

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
September 5, 2019**

The Technical Advisory Committee met at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 5, 2019, in the Conference Room of the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission (GCMPC), 1101 Beach Street, Room 223, Flint, Michigan.

I.  **Call to Order**

Vice Chairperson Johnston called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

II. **Roll Call**

Present: Aaron Dawson, Andrea Schroeder, Bob Slattery, Chad Young, Derek Bradshaw, Eric Johnston, Larry Green, Lynn Markland, Mark Adas, Michael Pifer, Shawnice Dorsey, and Tom Svrcek.

Absent/Excused: Adam Zettel, Alex Patsy, Betty Wideman, Bonnie Mathis, Brad Barrett, Brian Saad, Chris Yeates, Craig Williams, Curtis Armstrong, Dave Miller, David Dorr, Don Mayle, Ed Benning, Emily Alexander, Eric Weiderhold, Fred Peivandi, Frederick Thorsby, Gary Stevens, Jay Reithel, Joseph Madore, Joseph Rizk, Karyn Miller, Mark Emmendorfer, Mary Ann Price, Neil Rankin, Paul Fortino, Robert Johnson, Sam Stiff, Scott Bennett, Scott Sutter, Sheri Wilkerson, Steven Furh, Steven Katenhus, Teresa Onica, Tim Elkins, Trevor Block, Vicki Fishell, and Wendy Jean-Buhrer.

Others Present: Lane Masoud, Jason Nordberg, Sharon Gregory, Jacob Maurer, Zach Sompels, and Debby Compton.

III.  **Minutes**

***A. **Minutes of the July 11, 2019 Regular Meeting**

Motion: Action: Approve, **moved by** Andrea Schroeder, **supported by** Tom Svrcek, to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2019 regular meeting as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. **Old Business**

A.  **2019 Federal Metropolitan Transportation Planning Certification Review**

Presentation by Aaron Dawson

Aaron Dawson, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Michigan Division, presented a PowerPoint presentation to the committee. The topic of the presentation was the federally required review of the MPO every four years. The product of the review is a lengthy report in which the findings are


presented and sent to Washington DC to prove that the MPO is complying with the law. There are three possible actions that can come out of the report: commendations, for things that are best practice or well done nationwide; recommendations, or items that can be enhanced or improved upon to improve the planning process for the area; and corrective actions which are regulatory compliance issues that have to be addressed in a certain amount of time to be able to certify the MPO to continue being the planning organization for the Flint area. The Flint Certification went great with no corrective actions, two (2) commendations and eight (8) recommendations.

Commendations and Recommendations are as follows:


- ✓ Commendation 1: Regional Partnerships
GCMPC and MTA partnership with public and private organizations
- ✓ Commendation 2: TIP Public Involvement and Online Tools
GCMPC communication of TIP projects, use of story maps, soliciting project comments
- ✓ Recommendation 1: Agreements
Review factual information, regulatory citations, roles and responsibilities for four agreements (2010 and 2013)
- ✓ Recommendation 2: Travel Demand Model
Present analysis capabilities and potential uses of new travel demand model to committee members
- ✓ Recommendation 3: Performance Measure Report and Dashboard
Create and maintain performance measure technical report, website dashboard, and tie to project selection
- ✓ Recommendation 4: MDOT Project Selection Transparency
Region planning staff and MPO staff cooperatively develop MDOT project list beyond the MDOT 5-year plan
- ✓ Recommendation 5: TIP Project Selection Process
Include project selection application and criteria as an appendix to the TIP document, also include how performance measures influence selection
- ✓ Recommendation 6: MPO Website TIP Accessibility and Performance Information
Provide easy access to the TIP project list via the GCMOC website, including linking the project list to performance measures
- ✓ Recommendation 7: Public Participation Plan
Record and demonstrate all outreach activities in the PPP, especially outreach to Environmental Justice communities (also include timetable for major documents, comment periods, highlight innovative methods)
- ✓ Recommendation 8: MTP Environmental Justice
Expand analysis to include regional measures (accessibility to employment, education, health care, etc.) for a comparative assessment of benefits and burdens

The next Certification Review on-site meeting will be May 2023.

Mr. Bradshaw, on behalf of GCMPC staff, thanked FHWA, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) staff that participated.

- B.  **FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update**
Sharon Gregory reminded the committee that the FY 2020-2023 TIP was approved in July by this committee and the Metropolitan Alliance to go on to MDOT for review. MDOT reviewed and passed it along to FHWA and FTA. At this time staff is waiting to hear from the Federal agencies with an approval and hopefully staff will get that by the last week of September so we can start the program on October 1st which starts our FY 2020. Discussion ensued.


Aaron Dawson stated that the TIP document for Flint was reviewed and no issues were found. An official announcement will be made around the last week of September.

