



Gainesville - Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization

GHMPO

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

POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of May 2, 2017
Oakwood City Hall
4035 Walnut Circle, Oakwood, GA 30566

Voting Members Present:

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

Voting Members Absent:

Others Present:

Rich Atkinson, City of Flowery Branch Bill Andrew,
City of Flowery Branch
Rhonda Brady, City of Gainesville
Bryan Lackey, City of Gainesville
Matt Tarver, City of Gainesville
Angela Sheppard, 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

Gina Pilcher, Citizen
Darlene Long, Citizen
Adam Ivory, CDM Smith
Deborah Simental, Citizen
Jim & Jeri McIntyre, Citizens
Aubrey Huntsman, Citizen
Ben Furqueron, Citizen

1. Welcome

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

2. Approval of March 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Mayor Scroggs made a motion to approve the minutes of March 7, 2017, with a second from Mr. Fowler, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

3. Report from the Technical Coordinating Committee

Mr. Baker gave a summary of the Technical Coordinating Committee meeting on April 19, 2017, and conveyed that the TCC had recommended approval of all the voting items on the agenda.

4. Report from the Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Stradley gave a summary of the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting of April 27, 2017 and conveyed that the CAC had recommended approval of all the voting items on the agenda. Mr. Stradley also advised the PC that the CAC had formally defined a quorum, had recommended bylaw changes, and gave a report on the newly formed CAC subcommittee exploring a possible northern connector to be called North Hall Parkway.

5. Approve a Resolution Adopting Draft FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Baker presented the final draft of the FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program. The draft UPWP had been submitted to the Georgia Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal Transit Administration for review and comment. Mr. Baker reported that two ongoing planning studies, the Regional Freight Study and the Green Street Corridor Study, Phase II, will be completed in FY 2018. In addition, as part of the UPWP development, GHMPO staff had 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.

MOTION: *Mr. Scroggs made a motion to approve the resolution adopting the FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program, with a second from Mr. Bagwell, and the resolution passed by a unanimous vote.*

6. Approve a 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 Enota Drive Operations (GH-101) from Mid-Term (2024-2032) to Long-Term (2033-2040).

Mr. Baker said that the City of Gainesville is still in conversation with GDOT regarding funding for the following projects, which have been tabled for the next 30-45 days while their funding is explored:

- 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).

Public Comments: Mr. Morris of Ahaluna Drive voiced his support for any study or project that could relieve congestion along Dawsonville Highway. Mr. Dunagan responded that the City is aware of the problem and is working with GDOT to try to resolve the congestion problems as quickly as possible. Ms. Pilcher thanked GHMPO staff and committee members for their work with the Martin Road Stakeholder Committee on coming up with Martin Road Alternative 7.

MOTION: Mr. Scroggs made a motion to adopt the Resolution Amending the Project List of the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan: 2015, with a second from Mr. Richardson, and the resolution passed by a unanimous vote.

7. Approve a Resolution Requesting Additional PL Funds for a Traffic Signal/Intersection Improvement Study for the Dawsonville Highway-McEver Road Intersection

Ms. Brady 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.

MOTION: Mr. Bagwell made a motion to approve the Resolution Requesting Additional PL Funds for a Traffic Signal/Intersection Improvement Study for the Dawsonville Highway-McEver Road Intersection, with a second from Mr. Fowler, and the resolution passed by a unanimous vote.

8. Approve a Resolution Requesting Additional PL Funds for a Trail Connectivity Plan

Ms. Brady presented a request from the City of Gainesville for additional PL funds of \$96,000 to conduct a Trail Connectivity Plan which will consist of alternatives on how to connect Midtown Greenway within the City to the Chicopee section of the Highlands to Islands Trails 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: Mr. Scroggs made a motion to approve the resolution requesting additional PL funds for a Trail Connectivity Plan, with a second from Mr. Fowler, and the resolution passed by a unanimous vote.

9. Approve a Resolution Requesting Additional PL Funds for Oakwood Citywide Traffic Improvement Study

Mr. Brown 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. Scroggs commented that this study was needed and would be beneficial for the City moving forward.

MOTION: *Mr. Fowler made a motion to approve the resolution requesting additional PL funds for Oakwood Citywide Traffic Improvement Study, with a second from Mr. Bagwell, and the resolution passed by a unanimous vote.*

10. 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 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.

11. Review Amendments to the Bylaws of the Technical Coordinating Committee, Citizens Advisory Committee, and Policy Committee

Mr. Yamala presented proposed changes to the bylaws of the Technical Coordinating Committee, Citizens Advisory Committee, and Policy Committee that were analyzed at the request of Wayne Stradley, Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee. The proposed changes were presented for review, and the adoption of these changes will be voted on during the next round of MPO committee meetings in July and August 2017.

Mr. Dunagan commented that several PC members had comments and would submit them to GHMPO staff before the next round of MPO committee meetings.

12. Mitchell Street Conceptual Study

In 2016, the City of Flowery Branch hired the consultant firm Atkins to complete a Mitchell Street Conceptual Study in order to explore various options to revitalize the roadway. Mr. Andrew presented the findings of this study which included a current condition analysis and three proposed alternatives for improvement. Implementation will occur when a design is chosen and funding is available.

13. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports

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

14. Upcoming Meeting Date: August 8, 2017

The next meeting will be on August 8, 2017 at the Hall County Government Center.

15. Public Comments

None.

16. Other

None.

17. Adjourn

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:43 A.M.


Lamar Scroggs, Chairman


Joseph Boyd, Secretary