



**Macatawa Area
Coordinating Council**

A Cooperative Effort Among Units of Government

Policy Board

*Rosemary Ervine, Chair
*Blaine Koops
*Hannes Meyers, Jr.
*Pankaj Rajadhyaksha
*William Vanderbilt
Howard Baumann, Jr.
Joseph Baumann
Tom Bird
Terry Burns
Kurt Dykstra
Terry Hofmeyer
Lester Hoogland
John Kleinheksel
Dal McBurrows
Al Myaard
Terry Nienhuis
Keith Potter
Russ Te Slaa
Todd Wolters

MACC POLICY COMMITTEE

**December 20, 2010
Zeeland Township
6582 Byron Road
Zeeland, MI 49464
12:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

*Executive Committee

PRESENT: Blaine Koops, Hannes Meyers, Jr., Bill Vanderbilt, Howard Baumann, Terry Burns, Terry Hofmeyer, Sally Gruppen (for Les Hoogland), John Kleinheksel, Al Myaard, Terry Nienhuis, Amanda Price, Gordon Schrotenboer, Russ TeSlaa and Dave Vander Kooi

OTHERS PRESENT: Aaron Deiter, Greg Chandler, Glenn Nykamp, Mark Start, Steve Redmond, Steve Bulthuis and Stephanie Beyer

I. Introductions and Approval of Minutes—Following self-introductions, **a motion was made by Hannes Meyers, Jr and supported by Dave VanderKooi to approve meeting minutes of the November 22, 2010 meeting as presented. Motion carried.**

II. Presentation: Western Ottawa Traffic Signal Optimization Study Outcome—Marc Start, URS Corporation, presented an overview of the outcomes from the Traffic Signal Study. Marc noted that during the nine month study, a total of 129 traffic signals were optimized with traffic flow improvements in 13 of 15 corridors. Other benefits included:

- An annual savings to the motoring public exceeding \$5 million dollars
- Fuel consumption improvements resulting in savings over 273,000 gallons annually
- Air pollution reduction is estimated to be 1,023 tons annually, using an air quality model
- Annual travel time improvements saving over 311,000 vehicle-hours delays

He noted there were a number of project improvements that were a direct product of the inter-jurisdictional collaboration, which would not have been possible if the project had been sponsored by a single transportation agency. These include:

- In the Holland area, traffic signal coordination and optimization US-31 (MDOT) and Waverly Rd. (City of Holland), from 32nd St. to 8th St.

- In Holland Township, traffic signal coordination and optimization between US-31 (MDOT) and the nearby traffic signals located on Riley St, Felch St, and James St.
- In the Zeeland area, traffic signal coordination and optimization on 112th Ave, between Lakewood Blvd. (OCRC) and I-196BL (MDOT)
- In the Grand Haven area, traffic signal coordination and optimization between US-31 (MDOT) and other streets near US-31 (City of Grand Haven).

Discussion followed.

III. MPO Transportation Issues

A. FY2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment – Steve Bulthuis reviewed a 2011 amendment to the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) requested by the Ottawa County Road Commission. The amendment would extend the project limits of improvements on Riley Street eastward by 0.5 miles, from 112th Avenue-100th Avenue. Mr. Bulthuis noted that funding adjustments to the Byron Road nonmotorized project (76th-48th) were also going to be needed but that final details from the engineers were not yet available. It was requested that staff be authorized to adjust the limits and funding levels as necessary when the information is received.

A motion to amend the 2011 program of the FY2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program as noted in the staff memo dated December 14 and also to authorize staff to revise the Byron Road nonmotorized project as needed for MDOT approval was made by Gordon Schrottenboer and supported by Terry Hofmeyer. Motion carried.

B. 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan – Progress Report – Steve gave an overview of the progress report on the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) prepared by Elisa Hoekwater. The report consisted of the following tasks Elisa has been working on during the month of December:

- Environmental Justice Analysis – MACC staff prepared maps of proposed roadway improvement/expansion projects in order to identify potential impacts on residents in minority and low income areas. The summary of this analysis located 31 projects within minority areas (representing 37% of all proposed projects), and also located 53 projects in low income areas (representing 63% of all proposed projects within the MACC area). No disproportionately high or adverse effects were identified as a result of implementing proposed projects.
- Consultation Process underway – MACC staff has consulted with State, and Local agencies to compare existing plans and programs with the LRTP. As part of the consultation process, input was also sought from federal agencies.

MACC staff has requested comment on proposed projects within the LRTP and will be summarizing these comments within the draft document.

- Public Participation – An Open House was held on Dec. 2nd in order to inform interested individuals of the proposed projects, issues and concerns, and to answer questions regarding the draft plan. This informational meeting will be followed by a formal public comment period, beginning **January 10 through February 10, 2011.**

It is anticipated that a draft of the entire LRTP will be released for public review and comment in early January.

