod Weersing               City of Hudsonville
Mallory Avis               MDOT-Transit
Mike Brameijer             GVMC Staff
Danielle Coles             FHWA
Andrea Faber               GVMC Staff
Erin Haviland              GVMC Staff
Abed Itani                 GVMC Staff
Dennis Kent                MDOT
Erick Kind                 MDOT
Darrell Robinson           GVMC Staff
Norm Sevensma              WMEAC-RWBC
Rachel Tupica              FHWA
Dan VanderHeide            City of Kentwood
II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Zull entertained a motion to approve the September 2nd, 2015 Tech Committee minutes.

MOTION by Ghearing, SUPPORT by Holtvluwer, to approve the September 2nd, 2015 Technical Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sevensma informed the Committee that there is a proposal to make November National Bike Month and there are bicycles available now that can be ridden year-round, including snow and rough terrain; therefore, he asked Committee members to be more aware of bicyclists year-round and suggested keeping the facilities for bicyclists open longer.

IV. FY 2014-2017 TIP AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS

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

- ITP-The Rapid is requesting to amend/modify the following FY2016 projects listed in the FY2014-2017 TIP.
MDOT is requesting to amend/modify several FY2016 & FY2017 projects and GPAs listed in the FY2014-2017 TIP. Kent explained that they have several projects that are increasing or decreasing in cost, and some are just showing a change in the GPAs. Kent noted a new project not mentioned on the document was 68th to 131, car pool lot, property exchange with Byron Twp. This will be added to FY2016. The bridge over the Grand River project will increase by $300,000. Kent would like these added to their original list.

GVMC Staff is requesting to move the Remembrance Road from Walker Village Drive to Fred Meijer Standale Trail sidewalk project from the illustrative list to the main project list. This project has preliminary approval for FY2016 TAP funding. Staff is also requesting to move the City of Wyoming’s previously approved FY2015 TAP funded Widening and Resurfacing Inter-Urban Trail project to FY2016.

Harrall explained that due to the tight timelines for getting projects out to bid, the Kent County Road Commission requested the following illustrative project be added to the 2014-2017 TIP for fiscal year 2016 on the condition they are able to confirm the purchase of additional STP Rural funds from another county prior to this TIP Amendment being submitted to MDOT: Lincoln Lake Avenue from 6 to 7 Mile road. Rural STP funds are $800,000; total project cost is $1,000,000. They also proposed to advance construct the portion of Lincoln Lake Avenue from 7 mile to M-44, contingent upon the above referenced TIP amendment. This means doing 3 miles in one year as opposed to 1 mile each year for 3 years. Discussion ensued.

Ghearing stated that the reason for moving money in their TIP is for the implementation of a compressed natural gas station. Discussion ensued.

Zull asked for comments on each amendment. Hearing none, he asked for a motion.

**MOTION by Ghearing, SUPPORT by Schweitzer, to approve the FY2014-2017 TIP amendments/modifications requested by ITP-The Rapid, MDOT, GVMC Staff, and the KCRC. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. FY 2017-2020 TIP UPDATE

Referring to Item V: Attachment A and several display boards, Robinson passed out handouts and explained the process for the development of the FY2017-2020 TIP.

The first handout is the development schedule for the FY2017-2020 TIP.

- Identification of Deficiencies- November MPO Mtg. 2015
- Jurisdiction Project nominations due-November 30, 2015
- Revenue Estimates (pending MDOT)-November 2015
- Draft project Selection-January 13, 2016
- Projects added to “Map” database-February-March 2016
- Environmental Justice Analysis-February-March 2016
- Consultation-End of March-August 2016
- Public Involvement-December 2015-August 2016
- Final Projects Lists-May 2016 MPO Mtg.
- Submittal of TIP to MDOT-June-July 2016 MPO Mtg.
Tupica asked for clarification on how projects are prioritized and selected. Itani responded that projects are selected based on the guidelines in the Policies and Practices for Programming Projects document and through a cooperative process that includes meetings among the MPO members. Tupica stated that with performance-based planning on the horizon, the MPO may want to consider formalizing or documenting their project selection process for the TIP. Discussion ensued.

The second handout was a development schedule for the FY2017-2020 STIP/TIP from MDOT. This document shows milestones that the MPO will need to strive to meet in submitting documents and information to MDOT. One of the main deadlines is submitting the final snapshot by March 1st. Discussion ensued.

The third handout was on Category C-Urban Congestion Relief. Itani stated that he had received questions from Committee members if EDFC funds could be flexed for projects that don’t include widening. Itani gave examples of projects that EDFC could be used for, including resurfacing, but that projects must still meet the criteria of 10,000 for two lanes or 25,000 for four lanes. Itani stated that he has asked Robinson to research this topic further. Robinson stated that he would follow up on this with an e-mail. Also included in this email would be information on the call for projects. Discussion ensued.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- MDOT State Long-Range Transportation Plan (SLRTP) update.
  
  Kent explained that the agenda packet included a document on the SLRTP update. Two webinars regarding this document will be held on November 10, 2015 from 2-4pm and again on November 12, 2015 from 6-8pm. He clarified that this is a policy document, not a project document.

- Election of Chair and Vice Chair.

  Zull noted that his two-year term as chair of the Technical Committee has expired and that, traditionally, the vice chair of the Committee would step into the chairmanship role. Schweitzer, the current vice chair, informed the Committee that he has been reassigned to the Policy Committee. Zull then asked for nominations for chair and vice chair.

  Schweitzer nominated Harrall to serve as chair. Warren nominated DeVries to serve as chair or vice chair. However, Warren noted that the City of Grand Rapids Committee members would then serve back to back terms if DeVries was selected chair.

  **MOTION by Arends, SUPPORT by Schweitzer, to close nominations and elect Harrall to serve a two-year term as chair of the Technical Committee, and elect DeVries to serve a two-year term as vice chair of the Technical Committee. Both terms would start in January of 2016. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- Kent stated that Roger Stafford is retiring at the end of the calendar year, and MDOT expects to appoint a replacement by the end of the calendar year.
• Kent stated that the State transportation bill passed last night and will result in an increase in the gas tax rate and registration fees. It will be incremental and take place starting January 1, 2017. Lanum went on to explain the gas tax will increase from 7.3 cents to 26.3 cents, and then registration fees will increase 20%. The governor is expected to sign this bill. Discussion ensued.
• Arends stated that Alpine Township was the recipient of TAP funds for a sidewalk project. He thanked the Transportation Committees, Robinson, and Harrall for their help in getting this project.
• Tupica stated that there is an extension for MAP-21, so there is transportation authorization for a couple more weeks. Congress is working on other funding options, such as the DRIVE act. Itani added that the House and Senate passed a two-year budget. However, there’s no obligational authority associated with the budget.

Everyone thanked Zull for all his work as chair of the Tech Committee.

Itani noted that the Technical Committee will not be meeting in December. However, Committee members should plan on meeting in January.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Zull adjourned the November 4th, 2015 Technical Committee meeting at 10:47 am.