- C.  **FY 2020 Unified Work Program (UWP) Update**
Jason Nordberg stated that staff submitted the Work Program. The state has sent it over to the Federal agencies which have sent something over to the state recommending approval. At this time staff is waiting for the official report and project authorizations.

Aaron Dawson stated that they are done with their review so staff should be hearing something soon.

- ***D.  **MDOT Call for Highway Safety Improvement Safety Program (HSIP) projects, Highway Safety Improvement Program Streamlined Systemic Safety Program Projects, and Call for High Risk Rural Road (HRRR) projects**
Zachary Sompels stated that in May MDOT released their Call for Safety Projects. The Genesee County Road Commission was the only agency that submitted projects. Staff used the Time of Return analysis to rank the projects. At this time, staff is recommending the Technical Advisory Committee provide an approval of the prioritized list of projects to the Metropolitan Alliance. Discussion ensued.

Motion: Action: Approve, **moved by** Andrea Schroeder, **supported by** Tom Svrcek, to recommend approval of the prioritized list of projects as presented to the Metropolitan Alliance.

- E.  **Genesee: Our County, Our Future Plan Update**
Jacob Maurer stated that this is the plan that is going to meet the requirements of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan for Genesee County as well as some of the requirements for Community Development and Environmental. Mr. Maurer presented the Genesee: Our County, Our Future website to the committee. It is a stand-alone site from the GCMPC website. Mr. Maurer asked the committee for feedback.

Derek Bradshaw mentioned to the committee that staff is looking for high quality photos from the communities in Genesee County. Discussion ensued.

The Genesee: Our County, Our Future Plan will go out for public comment mid-November and the document will be available for review at that time.

V. **New Business**

A.  **FY 2020 MDOT Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project Planning Guide and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Information**

Sharon Gregory stated that staff included in the TAC packet a copy of the Local Agency Programs Project Guide. This is the guide that staff uses when they go out to visit local agencies that have FY 2020 TIP projects. Agencies are encouraged, as much as possible, to follow the highlighted dates for an April obligation for 2020 projects. This year with the extended NEPA application, staff is going out earlier to meet with local agencies. Even for a simple paving project it could take up to two additional months. Discussion ensued.

Derek Bradshaw mentioned having MDOT come in and talk about the importance of this planning guide, and having engineers/consultants in the room at the same time. Staff will work with MDOT on setting up a meeting.

B.  **Draft Genesee County 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Capacity Project List**

Jacob Maurer stated that back in July staff issued a 2045 LRTP Call for Capacity Projects. Ten (10) applications were received, nine from the Genesee County Road Commission and one (1) from the City of Swartz Creek. With the funding that is projected only one (1) project will be able to be done and the rest will be added to an illustrative list. The Transportation System Management (TSM) Subcommittee approved this draft list which allowed staff to move ahead with public comment. These projects along with locally approved FY 2020 – 2023 TIP projects will be packaged into the Genesee: Our County Our Future Plan document and be presented for approval from this committee and the Metropolitan Alliance in January.

C.  **Roundabout Implementation Study for Genesee County Intersections Update**

Staff put out a Roundabout Implementation Study Request for Proposal (RFP) that closed in July. Five (5) proposals were received and staff reviewed those and came up with a recommendation for the most qualified consultant. That is going through the committee approval process right now, and staff hopes to have a contract signed in October. The study will take about a year and once it's done staff will have a roundabout suitability score for each intersection. The consultants will be doing an analysis and providing staff with micro simulations, and some early preliminary engineering on the intersections that have a high suitability score. A high suitability score means they would transition well into a roundabout. The goal behind the study is to

have a document that staff can make available to the road agencies and the communities to provide them with solid engineering background on roundabouts. Staff will have further information to share at the next meeting. Discussion ensued.

Jason Nordberg advised that the study will provide simulations for a select number of intersections that will help to visualize how a proposed roundabout is going to work.

Lynn Markland announced that the City of Fenton is in the process of their first roundabout, and looking into doing their own video for the public information piece.

VI.  **Other Business**
None

VII.  **Announcements**

Lane Masoud, MDOT, stated that the Mass Transportation Authority (MTA) was recently named the Urban Transportation System of the Year by the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA).

Jacob Maurer announced that MDOT sent staff boxes of the updated Bay Region Road and Trail Bicycle Guide maps, and encouraged attendees to take a bundle for their agencies.

Jacob Maurer stated that Terrain 360 is a company that is mapping the region's and Genesee County's river and hiking trails. This is a partnership between Genesee County and the I-69 Thumb Region. At this time, Terrain 360 is working on stitching the imagery together. Staff expects to have something to announce next month and will send e-mails on how to use the imagery.

Tom Svrcek thanked GCMPC staff for all they do for the local agencies.

Jason Nordberg announced that there are fliers available today for the upcoming Recycle Day events.

VIII.  **Adjournment**

Vice Chairperson Johnston adjourned the meeting at 2:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debby Compton, Secretary
Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission