



Gainesville - Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization

Braselton - Flowery Branch - Gainesville - Oakwood - Hall County - Jackson County

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 25, 2018

4:00 PM

Hall County Government Center, 4th Floor

Minutes of January 25, 2018 Meeting

Voting Members Present:

Renee Gerrell, Hall County
Brent Hoffman, Hall County
Berlinda Lipscomb, City of Gainesville
Tony Millwood, City of Oakwood
Trey Bell, Hall County
Mary Jardine, City of Gainesville
Joe Kennedy, Hall County
Ken Stanley, Hall County
Ed Edwards, City of Flowery Branch
Connie Propes, City of Gainesville
Patrick O'Rourke, Hall County
Heather Taylor, Hall County
Sammy Smith, City of Gainesville
Tabitha Gooch, Jackson County
Jennifer Kid-Harrison, Town of Braselton

Voting Members Absent:

Leesa Stoner, City of Gainesville
Beth Weikel, Hall County
Trey Bell, Hall County
Charles Mensinger, City of Oakwood
Scott Wild, City of Flowery Branch

Others Present:

Sam Baker, GHMPO
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO
Emily Vioglavich, Hall County
Denise Farr, Hall County
Tricia Terrell, Citizen

Robert Horne, Citizen
Anne Chenault, Citizen
Doug Forrester, Citizen
Jeff Gill, Gainesville Times

1. Welcome

Ms. Gerrell called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

2. Approval of October 26, 2017 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: *Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2017 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting, with a second from Ms. Jardine, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

3. Recommend Approval of the Resolution Supporting the State Targets for Safety Performance Management

Mr. Baker stated that the current transportation legislation called the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) directs the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), all state Departments of Transportation (DOT), and all Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to establish performance measures and performance targets for various aspects of transportation. They include safety, infrastructure condition, congestion, system reliability, emissions, and freight movement. This is being called "Performance Based Planning and Programming (PBPP)". The goal of PBPP is to be able to quantify the results of transportation investments.

For safety, the Georgia DOT has set a number of performance measures and performance targets. GHMPO is presented with the option to either establish these state targets for the GHMPO region or set its own targets. USDOT requires that GHMPO establish targets for safety performance by executing a resolution and do so by February 27, 2018. Staff recommended that GHMPO set the same state targets for the GHMPO region similar to the other Georgia MPOs.

MOTION: *Mr. Smith made a motion to Recommend Approval of the Resolution Supporting the State Targets for Safety Performance Management, with a second from Mr. Stanley, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

4. Recommend Approval of a Resolution Adopting the Gainesville-Hall Regional Freight Study Report

Mr. Baker stated that the regional freight study conducted by CDM Smith has been completed, and a study report has been prepared. The report has the following:

- Goals and objectives for a regional freight mobility plan
- Performance measures to assess our freight network
- Assessment of freight trends, opportunities, and needs
- Freight policies
- List of short-term, mid-term, and long-term freight project recommendations for the region

Discussion: Ms. Gerrell commented that there should not be truck traffic on Lakeview Drive and questioned why the street is included in the report. Mr. Hoffman asked for clarification on what is included in operations improvements on Browns Bridge Road. Mr. Baker clarified that operations improvements include intersection improvements such as traffic lights and turning lanes. Mr. Stanley asked if the North Hall East-West Corridor included in the study is

the same as Lula/Sardis Connector that the CAC is recommending. Mr. Baker answered that an overall study must be conducted before any options can be proposed. Mr. Smith asked if the Freight Study had looked into the possibility of commuter rail between Gainesville and Atlanta, to which Mr. Baker responded no, the study was strictly focusing on freight movement.

MOTION: *Mr. Smith made a motion to Recommend Approval of a Resolution Adopting the Gainesville-Hall Regional Freight Study Report, with a second from Ms. Lipscomb, and the motion passed. Ms. Propes voted in opposition.*

5. Green Street Corridor Study, Phase II

Mr. Fangmann and Mr. Antweiler of Pond & Company presented a study of Green Street. The purpose of this study was to explore ways to alleviate traffic congestion on Green Street and facilitate better traffic movement. In the first phase of the study completed in 2016, the study team analyzed existing conditions and surveyed what lies underneath Green Street including utilities and drainage. With the help of the information gathered in the first phase, the second phase of the study explored various alternatives to improve congestion on Green Street and came up with recommendations for consideration.

Discussion: Ms. Chenault stated that a street on the proposed overview of the project is labeled incorrectly; Ms. Chenault emphasized that the road labeled as Riverside Drive past the Thompson Bridge split should be Morningside Drive. Staff commented that they will consult with Hall County GIS regarding the street name. Ms. Lipscomb asked if there are statistics available on the safety of roundabouts and if Mr. Fangmann and Mr. Antweiler recommend the use of roundabouts. Mr. Fangmann and Mr. Antweiler confirmed that roundabouts are statistically safer than traffic lights and that they would provide further data to the committee about roundabout safety statistics. Mr. Millwood asked if there are other roundabouts in the state that handle a similar traffic volume as the two proposed on Green Street. Mr. Fangmann and Mr. Antweiler answered that there is one roundabout on St. Simons Island and one in Roswell that have similar traffic volumes.

6. Review of Draft FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Boyd presented the Draft FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program document, which describes the planning projects, studies, and activities that the Gainesville-Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization will undertake in FY 2019 from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. In FY 2019, GHMPO and its planning partners intend to complete the following four planning studies:

1. Dawsonville Highway-McEver Road Connectivity Study
2. Gainesville Trail Connectivity Study
3. South Hall Trail Study
4. Oakwood Citywide Traffic Improvement Study

In addition, GHMPO will assist Jackson County with an update of the Jackson County Transportation Master Plan if the application for funding is approved by the PL Funds

Review Committee at GDOT in March 2018. GHMPO will undertake an update of the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan in late 2018 to be completed by June 2020.

The draft FY19 UPWP document has been submitted to the Georgia Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal Transit Administration for their review and comment. This is the first of two rounds of MPO review and 30-day public comment period this draft UPWP will go through before it is adopted on May 8, 2018.

Discussion: Ms. Gerrell commented that the CAC would like to make a request to the Policy Committee to apply for funding in FY2019 for the North Hall connector study. Mr. Kennedy asked for clarification for how the process works if the CAC makes a request. Mr. Boyd advised that the CAC can make a request that the Policy Committee move up the anticipated date for the North Hall Parkway study in the UPWP from FY2022 to FY2019.

Motion: *Mr. Kennedy made a motion to Request that the Policy Committee seek PL Funding in FY2019 for a North Hall Parkway Study, with a second from Ms. Jardine, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

7. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports

- City of Flowery Branch
- City of Gainesville
- City of Oakwood
- Town of Braselton
- Georgia Department of Transportation
- Georgia Mountains Regional Commission
- Hall Area Transit
- Hall County
- Jackson County

8. Upcoming Meeting Date: April 26, 2018

The next CAC meeting will be on Thursday, April 26, 2018 at the Hall County Government Center.

9. Public Comments

There were no additional public comments.

10. Other

Ms. Gerrell commented that the Policy Committee did not take any action at its previous meeting on the bylaws and attendance policy changes requested by the CAC. Ms. Gerrell suggested that the CAC request the Policy Committee to act on its previous request of changing the number of unexplained absences allowed in a fiscal year from three (3) to two

(2). Mr. Boyd clarified that the requested amendment was not voted on by the Policy Committee at its November 14, 2017 meeting.

Motion: Mr. Stanley made a motion to request a vote by the Policy Committee at its February 13, 2018 meeting on the proposed amendment to the CAC bylaws, with a second from Ms. Jardine, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Gerrell revisited the topic of non-elected officials serving on the Policy Committee. Mr. Hoffmann stated that he spoke with Commissioner Higgins regarding Mr. Bagwell's position on the Policy Committee. Mr. Hoffman reported that Mr. Higgins cannot attend the meetings and feels that Mr. Bagwell is well qualified for the position. Ms. Chenault commented that there is no one from north Hall on the Policy Committee and asked if north Hall is being represented fairly in decisions made by the Policy Committee.

11. Adjourn

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.


Renee Gerrell, Chairperson


Emily Foste, Secretary