



GHMPO

Gainesville - Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 27, 2016

4:00 PM

Hall County Government Center, 2nd Floor Training Room

Minutes of April 27, 2017 Meeting

Voting Members Present:

Renee Gerrell, Hall County
Brent Hoffman, Hall County
Wayne Stradley, Hall County
Berlinda Lipscomb, City of Gainesville
Charles Mensinger, City of Oakwood
Tony Millwood, City of Oakwood
Trey Bell, Hall County
Mayor James Nix, Hall County
Jim Brown, Hall County
Mary Jardine, City of Gainesville
Joe Kennedy, Hall County
Ken Stanley, Hall County
Ed Edwards, City of Flowery Branch

Voting Members Absent:

Jerry Castleberry, City of Gainesville
Connie Propes, City of Gainesville

Others Present:

Sam Baker, GHMPO
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO
Matt Tarver, City of Gainesville
Gary McClung, Citizen
Darlene Long, Citizen
Dick Osborne, Citizen

Gina Pilcher, Citizen
Joe Rothwell, GMRC
Patricia Terrell, Citizen
Anne Chenault, Citizen
Clyde Morris, Citizen
Jeff Gill, The Times
Kara Wheeler, Citizen

1. Welcome

Mr. Stradley called the meeting to order at 4:01 P.M.. Introductions were made, and quorum was established.

2. Approval of February 23, 2017 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Ms. Gerrell made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2017 meeting, with a second from Ms. Lipscomb, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

3. Recommend Approval of a Resolution Adopting 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). The draft UPWP has been submitted to the Georgia Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal Transit Administration for review and comment. The Regional Freight Study and the Green Street Corridor Study, Phase II are the two major planning activities being funded in FY 2018 by GHMPO. In addition, GHMPO staff met with all the local jurisdictions within the region to discuss their transportation needs and how to incorporate additional activities to the draft UPWP, which are listed in the unfunded portion of the document.

Mr. Stradley asked for clarification on why the total anticipated GHMPO spending in FY 2019 and 2020 have increased since the last FY 2018 UPWP was presented. Mr. Baker responded that the funding is now reflecting the anticipation of receiving additional PL funding for new studies at the request of the local jurisdictions.

Public Comments: Ms. Pilcher commented that it was frustrating to try to navigate the multitude of calendars for community meetings across the region and asked if it was possible to merge the GHMPO calendar with those from local jurisdictions. Mr. Baker responded that he would look into altering the calendar to reflect meetings for the local jurisdictions.

MOTION: Mr. Hoffman made a motion to recommend approval of a resolution adopting Draft FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program, with a second from Mayor Nix, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

4. Recommend Approval of the Resolution Amending the Project List of the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan: 2015 Update

Mr. Baker presented a list of changes that are being proposed to the project list from the Regional Transportation Plan: 2015 Update that were either proposed by a local jurisdiction or via community meetings with the Martin Road Stakeholder Committee. The changes are:

- Remove Martin Road Widening from Falcon Parkway to Winder Highway, and replace it with Martin Road Alternative Improvements #7 (GH-024).
- Move Dawsonville Highway/SR 53 at McEver Road Operations (GH-104) from Mid-Term (2024-2032) to Short-Term (2015-2023).
- Move Oak Tree Drive Operations (GH-113) from Mid-Term (2024-2032) to Short-Term (2015-2023).
- Move Enota Drive Operations (GH-101) from Mid-Term (2024-2032) to Long-Term (2033-2040).

Mr. Baker stated that the City of Gainesville is still in discussion with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) on securing the funding for the movement of their projects. Mr. Baker stated that the TCC recommended approval of the resolution, subject to the City and GDOT securing funding for the Gainesville projects in the short term of the Regional Transportation Plan.

Mr. Stradley asked for clarity on how projects move between the three tiers. Mr. Baker explained that in order to move a project from the mid-term to the short-term, funding must be verified and acquired from federal, state, and local sources.

Public Comments: Mr. McClung asked for clarification on the funding implications of moving a project between tiers and asked if moving a project out of the mid-term freed up funding for other mid-term projects, to which Mr. Baker responded yes. Mr. Morris asked if the GDOT study conducted by Arcadis on the Dawsonville Highway corridor and the newly proposed Dawsonville Highway/McEver Road intersection study were different. Mr. Baker and Mr. Tarver responded that the newly proposed study would highlight what further changes might be necessary to relieve congestion at the Dawsonville Highway-McEver Road intersection. Ms. Gerrell suggested that the Martin Road projects be considered separately from the Gainesville projects for the plan amendment.

