



Interurban Transit Partnership

Planning & Technology Committee Members

Mayor Rosalynn Bliss	Jack Hoffman	Robert Postema	Terry Schweitzer (Chair)	Paul Troost
	Citizen Members:	Ryan Anderson	Dave Bulkowski	

PLANNING & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, January 9, 2023 – 8:30 a.m.

Rapid Central Station Conference Room (250 Cesar Chavez Avenue, SW)

AGENDA

	<u>PRESENTER</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
1. PUBLIC COMMENT		
2. MINUTES REVIEW – November 7, 2022	Terry Schweitzer	Review
3. DISCUSSION		
a. TMP Guiding Principles Review and Committee Timeline	Nick Monoyios/AECOM	Slide Review
b. Contactless Fare Payment Update	Andy Prokopy	Information
c. Additional New Peak-Only Routes	Nick Monoyios	Information
4. ADJOURNMENT		

Next meeting: March 13, 2023



Future Planning & Technology Committee Members

Mayor Rosalynn Bliss

Jack Hoffman
Citizen Members:

Robert Postema
Ryan Anderson

Terry Schweitzer (Chair)
Dave Bulkowski

Paul Troost

PLANNING & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 7, 2022 – 8:30 a.m.

Rapid Central Station Conference Room (250 Cesar E Chavez Avenue, SW)

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members Present:

Terry Schweitzer, Paul Troost, Jack Hoffman

Committee Members Absent:

Ryan Anderson, Mayor Bliss, Rob Postema, Dave Bulkowski

Staff Attendees:

Deb Prato, Kris Heald, Andy Prokopy, Mike Wieringa, Nick Monoyios, Jason Prescott, Kevin, Wisselink, Steve Schipper, Linda Medina, Nancy Groendal, Deron Kippen, Max Dillivan, James Nguyen

Other Attendees:

Andrew Ittigson (AECOM), Sarah Lagpacan, (AECOM), Natalie Kollig (AECOM), Jeremy Windsor (AECOM), Mara Gericke (GVMC)

Mr. Schweitzer called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered

2. MINUTES - September 12, 2022

Chair Schweitzer asked to approve September 12, 2022, minutes. The minutes passed unanimously.

3. Information

a. TMP

Mr. Monoyios introduced Mr. Andrew Ittigson, who is the Project Manager with AECOM.

Mr. Ittigson started by introducing three (3) team members who were in attendance. Ms. Sarah Lagpacan, Deputy Project Manager, is based in Detroit, Mr. Jeremy Windsor who is also based in Detroit, and Ms. Natalie Kollig who is a Senior Strategist, is based here in Grand Rapids and is going to lead the activity today.

Mr. Ittigson introduced himself. He is a Transit Planner and Project Manager working on transit projects across the country. He is based in Dallas TX.

Mr. Ittigson stated that for this Transit Master Plan (TMP) the focus is going to be on financial sustainability. To get there, we are thinking about stakeholders, relationship building, and community input. Included in this is the grant process, capital planning, and building up to the resiliency of the agency. Mr. Ittigson added that they have a very robust public engagement plan. The three (3) partners leading it are MKSK, based in Detroit, leading the public engagement, The Image Shop based here in Grand Rapids leading marketing and communications, and Clark communications will

be the public communications lead. This will be an 18-month project and public engagement will be a part of the project every step of the way.

Long-Term Funding Stability: Mr. Ittigson added this is on the path along the way. Transit and mobility are moving targets right now and will continue to change throughout the life of this project. AECOM wants to bring a roadmap of tools to be prepared and shift the direction with the community. Another big part of financial stability is all the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) Funding that is available.

Mr. Ittigson asked Ms. Kollig to come to the podium to talk about Strategic Planning. Strategic Planning is focused on three (3) elements:

- Team-Based
- Change Management. Leading through change. The focus will be on 60% of the population.
- Engagement

Mr. Ittigson returned to the podium to discuss Innovation:

- Innovative Tools, Replica. This tool is dynamic and is updated daily.
- Fund Navigator
- Plan Spend / Asset Management

Lastly, Innovation as part of the solution

Ms. Kollig returned to the podium to begin the Guiding Principles Exercise.

Ms. Kollig gave some thought-provoking statements to help the board members with this exercise.

