



Gainesville - Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization

GHMPO

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

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

**Oakwood City Hall
4035 Walnut Circle, Oakwood, GA 30566
Minutes for February 13, 2018 Meeting**

Voting Members Present:

Mayor Lamar Scroggs, City of Oakwood, Chair
Benny Bagwell, Hall County
Mayor Danny Dunagan, City of Gainesville
Commissioner Ralph Richardson, Jr., Jackson County
Mayor Mike Miller, City of Flowery Branch
Charles Robinson, GDOT

Voting Members Absent:

Others Present:

Srikanth Yamala, GHMPO
Sam Baker, GHMPO
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO
Morgan Ewing, Hall County
Stan Brown, City of Oakwood
BR White, City of Oakwood
Chris Rotalsky, City of Gainesville
Matt Tarver, City of Gainesville
Rhonda Brady, City of Gainesville
Angela Sheppard, City of Gainesville
Jeff Gill, Gainesville Times

Ken Rearden, Hall County
Phillippa Lewis Moss, HAT
Kevin McInturff, TCC Chair, Hall County
Bill Andrew, City of Flowery Branch
Adam Ivory, CDM Smith
Richard Fangmann, Pond
Andrew Antweiler, Pond
Ron Osterloh, Pond
Darlene Long, Citizen
Gary McClung, Citizen
Marc Eggers, AccessWDUN

1. Welcome

Mayor Scroggs called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. Approval of November 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: *Mayor Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2017 Policy Committee meeting, with a second from Mayor Dunagan, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

3. Report from the Technical Coordinating Committee

Mr. McInturff, the Chairperson of the Technical Coordinating Committee, gave a brief recap of the January 16, 2018 TCC meeting, where the TCC voted to recommend approval of the Resolution Supporting the State Targets for Safety as well as the Resolution Adopting the Gainesville-Hall Regional Freight Study Report.

4. Report from the Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Baker spoke on behalf of Ms. Renee Gerrell, the Chairperson of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC voted unanimously to recommend approval of the State Targets for Safety Resolution. The CAC also voted to recommend approval of the resolution adopting the Regional Freight Study Report, with the exception of one member, who did not state reasoning for voting against the resolution.

Mr. Baker stated that the CAC members are requesting that the PC vote on their earlier request to amend the CAC bylaws allowing up to two (2) unexcused absences by a member during a fiscal year before action is taken by the PC chairperson instead of the currently stated three (3) absences. Mr. Baker stated that according to the CAC bylaws, any bylaw change must be on that meeting's agenda as an action item for a vote to occur. Since the proposed bylaw changes were not on the last CAC meeting agenda, staff recommends that they be added to the agenda for the upcoming CAC meeting on April 26th. The PC may then vote on those proposed changes at its next meeting on May 8th. PC members agreed to postpone the vote on these changes until the next meeting in accordance to the procedure stated within the bylaws.

Mr. Baker stated that the CAC also had a discussion regarding a non-elected official being on the Policy Committee (Mr. Bagwell representing Hall County).

Mr. Baker finally spoke of the CAC's request that the North Hall Parkway Study be moved from fiscal year 2022, as currently stated in the draft FY '19 UPWP, up to fiscal year 2019. Mr. Baker stated that further discussion on this action would take place under action item #8.

5. Approval of the Resolution Supporting the State Targets for Safety

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: *Mayor Dunagan made a motion to approve the Resolution Supporting the State Targets for Safety, with a second from Mr. Bagwell, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

6. 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

Commissioner Richardson asked for clarity regarding the widening of SR 53 from I-85 to Tapp Wood Road (GH-115) which is listed on page 85 in the study report. He stated that he was under the impression this project was no longer feasible due to the historic markers through the downtown areas of Braselton and Hoschton and would like to have this project removed from the study. He stated that the mayors of both municipalities are no longer in support of the widening and that the region is more interested in exploring a future bypass project instead. Mr. Baker and Mr. Ivory stated that the project was originally included since it is on the GHMPO Long Range Transportation Plan but that GH-115 could be removed from the Freight Study if the PC desired.

MOTION: *Mayor Dunagan made a motion to approve a Resolution Adopting the Gainesville-Hall Regional Freight Study Report on the condition that GH-115 be removed from the Long Range Project list within the study. A second vote was given by Commissioner Richardson, and the motion passed. Mayor Miller opposed the motion stating that he would feel more comfortable with removing GH-115 with written mayoral support on said action from the Town of Braselton and the City of Hoschton.*

7. 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.

8. 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 FY '19 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.

Mr. Yamala stated that the CAC would like the PC to move up within the UPWP the stated timeframe of the North Hall Parkway Study from fiscal year 2022 to fiscal year 2019. Mayor Miller asked what transportation projects would be bumped or delayed if this study was moved up. Mr. Yamala explained that none of the transportation projects would be bumped since the study would be funded by a grant that is exclusively for planning studies and is separate from the funds available for any road construction projects. Mayor Miller asked for further clarity on whether such a study would affect the timeline of any transportation projects, such as the widening of Spout Springs Road. Mr. Yamala stated that conducting this planning study would have no effect on other transportation construction projects because they are separate activities with separate funding sources. Mr. Baker added that conducting a North Hall Parkway Study would be an additional task for the GHMPO staff on top of the anticipated preparation of the Jackson County Transportation Plan and the GHMPO Regional Transportation Plan update the staff plans to undertake later this year.. Mayor Scroggs asked for more information regarding the approximate funding and local match breakdown to be presented at the next Policy Committee meeting being held on May 8th before a vote to move this study into FY2019 occurs.

9. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports

Representatives shared the status of transportation projects being completed by their jurisdictions: Mr. Bill Andrew for the City of Flowery Branch, Mr. Chris Rotalsky for the City of Gainesville, Mr. Stan Brown for the City of Oakwood, Mr. Kevin McInturff for Hall County, and Mr. Ralph Richardson, Jr. for Jackson County.

10. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

11. Other

There were no other items that were presented for discussion.

12. Upcoming Meeting Date: May 8, 2018

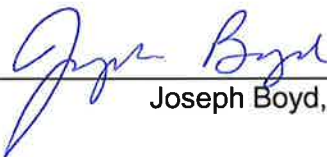
The next Policy Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at the Gainesville Municipal Court Building.

13. Adjourn

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.



Mayor Lamar Scroggs, Chairman



Joseph Boyd, Secretary