MOTION: Mr. Stanley made a motion to accept the recommendation to approve the resolution amending the Project List of the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan: 2015 Update, subject to the City of Gainesville securing funding for the Gainesville projects through GDOT, with a second from Mr. Brown, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

5. Recommend Approval of a Resolution Requesting Additional PL Funds for a Traffic Signal/Intersection Improvement Study for the Dawsonville Highway-McEver Road Intersection

Mr. Baker presented a request from the City of Gainesville for additional PL funds of \$160,000 to conduct an intersection improvement study at Dawsonville Highway and McEver Road which will explore options to alleviate increasing traffic congestion.

Public Comment: Mr. Morris of Ahaluna Drive in the City of Gainesville stated his support for any study that could help alleviate congestion along the corridor and asked that the committee would make any project along the corridor a priority.

MOTION: Ms. Gerrell made a motion to recommend approval of a resolution requesting additional PL Funds for a Traffic Signal/Intersection Improvement Study for the Dawsonville Highway-McEver Road Intersection, with a second from Mr. Stanley, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

6. Recommend Approval of a Resolution Requesting Additional PL Funds for a Trail Connectivity Plan

Mr. Baker presented a request from the City of Gainesville for additional PL funds of \$96,000 to conduct a Trail Connectivity Plan which will explore a route to connect Midtown Greenway in the City with the Chicopee section of the Highlands to Islands Trails in Oakwood that currently ends at Lee Gilmer Memorial Airport.

This study would involve, but will not be limited to, the following intersections:

- Palmour Drive and Aviation Boulevard
- Georgia Avenue and Industrial Boulevard

MOTION: Ms. Jardine made a motion to recommend approval of a resolution requesting additional PL Funds for a Trail Connectivity Plan, with a second from Mr. Bell. Mr. Stanley cast an opposing vote, while all the other committee members voted in favor. The motion passed.

7. Recommend Approval of a Resolution Requesting Additional PL Funds for Oakwood Citywide Traffic Improvement Study

Mr. Baker presented a request from the City of Oakwood for additional PL funds of \$40,000 to conduct a citywide traffic study that would explore options on how to improve traffic movement and congestion.

Mr. Brown stated that the congestion along Mundy Mill Road is a serious problem that needs to be studied. Mr. Bell stated his support for a study and stated that light synchronization along Mundy Mill Road should be explored.

MOTION: Mr. Hoffman made a motion to recommend approval of a resolution requesting additional PL Funds for an Oakwood Citywide Traffic Improvement Study, with a second from Mr. Bell, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

8. Review Amendments to the GHMPO Complete Streets Policy

Mr. Boyd presented proposed changes to the GHMPO Complete Streets Policy for the committee to review. These changes were suggested by members of Georgia Bikes, a non-profit organization, that are aimed at improving bicycling conditions and increasing ridership throughout Georgia. The edits to the policy include strengthening language regarding consideration of complete streets improvements during maintenance projects, better consideration of all users, tracking of planned and completed projects, more comprehensive performance measures, and better defined implementation strategies wherever possible. These changes were presented for review by the committee and will be voted on for adoption during the next round of MPO committee meetings in July and August 2017.

9. Review Amendments to the Citizens Advisory Committee Bylaws

Mr. Stradley introduced Dick Osborne who presented proposed changes to the CAC bylaws. The proposed changes were presented for review by the committee, and the adoption of these changes will be voted on during the next round of MPO committee meetings in July and August 2017.

10. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports

A jurisdiction and agency report was presented to the committee that highlighted transportation project updates throughout the region.

11. Upcoming Meeting Date: July 27, 2017

The next CAC meeting will be on July 27, 2017.

12. Public Comments

Ms. Pilcher asked if it was possible to separate the Martin Road Alternative 7 portion of the plan amendment from the other portion of the plan amendment resolution moving several projects to short-term at the request of the City of Gainesville. She expressed concern that if the City was unable to secure funding sources for its projects, she did not want the Martin Road amendment to also be delayed. Mr. Baker stated that the Martin Road amendment could be separated, if necessary, at the Policy Committee meeting on May 2, 2017 in order to not delay a vote on Martin Road to August 2017.

13. Other- Establishing a Sub-Committee of CAC for a Citizen-Led Study of a Proposed North Hall Parkway

Mr. Stradley turned chair duties over to Ms. Lipscomb during this portion of the CAC.

Mr. Stradley officially asked for a sub-committee of the CAC to be formed in order to try to explore possible routes for a proposed North Hall Parkway. The purpose of this parkway would be to alleviate congestion within downtown Gainesville, specifically along Green Street, and to provide an alternative freight movement route from Murrayville to Highway 365 and I-985. He introduced members of the sub-committee who were present and stated that the more public involvement at the beginning, the more successful he hopes the study could potentially be moving forward.

MOTION: Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the establishment of a sub-committee of the CAC for a citizen-led study of a proposed North Hall Parkway, with a second from Ms. Jardine, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote, officially forming the sub-committee.

14. Adjourn

MOTION: Ms. Gerrell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with a second from Mr. Brown, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 P.M.



Wayne Stradley, Chair



Joseph Boyd, Secretary