Based on your role, what is important to you for the Transit Master Plan (TMP)?
What is critical to make this project successful?

Other sample items include:

- Increasing our mode shift
- Geographical expansion
- Overall Ridership
- Service Quality OTP
- Efficiency
- Cost
- Coverage
- Customer Satisfaction
- Retention

Mr. Hoffman asked if we were going to write down our thoughts. Natalie said yes, we will have 8-10 minutes, but also to think about these are your own time.

10-minute break for Committee Members to write out their ideas

Ms. Kollig asked for volunteers to share what they wrote.

Mr. Monoyios started with his ideas.

- Public and political buy-in
- Fiscal Sustainability
- Finding resources to proactively meet the needs of the growing regional demand

Mr. Hoffman

- Voter support
- Several sources of funding, State, Federal, and Local funding for public transportation
- Creating a community in which it is convenient to get around without a car. Increase ride share.

MISSION: *To create, offer and continuously improve a flexible network of public transportation options and mobility solutions.*

Mr. Troost

- Expanding the service area beyond the 6 cities
- Voter Support is paramount and communications
- Fiscal sustainability and funding beyond property tax

Ms. Prato

- We need a strategic plan that can be implemented
- Voter Support
- Regional sustainability

Mr. Schweitzer

- Regional approach in terms of coverage benefits of the plan with the current 6 cities and beyond
- Learn from other transit systems, not what they did but learn from
- Involvement of non-traditional segments of the community key people that are not necessarily involved

Ms. Lagpacan's recap of the Board's comments:

- Providing mobility services that are useful to people
- Partnerships and communication working in effective ways both locally and regionally
- Funding

Mr. Dillivan

-

Mr. Wisselink

- Long-term financial stability
- Providing great transportation options
- Public Transportation becoming the mode of choice across the region

Mr. Schipper

- Funding cliff is coming in 2029, how do we get there?
- Political resources

b. Route 33

Mr. Monoyios started his report by introducing the new Route 33 that will be coming in January 2023. The Rapid Outreach Team has been doing hyper-focused localized outreach in the Walker area, including Northridge Drive, as this zone is exploding with growth. The impact of this outreach has determined that more of these organizations have been trying out Rapid Connect, however, we are finding that there is a preference for transitioning into a fixed route that has continuity and consistency with a fixed schedule every day. This new route will connect with Route 9 at Greenridge Mall, and this route will do a clockwise loop on Bristol, 3-Mile, to Fruitridge, and through Northridge, and we are actively working with the City of Walker on where we will place bus stops for these locations. We are actively sharing this information with the businesses in this area.

Mr. Hoffman asked if Mayor Carey is ok with this. Ms. Prato answered Mayor Carey, is aware of these plans. She added there is a lot of development going on in this area, which is why both Mr. Frazier and Mr. Erber have been out there. Spectrum Call Center have contacted us as they have been having a hard time connecting with people in the labor pool. One pain point they cited is transportation. Spectrum took it upon themselves to contact sixteen (16) other employers in the area and they got together to see if something could be worked out. We in turn asked if these employers would be willing to flex shifts to meet the demand. They are also interested in subsidizing their employee transit passes.

Mr. Hoffman asked if On-Demand was still there. Both Mr. Monoyios and Ms. Prato replied, yes, On-Demand is still there. Mr. Monoyios added that this new route 33 is a test for now.

Ms. Prato added that perhaps we need to redraw the on-demand zone lines. A couple of challenges we have been facing is Ecolane has the app, which has been a problem for many of our customers and getting data has been difficult. Overall, the goal for on-demand is to transfer this service to Transdev.

Mr. Hoffman commented that he is very much in favor of all this experimentation.

Mr. Schweitzer asked what the service hours are. Mr. Monoyios answered that the hourly service is from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Schweitzer said this is the type of flexibility that Mr. Bulkowski really appreciates. He also commends staff for taking the initiative to be flexible in trying new ideas. This information is good for the board and our consultants, so they can see the direction we want to head.

Mr. Troost asked if there is any prediction of what the ridership will be. Mr. Monoyios replied not yet, but it will be interesting to see who will transfer from the on-demand service to a fixed route. Mr. Troost asked if this would be serviced by a full-sized bus. Mr. Monoyios replied yes it will be a full-sized bus.

Ms. Prato added that we don't have consistent ridership on-demand out to this location.

c. Airport Access Study - Update

Mr. Monoyios highlighted that there is an active Airport Access Study going on through GVMC. AECOM is facilitating this conversation. One of the most fascinating results was more public transport to the airport. There was also interest in an express shuttle bus that didn't just go downtown but to the surrounding areas. The impact matrix path seems to be of the least resistance. Some alternatives include high-level distance, cost, and characteristics. Mr. Monoyios added that all considerations still need further analysis.

Mr. Schweitzer said that historically there was a short-lived airport connector shuttle between the airport and downtown, and he finds it interesting that this is coming up now in this airport access study.

Mr. Hoffman asked if this is a metro council project at this time. Mr. Monoyios replied yes.

d. Rail~Volution Update

Mr. Monoyios summed up his experience at the Rail~Volution conference as; better transit outcomes require better relationships and synergy for all community-building disciplines. Essentially relationship building 101.

Ms. Prato started her comments by saying Rail~Volution has rebranded. They are now Mobility Community Possibility (MCP). Ms. Prato attended a couple of sessions that were excellent. One on Homelessness and Transportation Agencies and Advocates moderated by Franciscan Ministries and another one with the CEO of Cepta and LA Metro were there talking about the different things they are doing within their own systems to work with partners and agencies that have the skill set to help those experiencing homelessness.

Congressman Earl Blumenauer spoke, and he is very passionate about public transportation. The last item is about building resiliency in Miami. The top interest was the climate.

4. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kris Heald".

Kris Heald, Board Secretary

Process: Draft Guiding Principles



Planning and Technology Committee Meeting post-it comments

The table is a 'Compiled database of all comments' with columns for 'ID', 'COMMENTARY', 'RESPONSE', 'STATUS', 'DATE', and 'ACTION'. It contains numerous rows of text, likely representing the feedback received from the community meeting. The text is dense and covers various aspects of the project.

Compiled database of all comments

Draft Guiding Principles

At The Rapid, we are the transportation provider of choice and convenience because...



COMMUNITY | We reflect you and your needs.

Conduct inclusive engagement within the regional community to understand everyone's needs.



GROWTH | We plan for the future.

Secure sustainable funding; create revenue for The Rapid and economic growth for the region.



DEPENDABILITY | We're dependable.

Deliver dependable and convenient transportation modes to our community.



WORKFORCE | We value employee personal growth.

Foster an environment and workplace culture of learning and growth for employees.



ADAPTABILITY | We're future-flexible.

Develop plans for multiple possible futures; providing space for adaption, innovation, and expansion.

Translated to draft Guiding Principles

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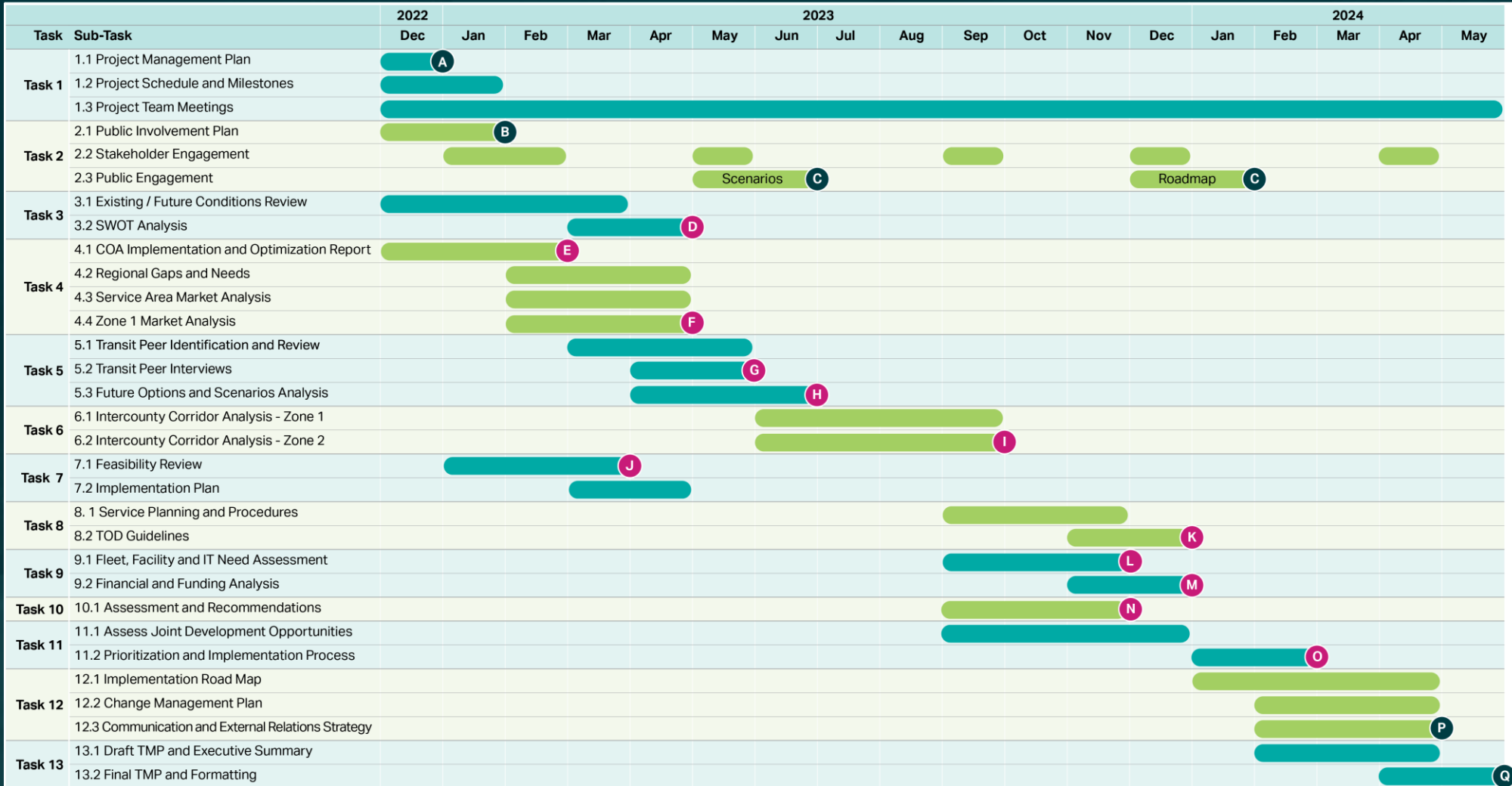
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Draft Schedule

