

GENESEE-LAPEER-SHIAWASSEE REGION V PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Tuesday, November 28, 2023 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

The Genesee-Lapeer-Shiawassee Region V Planning and Development Commission met at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, in the Harris Auditorium of the Genesee County Administration Building, on the third floor, 1101 Beach Street, Flint, Michigan.

Chairperson VanHaften called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

A. Roll Call

Present: Richard VanHaften, Derek Bradshaw, Jeffrey Kelley, Shawnice Dorsey, Gabriel Lossing, Tom Kohlman, Destain Gingell, Ed Benning, Alan Himelhoch, and Gregory Brodeur

Absent/Excused: Joe Massey

Others Present: William Hamilton, Jacob Maurer, Kristofor Garris, and Renate Soto.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the GLS Region V PDC Regular Meeting held September 26, 2023

Motion: Action: Approve, **Moved by** Ed Benning, **Supported by** Alan Himelhoch, to approve the minutes of the GLS Region V PDC regular meeting held September 26, 2023 as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

(Documents on file in the GCMPC office)

C. Approval of the Agenda of GLS Region V PDC Meeting to be held November 28, 2023

Motion: Action: Motion to approve the agenda. **Moved by** Alan Himelhoch, **Supported by** Destain Gingell, to approve the agenda of the GLS Region V PDC meeting to be held November 28, 2023.

Motion carried unanimously.

(Documents on file with minutes)

D. Opportunity for the Public to Address the GLS Region V PDC

No one spoke at this time.

E. Communications

None

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. Financial Report

1. Checks

Mr. Derek Bradshaw stated there is no financial report this month as staff is in the process of completing year end. Expect a year-end financial report at the next meeting. Mr. Bradshaw reviewed the checks for the committee. The checks totaled \$15,288.56.

Motion: Action: Approve the payment of the checks. **Moved by** Tom Kohlman, **Supported by** Jeffrey Kelley, to approve the checks in the amount of \$15,288.56 and authorize signing by the proper authorities.

Motion carried unanimously.

(Documents on file with minutes)

B. Spark Grant Technical Assistance Agreement

Mr. Jacob Maurer explained that six communities were awarded Spark Grants through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The MDNR has awarded \$69,531.00 in technical assistance funds to GLS Region V to assist the communities through the grant management process and in locating consultants and contractors. A formal agreement between GLS Region V and the MDNR is required to be reimbursed for staff services. All funds must be expended by October 31, 2026.

Motion: Action: Motion to approve. **Moved by** Ed Benning, **Supported by** Jeffrey Kelley, to approve the Spark Grant Technical Assistance Agreement and for authority for Derek Bradshaw to sign the agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

(Documents on file with minutes)

C. Traffic Count Program – New Equipment & Software

Mr. Kris Garris stated that GLS Region V staff has been managing a traffic count program in Genesee, Lapeer, and Shiawassee Counties for over 25 years. Local Road Agencies can access the equipment that Region V staff has on hand to get accurate traffic counts for their communities. The data collected on these traffic counts is published online and accessible to the public and on our website through the MS2 software. The data collected by the traffic count program is vital for transportation planning and for guiding long-term decisions in the Long Range Transportation Plan. Currently, the hardware being used is over 10 years old and the software has been out of service since 2019. Staff is recommending purchasing of new software and equipment to facilitate the longevity and consistency of the Traffic Count Program. This purchase would include updated software with lifetime access and two new traffic counters. At this time, staff is requesting that the GLS Region V PDC approve the purchase of new equipment and software as detailed above.

Motion: Action: Motion to approve. **Moved by** Jeffrey Kelley, **Supported by** Tom Kohlman, to approve the purchase of new traffic count equipment and software as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

(Documents on file with minutes)

D. 2024 Meeting Dates

Mr. Maurer reviewed the 2024 meeting dates.

Motion: Action: Motion to approve. **Moved by** Alan Himelhoch, **Supported by** Jeffrey Kelley, to approve the 2024 meeting dates.