C. FY2010 List of Obligated Projects – Mr. Bulthuis reported on the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects for FY2010 that lists roadways, transit, bridge and nonmotorized projects for which federal funding was obligated in FY2010. Steve was pleased to report that 100% of the federal funds allocated to local projects were obligated. He expressed appreciation to all federal-aid recipients.

Steve noted that when reviewing the list of obligated projects to remember that:

- The list represents projects that were obligated, not necessarily constructed, in 2010.
- The costs indicated are amounts submitted when the TIP was developed or from MDOT's Obligated Projects list – not final audited costs.

Steve explained that there was \$16.8 million in federal funding obligated in FY2010 with total project costs of \$35.8 million. This was an increase in total costs of 69% when compared to FY2009. Much of the increase was attributed to additional federal funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) as well as economic development funding related to the battery plants.

Upon further discussion it was moved by Mr. Burns and supported by Mr. Nienhuis to authorize staff to release the document to the public. Motion carried.

D. MDOT/FHWA Comments – Steve Redmond distributed excerpts from MDOT's 2011-2015 Five-Year Transportation Program related to the Grand Region. He reviewed the projects programmed for the MACC area and noted the potential constraints on the program due to reduced state funding.

IV. Macatawa Watershed Project Update

A. Stormwater Survey– Steve Bulthuis reported on the findings from a perception poll of Policy Committee members on Stormwater, Watershed and Collaboration progress made by the watershed project in the past seven years. The survey was completed by the Frost Research Center at Hope College.

The survey was conducted on-line from November 22 through December 10, 2010. Email messages were sent with a link to the survey, and follow-up phone calls were made as necessary. The entire targeted audience or a designated representative completed the survey, resulting in 100% participation. The results of the survey show that a vast majority of Policy Committee members have seen improvement in the areas of stormwater, watershed and collaboration since the 2003 survey.

The five topics/questions were:

- *Reducing Phosphorus*: Has the watershed project made phosphorus reduction toward the TMDL goal?
- *Informing the Community*: Has the Watershed Project effectively helped raise awareness about watershed issues in the community?
- *Implementing Best Management Practices*: Has the Watershed Project been effective in installing BMP's on the ground to improve water quality?
- *Sustaining Long-Term Progress*: Has the Watershed Project made progress in developing a long-term sustainable process to keep the project going beyond state and federal funding?
- *Cooperation and Partnerships*: Has the Watershed Project been successful in creating partnerships and encouraging regional cooperation?

Five additional statements related specifically to stormwater were asked with respondents providing their level of agreement or disagreement on a scale of 1-5:

- The watershed project has been an effective program to help the communities comply with their stormwater requirements
- The communities are making progress in the improvement of stormwater runoff in the watershed
- The watershed project has been effective at getting the communities involved with these regulations
- The community awareness and education on stormwater has been effective
- The Ottawa and Allegan County Phosphorus bans have been an effective tool for awareness and education of our water quality issues

Mr. Bulthuis thanked the committee members for their involvement in this effort.

B. 2010 Watershed Stakeholder of the Year Award – Steve Bulthuis reported that the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission was named the Macatawa Watershed Project's 2010 Watershed Stakeholder of the Year. The Commission was recognized for the inclusion of watershed-friendly efforts in the development of both the Upper Macatawa and Holland Country Club parks. John Scholtz accepted the award on behalf of the Commission.

C. Wetlands Workshop – Steve Bulthuis reported on a very successful workshop held on December 6 in partnership with the Allegan Conservation District. The goal of the workshop was to raise awareness among agricultural landowners about

wetland restoration funding opportunities. Presentations from state and federal agency representatives were well received by the 35 participants.

D. December Newsletter – Copies of the most recent Watershed Project newsletter were distributed. Additional copies would be mailed out in the near future.

V. Administrative Issues

A. MACC Executive Committee Report – Mr. Bulthuis stated that the report mentions that this meeting is the last one for Amanda Price and Gordon Schrottenboer. Mr. Bulthuis presented each of them with a plaque that thanked them for their service and contributions to the committee. He wished them well in their future endeavors. Comments from each followed.

B. Monthly Financial Report – Steve Bulthuis reviewed the monthly report through November noting that revenues are at 32.8% with expenses at 14.1%.

VI. Public Comments – There were no public comments.

VII. Members' Comments

A. Host Member: Al Myaard welcomed everyone to Zeeland Township. He noted that 2010 saw an increase in building permit activity compared to 2009, 48 versus 39 respectively. Other projects noted were the construction of the Fred Meijer Nonmotorized Trail in the spring as well as the construction of a new elementary school in the vicinity of 74th Avenue and Adams Street.

B. Other Members – There were no other member comments

VIII. Other Issues, Adjournment and Next Meeting -

Next Meeting will be scheduled as follows:

**Monday, January 24, 2010
Olive Township Hall
6480 136th Avenue
Holland, MI 49424**

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.