

Gainesville - Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization

GHMPO

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

POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of March 7, 2017

**Municipal Courtroom, Gainesville Municipal Court
701 Queen City Parkway SW, Gainesville, GA 30501**

Voting Members Present:

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

Voting Members Absent:

Others Present:

Bill Andrew, City of Flowery Branch
Rhonda Brady, City of Gainesville
Bryan Lackey, City of Gainesville
Chris Rotalsky, City of Gainesville
Matt Tarver, City of Gainesville
Phillippa Lewis Moss, Hall Area Transit
Stan Brown, City of Oakwood
Jeff Gill, The Times
Srikanth Yamala, GHMPO
Sam Baker, GHMPO
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO
Quinton Spann, GDOT
Kaycee Mertz, GDOT

Wayne Stradley, CAC Chair
Connie Propes, CAC
Gina Pilcher, Citizen
Darlene Long, Citizen
Gary McClung, Citizen
Vanessa Foster, Pond & Company
Richard Fangmann, Pond & Company
Caleb Davidson, GMRC
Tommy McElroy, GPD
Tamara Christion, FHWA
Wade Carroll, JRWA
Adam Ivory, CDM Smith

1. Welcome

Mayor Dunagan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Approval of August 9, 2016 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Mayor Scroggs made a motion to approve the minutes of August 9, 2016, with a second from Mayor Miller, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

3. Report from the Technical Coordinating Committee

None.

4. Report from the Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Stradley reported from the Citizens Advisory Committee. He stated that the CAC had passed the Hall Area Transit Development Plan Update and the Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #6 resolutions. He further reported that the Martin Road Corridor Study Committee had been involved in the Martin Road corridor analysis and presented a written letter from Deborah Simental, a member of the Martin Road Corridor Study Committee. Mr. Stradley also asked for clarification regarding the funding on page 26 of the draft FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Yamala clarified that the proposed funding would be used to update the Long Range Transportation Plan, as required per federal regulations.

5. Approval of the Resolution Adopting Amendment #6 to the Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Baker relayed that GDOT had requested the GHMPO to amend its 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program to change the project description and limits of the Spout Springs Road widening project from I-985 to Union Circle. Additional funds for right-of-way acquisition in 2017 are as follows:

- Increase federal funds from \$10,187,597 to \$12,135,200
- Increase state funds from \$2,546,899 to \$3,033,800
- Allocate \$310,000 of other funds
- Increase total right-of-way acquisition funds from \$12,734,496 to \$15,479,000

Mr. Baker also discussed the widening of Lanier Islands Parkway which will install a center-turn lane along SR 347/Lanier Islands Parkway from McEver Road to Lake Lanier Islands. The allocated additional funds are as follows:

- Federal funds of \$279,479.79
- Other funds of \$69,869.95

Total funds of \$349,349.74

Mayor Miller asked when Phase I and Phase II of Spout Springs Road widening would be completed. Mr. Yamala responded that Phase I would be completed by around 2021 with Phase II completed by around 2025.

MOTION: Mr. Scroggs made a motion to adopt the Resolution Adopting Amendment #6 to the Transportation Improvement Program, with a second from Mr. Bagwell, and the resolution passed by a unanimous vote.

6. Review of Draft FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Baker stated that the GHMPO staff had developed a draft FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and highlighted the stated FAST Act Planning Factors as well as GHMPO's Planning Priorities. The draft UPWP has been submitted to the Georgia Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal Transit Administration for review and comment. In addition, GHMPO staff has met with all the local jurisdictions within the GHMPO region to learn their transportation needs and will incorporate additional activities to the draft UPWP. He stated that if anyone had any comments and suggestions regarding the draft document to contact the GHMPO staff. The UPWP draft will be voted on for adoption at the spring 2017 MPO committee meetings.

7. Approval of the Resolution Adopting the Hall Area Transit Development Plan Update

Mr. Baker introduced Wade Carroll from J.R. Wilburn and Associates, Inc. whom was contracted to update the Hall Area Transit Development Plan in fall 2016. Mr. Carroll gave a presentation that highlighted the key findings of the study, including:

- Background information, outreach activities, peer reviews, etc.
- Current service characteristics
- Potential service options
- Four year fixed route service recommendations:
 - o Year 1 – Extend evening hours
 - o Year 2 – Increase peak hour headways
 - o Year 3 – Extend Routes 10 and 60 and add new route along SR 60
 - o Year 4 – Begin Saturday service (1-hour headways)
- Commuter service recommendations:
 - o Coordinate with Georgia Commute Options

Mayor Scroggs commented that he sees the real need for a more developed transit system and that as development occurs, Oakwood would be a significant player in helping Hall Area Transit grow.

MOTION: Mayor Scroggs made a motion to approve the Resolution Adopting the Hall Area Transit Development Plan Update, with a second from Commissioner Richardson, and the resolution passed by a unanimous vote.