Motion carried unanimously.

(Documents on file with minutes)

Chairperson VanHaften informed Vice-Chairperson Brodeur that he will not be available to chair the July and September meetings.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2023 Asset Management PASER Update

Mr. Garris stated during the summer, staff worked with Local Road Agencies to comply with the Transportation Asset Management Council's mandate that all federal aid roads be rated using the PASER Road Rating System. All federal aid roads were surveyed in Lapeer and Shiawassee Counties. Mr. Garris reviewed the PASER ratings results for both counties and compared the trends with 2021 results, the last time these roads were rated. Overall, the road conditions have improved from 2021-2023 for both counties. Mr. Jacob Maurer added that links to the maps of each local unit of government in each county were sent out to Commission members via email. If there are any irregularities noticed such as roads that were improved after the roads were rated this summer, please reach out to staff to make those corrections. Mr. Garris reviewed those maps with the Commission members.

B. Culvert and Bridge Inventories & Condition Assessments Update

Mr. Garris stated that as part of the FY 2024 work program for GLS Region V, funding has been set aside to assist with data collection on roadway culverts and bridges along Public Act 51 Certified Roads. In September, staff released a call for proposals for culvert and bridge inventory assessment. The requests were scored and prioritized based on budget, absence, or age of data to be collected and the last year of reimbursement to the road agency. Staff received requests totaling more than \$62,000 from 6 local road agencies. These requests exceeded available funding, demonstrating the need for additional asset management funding. Staff will be sharing funding requests and the overall level of interest with MDOT to demonstrate the need for more asset management funding. The City of Swartz Creek, City of Linden, and Village of New Lothrop were awarded Culvert and Bridge Inventory and Condition Assessment grants for reimbursement in the amount of \$3,000 each.

C. FY 2024 – 2026 Rural Task Force Projects Update

Mr. Garris stated the final FY 2024 allocation estimates for GLS Region V Rural Task Force (RTF) were released by MDOT in early November. Previously, the allocation estimates required all projects take a reduction, but with the updated November estimates, Lapeer and Shiawassee Counties will return the projects to their original programmed amounts. Staff has begun to reach out to each agency to reprogram projects to reflect the November final allocation.

D. MDOT Small Urban Program Update

Mr. Garris stated there are two new Small Urban areas that have been added to the GLS Region V area. Based on the changes to the Adjusted Census Urban Boundary (ACUB), the Durand and Fenton Urban areas will receive up to \$380,000 in federal funding every two years. MDOT has yet to determine if funds will be made available in FY 2025 or FY 2026. Staff will be contacting the appropriate local road agencies in the next couple of months to discuss these changes.

E. Asset Management Champions Program

Mr. Maurer announced an opportunity for local infrastructure owners that the Michigan Infrastructure Council (MIC), is going to offer their Champions program once again. This free program provides training and best practices to infrastructure leaders and provides many excellent resources. A webinar held on November 30, will provide an overview of the content and structure of the program to participants and the deadline to apply is January 12, 2024. Mr. Maurer personally completed the program and highly

recommends it. The training takes place over the course of several months and can be spread out to be taken at one's own pace. Please feel free to pass this information on to any local officials that might benefit from this program. Registration information was provided in the agenda packet.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Maurer announced that the GLS Region V biennial audit is scheduled to start on December 18. The audit will last a couple days and results will be brought back to this Commission when available.

Chairperson VanHaften reminded Commissioners to pick up their per diem checks after the meeting.

Mr. Benning announced that work has continued on the MTA Hydrogen hub. MTA is in a partnership with the Department of Transportation, and it appears that around 1 million dollars will be allocated to MTA for the expansion of their Hydrogen station. MTA is in the process of requesting to take on the role of becoming a hydrogen technical education center for the state with Kettering University, University of Michigan, and Michigan State University.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson VanHaften adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Renate Soto, Secretary
Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission