



Gainesville - Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization

GHMPO

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

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 26, 2018

4:00 PM

Hall County Government Center, 2nd Floor HR Training Room

Draft Minutes of April 26, 2018 Meeting

Voting Members Present:

Renee Gerrell, Hall County
Brent Hoffman, Hall County
Tony Millwood, City of Oakwood
Trey Bell, 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
Beth Weikel, Hall County
Charles Mensinger, City of Oakwood

Voting Members Absent:

Leesa Stoner, City of Gainesville
Scott Wild, City of Flowery Branch
Berlinda Lipscomb, City of Gainesville
Mary Jardine, City of Gainesville
Joe Kennedy, Hall County
Tabitha Gooch, Jackson County
Jennifer Kid-Harrison, Town of
Braselton

Others Present:

Sam Baker, GHMPO
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO
Emily Foote, Hall County
Denise Farr, Hall County
Sarah McQuade, Hall County

Wayne Stradley, Citizen
Darlene Long, Citizen
Gina Pilcher, Citizen
Brian Bright, Citizen

1. Welcome

Mr. Stanley called the meeting to order at 4:03 P.M.

2. Approval of January 25, 2018 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: *Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2018 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting, with a second from Mr. Hoffman, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

Ms. Gerrell entered the meeting.

3. Recommend Approval of the Amendment to the Citizens Advisory Committee Bylaws

Requested changes to the Citizens Advisory Committee bylaws were submitted to the committee. These changes were reflected in Article VII, Meetings, subsection 6, which changed the unexcused absence limit from three (3) to two (2) per fiscal year before the Chairperson of the Policy Committee notifies them that their attendance is required and request the member confirm their commitment to attend future meetings and to report to the nominating jurisdiction.

MOTION: *Mr. Smith made a motion to Recommend Approval of the Amendment to the Citizens Advisory Committee Bylaws, with a second from Mr. Stanley, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

4. Recommend Approval of an Amendment to the FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Boyd presented an amendment to the FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program. An application requesting federal transportation planning funds for the Jackson County Transportation Master Plan Update was submitted to the PL Funds Review Committee at the Georgia Department of Transportation on March 26, 2018 and was awarded a grant of \$32,805 with a local match/lump sum payment by Jackson County of \$142,195. This draft amendment to the FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program moves the Jackson County Transportation Master Plan Update from the unfunded list of projects on page 29 into the funded Special Transportation Studies under Task 4, Sub-Element 4.6 on page 22.

MOTION: *Mr. Smith made a motion to Recommend Approval of an Amendment to the FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program, with a second from Ms. Weikel, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

5. Recommend Approval of the Drafty FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Boyd presented the Draft FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program. The Draft FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program describes the planning projects, studies, and activities 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

Two versions of the draft FY 2019 UPWP were presented. Version A lists the North Hall Parkway Study as anticipated to begin in FY 2022, while Version B lists the North Hall Parkway Study to begin in FY 2019.

Motion: Mr. Smith made a motion to Recommend Approval of the Draft FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program Version B, with a second from Mr. Stanley, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

6. Recommend Approval of the Draft Resolution Amending the Financially-Constrained Project List of the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan: 2015 Update

Mr. Baker presented the Draft Resolution Amending the Financially-Constrained Project List of the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The Martin Road Widening project was removed last year from the mid-term phase (2024-2032) of the RTP's project list. It was replaced with Martin Road Alternative Improvements #7. The widening was a \$46 million project, whereas the cost estimate for the alternative improvements is below \$1 million. The City of Gainesville has requested that the Green Street Corridor Improvements (GH-121) be added in the mid-term phase of the project list for the RTP. This project is estimated to cost \$13 million in 2018 or \$15 million in 2024, adjusted for inflation. In addition, the Georgia Department of Transportation has requested to add the widening of I-85 from north of I-985 to north of SR 53 (GH-123, PI# 110610) to the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). For a project to be added to the TIP, it needs to be included in the RTP first. GDOT has identified funding for the I-85 widening project, and the addition of the project will not affect the financial constraint of the RTP.

Ms. Weikel asked why the widening of I-85 is being added to Hall County's list of projects, when the widening is ongoing in Gwinnett and Jackson counties, to which Mr. Baker responded that the project scope has recently been extended into the GHMPO planning area. Mr. Bell asked if the remaining money has been allocated for other projects, to which Mr. Baker responded that yes, money has been freed up in the mid-term of the Long Range Transportation Plan that can be used for other projects.

Motion: Mr. Smith made a motion to Recommend Approval of the Draft Resolution Amending the Financially-Constrained Project List of the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan: 2015 Update, with a second from Ms. Weikel, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

7. Recommend Approval of the Draft Resolution Amending the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Baker presented the Draft Resolution Amending the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Georgia Department of Transportation has asked the GHMPO to amend its TIP for the following:

- a. Program additional funds for the widening of I-85 from north of I-985 to north of SR 53.

- b. Program funds for GDOT's oversight of Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) project.

Motion: *Mr. Smith made a motion to Recommend Approval of the Draft Resolution Amending the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program, with a second from Mr. Hoffman, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

8. Ongoing Studies Status Updates

Mr. Smith asked if the Oakwood Traffic Study is looking at adding a light at the intersection of Mundy Mill Road and Millside Parkway, to which staff responded that they would pass the inquiry on to the consultant team. Mr. Smith asked if a light is being added to the extension of Tumbling Creek Road where it will intersect with Old Oakwood Road, to which Ms. Farr commented that a light is being planned to be installed at the intersection.

9. 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

10. Upcoming Meeting Date: July 26, 2018

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

11. Public Comments

Traffic Congestion on Memorial Park:

Ms. Gerrell asked if Memorial Park was included in the freight study. Mr. Baker answered that it was included but it did not make the list of recommended improvements. Mr. Hoffman commented that a traffic circle would be a good traffic improvement on the road and suggested adding the project to the long range plan.

Motion: *Mr. Millwood made a motion to request a traffic study be conducted on the Memorial Park Corridor, with a second from Mr. Stanley, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

Ms. Long spoke regarding the proposed signage for Exit 14 on I-985. Ms. Long explained that the Martin Road Stakeholders Committee is requesting to have Martin Road removed from any interstate signage. Ms. Long stated that she has contacted GDOT concerning the issue. Ms. Weikel stated that the proposed signs list Martin Road already but that it was still possible to work with GDOT to edit such signage before installation.

Motion: Ms. Weikel made a motion to draft a letter of recommendation for GDOT removing Martin Road from any interstate signage in connection with Exit 14, with a second from Mr. Smith, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Stradley asked why the CAC did not vote to move the North Hall Parkway Study to FY 2019. Mr. Baker explained that the CAC did vote to move the study to FY 2019 in agenda item 5.

12. Other

Mr. Baker presented an update on the impact of a “large urban” designation for Hall Area Transit as a result of the upcoming 2020 Census.

13. Adjourn

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:58 P.M.

Renee Gerrell, Chairperson

Emily Foote, Secretary