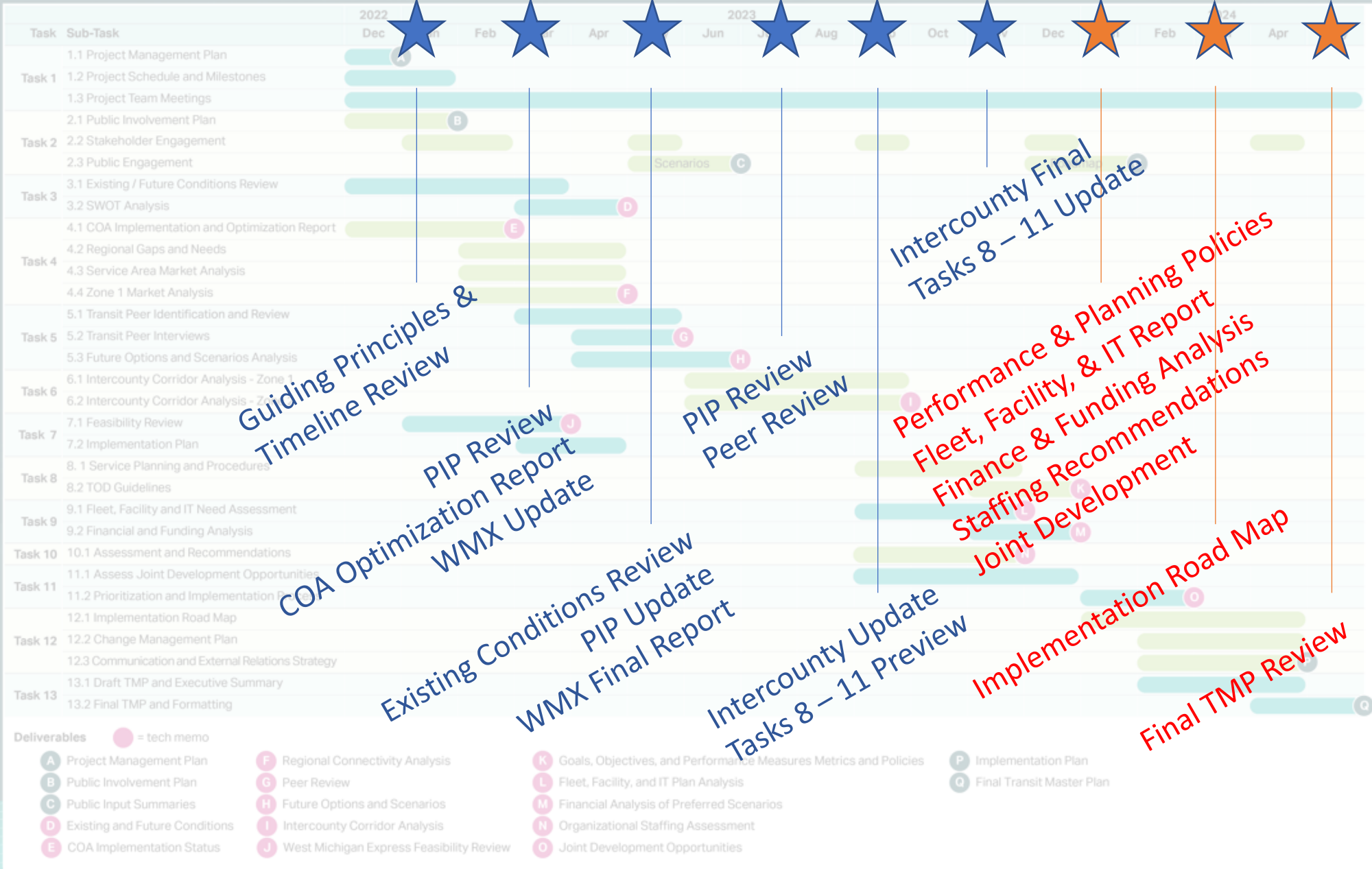


Deliverables ● = tech memo

- A Project Management Plan
- F Regional Connectivity Analysis
- K Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures Metrics and Policies
- P Implementation Plan
- B Public Involvement Plan
- G Peer Review
- L Fleet, Facility, and IT Plan Analysis
- Q Final Transit Master Plan
- C Public Input Summaries
- H Future Options and Scenarios
- M Financial Analysis of Preferred Scenarios
- D Existing and Future Conditions
- I Intercountry Corridor Analysis
- N Organizational Staffing Assessment
- E COA Implementation Status
- J West Michigan Express Feasibility Review
- O Joint Development Opportunities

Draft Schedule

2023 PLANNING & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETINGS



Board Approval
June 2024

2023 PLANNING & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Committee Meeting	Transit Master Plan	Technology	TDM Study	Airport Access Study	Division United	131 PEL STUDY	Other	2023 Conference	Date
1/9/2023	Guiding Principles & Timeline Review	Contactless Fare Payment update	-	-	-	-	Two (2) New Peak Only Routes	APTA - Legislative Conference	3/12 - 3/14 Washington D.C.
3/13/2023	PIP Review COA Optimization Report WMX Update	Avail Upgrade Plan (VoIP, DASH, modem replacements)	-	Final Report & Action Plan	Progress Update - Action Plan for 2023	-	DASH 3.0 & GR Community Master Plan Update	APTA - Mobility Conference	4/23 - 4/26 Minneapolis
5/8/2023	Existing Conditions Review PIP Update WMX Final Report	-	Progress Update	-	-	Progress Update	GR Bus Stop Improvement Status Update	APTA - Transit Board Members Seminar	7/15 - 7/18 Birmingham
7/17/2023	PIP Review Peer Review	Finance/ERP Replacement Planning	-	-	-	-	GVMC's MTP Update	APTATech	7/30 - 8/02 Anaheim
9/11/2023	Intercounty Update Tasks 8 - 11 Preview	Customer-facing IT Study Recommendations	Progress Update	-	-	Progress Update	TBD	APTA - Annual Conference	10/8 - 10/11 Orlando
11/6/2023	Intercounty Final Report Tasks 8 - 11 Update	-	Final Report	-	-	-	TBD	Mpact (formerly Railvolution)	11/5 - 11/08 Phoenix