



# *Gainesville - Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization*

**GHMPO**

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

## **CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, July 27, 2017**

**4:00 PM**

**Hall County Government Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Training Room**

### **Minutes of July 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  
Mary Jardine, City of Gainesville  
Ken Stanley, Hall County  
Ed Edwards, City of Flowery Branch  
Connie Propes, City of Gainesville  
Tabitha Gooch, Jackson County  
Jennifer Kidd-Harrison, Town of Braselton  
Patrick O'Rourke, Hall County  
Beth Weikel, Hall County

#### **Voting Members Absent:**

Joe Kennedy, Hall County  
Scott Wild, City of Flowery Branch

#### **Others Present:**

Srikanth Yamala, GHMPO  
Sam Baker, GHMPO  
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO  
Rich Atkinson, City of Flowery Branch  
Jeff Gill, The Times  
Dennis Madea, Citizen  
Robert Patten, Citizen

Darlene Long, Citizen  
Gina Pilcher, Citizen  
Gary McClung, Citizen  
Anne Chenault, Citizen  
Clyde Morris, Citizen  
Kurt Schuler, Citizen

### **1. Welcome**

Mr. Stradley called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Introductions were made, and quorum was established.

## 2. Approval of April 27, 2017 Meeting Minutes

**MOTION:** *Mr. Stanley motioned to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2017 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting, with a second from Ms. Gerrell. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

## 3. Recommend Approval of the Resolutions Adopting the FY 2018-FY 2021 Transportation Improvement Program and Amendment #4 to the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan: 2015 Update

Mr. Baker presented a draft update of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which highlights projects to be implemented between fiscal years 2018 and 2021. Mr. Baker also discussed Amendment #4 to the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan: 2015 Update. This amendment adds the following four projects to the plan's project list:

- Railroad crossing on Tumbling Creek Road at Norfolk Southern Railroad
- Widening of Old Winder Highway/SR 211 from SR 124 to Friendship Road/SR 347
- Replacement of a bridge on Thompson Bridge Road/SR 60 at the Chattahoochee River
- Widening of I-985 from I-85 to Mundy Mill Road/SR 53

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** *Ms. Long asked about the difference in the extent of public outreach between the FY 2016-2019 TIP and the FY 2018-2021 TIP. Mr. Baker responded that GHMPO had a much shorter amount of time between GDOT requesting a TIP update and the needed adoption time, so GHMPO, in conjunction with GDOT and FHWA, determined that a thirty-day public comment period was adequate. Mr. Yamala also clarified that in the past the TIP and the LRTP were updated at the same time, allowing for larger public outreach.*

*Ms. Long and Ms. Pilcher requested that GH-024 (Martin Road Improvements) be moved up into the short term as the community is still concerned about the opening of new interchange at Exit-14 on I-985 within the next two years. Mr. Yamala responded that Hall County is still looking into conducting a traffic study to determine the warrant of some of the improvements in Alternative 7 and will update the community whenever the next steps are known.*

*Mr. Morris of Ahaluna Drive asked for clarity on how projects move up on the TIP and LRTP. Mr. Yamala responded that the committees can make recommendations to the Policy Committee on projects being rearranged within those plans. Mr. Morris requested that the GHMPO committees move the Gainesville Transportation Project #28 (Dawsonville Highway widening) into the TIP and LRTP as soon as possible to improve traffic congestion concerns near the intersection of McEver Road and Dawsonville Highway. Mr. Stradley responded that the CAC will vote on recommending moving Gainesville Project #28 into the LRTP and TIP.*

**MOTION:** *Mr. Hoffman motioned to recommend approval of the Resolutions Adopting FY 2018 – FY 2021 Transportation Improvement Program and Amendment #4 to the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan: 2015 Update with a second from Mr. Stanley. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.*

**MOTION:** *Mr. Hoffman made a second motion to recommend moving Gainesville Transportation Project #28 (Dawsonville Hwy/SR 52 Capacity) into the LRTP and TIP. Ms. Gerrell seconded that motion, and it passed by a unanimous vote.*

**4. Recommend Approval of a Resolution Requesting Additional PL Funds for a Joint Trail Connection Study by the City of Flowery Branch, City of Oakwood, and Hall County in the Sterling/Quarry Area**

Mr. Atkinson of the City of Flowery Branch presented a draft resolution requesting additional PL funds for a Trail Connection Study for southern Hall County that would be a combined effort among the City of Flowery Branch, City of Oakwood, and Hall County. The purpose of this proposed study would be to identify where such a trail could be constructed in order to connect the multi-use pathways along Friendship Road, up to Spout Springs Road, along Thurmon Tanner Parkway, and into the Highlands to Islands Trail in Oakwood.

Mr. Bell asked why the map presented did not have a trail running through downtown Flowery Branch. Mr. Baker responded that the map was just showing one possible alignment and that the study itself would explore all options regarding the path the trail could take. Mr. Hoffman stated his approval of the study and said such a trail would be a positive asset to the community.

**MOTION:** *Ms. Gerrell motioned to recommend approval of the Resolution Requesting Additional PL Funds for a Joint Trail Connectivity Study by the City of Flowery Branch, City of Oakwood, and Hall County in the Sterling/Quarry Area. A second motion was made by Ms. Weikel, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

**5. Recommend Approval of the Amendments to the GHMPO Complete Streets Policy**

Mr. Boyd presented the proposed changes to the GHMPO Complete Streets Policy and stated that no comments had been received regarding the policy changes since the previous CAC meeting.

**MOTION:** *Mr. Bell made a motion to recommend approval of the amendments to the GHMPO Complete Streets Policy, with a second from Mr. Stanley. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

**6. Recommend Approval of an Update to the Title VI Program and Environmental Justice Analysis**

Mr. Boyd presented a draft Title VI Program and Environmental Justice Analysis report which has been updated with more recent data from the American Community Survey. This document highlights areas within the MPO that have higher than average numbers of elderly, minority, and/or non-English speaking population. This report highlights GHMPO projects with respect to those minority populations in order to ensure that projects are being evenly distributed across the planning area and not just focused in areas reflecting majority socioeconomic characteristics.

**MOTION:** Mr. Stanley made a motion to recommend approval of the update to the Title VI Program and Environmental Justice Analysis report, with a second from Ms. Gerrell. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

## 7. Recommend Approval of the Amendments to the Citizens Advisory Committee Bylaws

Mr. Stradley turned the chair duties over to Ms. Gerrell for agenda item #7. Ms. Gerrell presented the CAC meeting changes that were introduced by Mr. Stradley at the previous CAC meeting as well as the requested changes submitted by the City of Gainesville. Ms. Jardine suggested going through the suggested changes by each individual article. The changes the board suggested are as follows:

- Article I – no changes suggested
- Article II – no changes suggested
- Article III – no changes suggested
- Article IV – no changes suggested
- Article V – CAC members made the following suggestions:
  - Under item 5, retain the following paragraph that was suggested for deletion by the City of Gainesville: *“The committee may establish sub-committees as needed. Each sub-committee shall select its chairperson of said sub-committee”*. All members voted to keep paragraph as written except Ms. Lipscomb who opposed, stating that the wording should state that sub-committees may only be made up strictly of CAC members.
  - Item 4 should be retained, which reads, *“The Hall County Planning Department shall be the coordinating staff for the Gainesville-Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization and its Committees.”* Change suggested by unanimous vote.
- Article VI – no changes suggested
- Article VII – CAC members made the following suggestions:
  - Under item 6, the text should read, *“Unless excused by the Chairperson prior to the meeting, any CAC member having two (2) unexplained absences from regular meetings during a fiscal year shall be automatically removed. The CAC member and nominating jurisdiction shall be notified within seven (7) days of the dismissal.”* Change suggested by a unanimous vote.
- Article VIII – CAC members made the following suggestions:
  - Second paragraph, first line, change to the following, *“Telephonic or electronic voting and participation shall be permitted.”* Change suggested by unanimous vote.
- Article IX – no changes suggested
- Article X – CAC members made the following suggestion:

Include Jackson County and Town of Braselton in the following sentence, *“In any event the bylaws and organizational framework are bound to the parameters established in the Designation Resolutions from Hall County and Jackson County and the Cities of Flowery Branch, Gainesville, Oakwood, and the Town of Braselton (October – December 2002).”* Changes suggested by a unanimous vote.

CAC members discussed in detail the ability to form a sub-committee. Mr. Stradley discussed the workings of the North Hall Parkway Study Sub-Committee and expressed his desire for the CAC to continue to form sub-committees moving forward. Ms. Gerrell stated

that if the TCC was able to form sub-committees, the CAC should as well and that although the CAC is not an autonomous body, it should be able to fully represent the opinions of the citizens it represents. Ms. Lipscomb stated that the CAC should be able to form a sub-committee made only of members of the CAC. Mr. Hoffman stated that since non-CAC members are not able to vote on items at CAC meetings, them being on a sub-committee made no difference to the workings of the MPO.

***PUBLIC COMMENTS:*** Ms. Chenault spoke in favor of the CAC having subcommittees made of CAC as well as non-CAC members, stating people from the public working with members of the CAC who are more familiar with the MPO process will lead to a better process. Two other members of the public who did not identify themselves also spoke out in favor of the CAC being able to form subcommittees.

***MOTION:*** Mr. Stanley made a motion to recommend approval of the above Amendments to the Citizens Advisory Committee Bylaws, with a second from Ms. Jardine. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

## **8. Review of 2017 Hall County and Jackson County Crash Profile Updates**

Mr. Boyd presented updated crash profile reports for Hall and Jackson counties that were based on 2016 crash data. The data was pulled from the state crash data reporting system (GEARS) which is maintained by GDOT. These reports highlighted total, injury, fatality, and pedestrian-involved crashes as well as various identifying high accident locations.

## **9. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports**

A report from the TCC meeting on July 19 was presented regarding the status of transportation projects being completed by the different jurisdictions throughout the GHMPO planning area.

## **10. Public Comments**

Mr. McClung asked for clarity regarding unincorporated Hall County residents being represented on the CAC. Ms. Gerrell responded that there were Hall County representatives on the CAC from all districts of the county.

## **11. Other**


There were no other items presented.

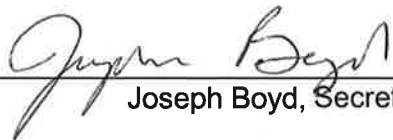
## **12. Upcoming Meeting Date: October 26, 2017**

The next CAC meeting will be on Thursday, October 26, 2017 at the Hall County Government Center.

**13. Adjourn**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

  
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Renee Gerrell, Vice-Chair

  
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Joseph Boyd, Secretary