8. Gainesville-Hall Regional Freight Study

CDM Smith has been contracted to conduct the Gainesville-Hall Regional Freight Study. Mr. Baker gave a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Background information relating GHMPO's Freight Plan to the State of Georgia and National Freight Plans

- Mr. Ivory then spoke in detail regarding the multiple tasks that make up the Freight Plan, including:
 - Task 1: Project Management and Stakeholder Engagement Plan
 - Task 2: Regional Freight Mobility Plan Goals and Objectives
 - Task 3: Freight Performance Measures Development
 - Task 4: Assessment of Freight Trends, Opportunities and Needs
 - Task 5: Identification of Corridors Connecting Exit 14 on I-985 and SR 53/Winder Highway
 - Discussion of the Martin Road Stakeholder Committee meetings and the exploration of alternatives to the widening of Martin Road project that are being considered currently

Mayor Miller asked where the funding would be coming from for Alternative 8. Mr. Yamala responded that project cost estimates will be ready by the next public meeting but the funding for the alternative has not been identified yet. More planning is needed. Mayor Miller asked when signs would be posted about no trucks allowed on Martin Road. Mr. Fowler responded that such signs have been posted. Mayor Miller requested that larger, more noticeable signs be posted in the future. Mr. Fowler said he would convey to the local GDOT district office for more visible signage.

9. Approval of an Amendment to the Citizens Advisory Committee Bylaws

Mr. Stradley stated that the CAC has had a problem with attendance by committee members and he would have to replace several members. Mr. Stradley presented a proposed amendment to the CAC bylaws, unanimously approved by the CAC, that would allow members to be appointed to the committee by jurisdictions without having to have the approval of the Policy Committee. This amendment would allow for quicker approval and fulfillment of vacant CAC positions.

MOTION: *Mayor Miller made a motion to approve the Amendment to the Citizens Advisory Committee Bylaws, with a second from Mr. Bagwell, and the amendment passed by a unanimous vote.*

10. GHMPO Sidewalk Inventory Report

Mr. Boyd presented the final draft of the GHMPO Sidewalk Inventory Report. This report was created by the GHMPO staff and is intended for in-house planning purposes and reference only. The purpose of the report is for quick reference regarding pedestrian infrastructure location for any project moving forward as well as identifying gaps in the pedestrian infrastructure network that could be addressed in the future. Mr. Boyd stated that the report had been sent out to all local jurisdictions for comments. Any comments or requested changes moving forward should be sent to Mr. Boyd and would be appreciated.

Mr. Dunagan stated that sidewalks are an important issue that continues to be needed to address and stated that Gainesville will continue to work with GDOT to make those improvements.

11. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports

Representatives from local jurisdictions gave updates on all transportation related projects currently being conducted within their region.

12. Public Comments

Mr. Clyde Morris of 2375 Whippoorwill Lane of Gainesville expressed concerns about growing congestion near the intersection of McEver Road and Dawsonville Highway. Mr. Dunagan responded that the City is very aware of the issue and is working with GDOT on plans to alleviate the congestion.

Ms. Gina Pilcher representing the Martin Road Corridor Study Stakeholder Committee submitted a letter to the Policy Committee asking that the Committee consider:

- GH-024 (Martin Road Widening) be removed from the 2040 RTP
- Martin Road be removed from Hall County Code of Ordinances as a designated gateway corridor
- Move the SR 13/Atlanta Highway widening project up on the priority list (GH-033)

Mr. Gary McClung of 4936 Quailwood Drive, Flowery Branch, expressed his concerns about the possible merger of GHMPO with the Atlanta Regional Commission due to the final rule on MPO coordination and planning area reform that was passed in 2016. Mr. Dunagan stated that the committee is doing everything in its power to make sure that the merger between GHMPO and ARC does not happen as GHMPO needs to remain a separate MPO with its own unique transportation plans.

13. Upcoming Meeting Date: May 2, 2017

The next meeting will be on May 2, 2017 at the Oakwood City Hall.

14. Other: U.S. Department of Transportation Final Rule on Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform

Mr. Baker gave an update on the Final Rule issued by the United States Department of Transportation regarding Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform. In December 2016, USDOT finalized the rule, stating that within a single urbanized area, only one MPO may exist. If multiple MPOs currently exist, they must merge and create a single MPO with single planning documents. An exception may be granted if all MPOs involved as well as the State Governor appeal to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation that it is in the best interest of the region for multiple MPOs to exist and produce separate planning documents. This rule will not be implemented until after the 2020 U.S. Census.

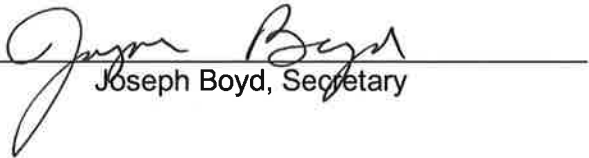
Once the Census data has been made public, all MPOs will have two years to come into compliance or successfully appeal the final rule.

15. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Danny Dunagan, Chairman



Joseph Boyd, Secretary