



GHMPO

Gainesville - Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

POLICY COMMITTEE

Hall County Government Center
2875 Browns Bridge Road, Gainesville, GA 30504
Draft Minutes of August 8, 2017 Meeting

Voting Members Present:

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

Voting Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Bill Andrew, City of Flowery Branch
Chris Rotalsky, City of Gainesville
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
Ken Rearden, Hall County
Srikanth Yamala, GHMPO
Sam Baker, GHMPO
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO

Quinton Spann, GDOT
Phil Peevy, GDOT
Jeff Gill, The Times
Brian Stewart, AccessWDUN
Wayne Stradley, CAC Chair
Gina Roy, Jackson County
Connie Propes, CAC Member
Gina Pilcher, Citizen
Anne Chenault, Citizen
Pam Puckett, Citizen
Clyde Morris, Citizen

1. Welcome

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

2. Approval of May 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: *Mayor Dunagan made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2017 meeting, with a second from Mayor Miller, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

3. Report from the Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Stradley gave a summary of the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting of May 2, 2017 and conveyed that the CAC had recommended approval of all the voting items on the agenda except for the bylaw changes. Mr. Stradley stated the CAC voted to retain the paragraph about subcommittees, the paragraph regarding the CAC chair being able to remove members after two unexcused absences in a fiscal year, to include electronic voting be permitted, and to include Jackson County and Town of Braselton be included within a sentence under Article X.

Mr. Stradley then stated he would be resigning from the CAC at the end of the meeting and that the North Hall Parkway Committee would separate from the MPO and be a stand-alone citizen committee.

4. Approval of the Amendments to the Bylaws of the Technical Coordinating Committee, Citizens Advisory Committee, and Policy Committee

Mayor Dunagan made a motion to approve of the edited bylaws, with the following modifications:

Under the Citizens Advisory Committee Bylaws:

- Article V - Organization

Modify the new section regarding sub-committees to read:

“The committee may establish sub-committees as needed from within the membership of the Citizens Advisory Committee. Each sub-committee shall select its chairperson. Sub-committees shall meet as determined by the Chairperson of said sub-committee.”

- Article VII – Meetings

Replace item #6 with the following:

“6. Unless excused by the Chairperson prior to the meeting, any CAC member having three (3) unexplained absences from regular meetings during a fiscal year shall be notified by the Chairperson of the Policy Committee that their attendance is required and request the member confirm their commitment to attend future meetings and report to the nominating jurisdiction.”

Under the Technical Coordinating Committee Bylaws:

- Article V - Organization

Modify item #5 to read:

“5. The committee may establish sub-committees as needed from within the membership of the Technical Coordinating Committee. Each sub-committee

shall select its Chairperson. Sub-committees shall meet as determined by the Chairperson of said sub-committee.”

MOTION: *Mayor Dunagan made a motion to approve the above and previously presented modifications to the bylaws of the GHMPO Technical Coordinating Committee, Citizens Advisory Committee, and Policy Committee, with a second from Mayor Miller, and the resolution passed by a unanimous vote.*

5. Report from the Technical Coordinating Committee

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

6. 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. Chenault of Gainesville asked if it would be possible to do a SR 53 bypass connecting SR 53 to the McEver Road extension. Mayor Dunagan stated conversations regarding congestion in this area are all being considered and that reports from the state would address this idea. Mr. Morris thanked the PC for its actions on Dawsonville Highway.

MOTION #1: *Mayor Dunagan motioned to approve the Resolution Adopting FY 2018 – FY 2021 Transportation Improvement Program with a second from Mr. Bagwell. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote.*

MOTION #2: *Mayor Dunagan motioned to approve the Resolution Adopting Amendment #4 to the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan: 2015 Update with a second from Mayor Miller. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote.*

7. 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. Andrew 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.

Public Comments: Ms. Puckett of Friendship Road stated she agrees with construction of new trails in South Hall. She asked if the study could also look into connecting with the Williams Mill Greenspace. Mr. Andrew stated that this study would look at all alternatives on the best place to construct these trails. Mayor Miller asked that Swansey Road also be included in the discussion of the study.

MOTION: Mayor Miller made a motion to adopt the Resolution Requesting Additional PL Funds for a Joint Trail Connection Study by the City of Flowery Branch, City of Oakwood, and Hall County, with a second from Mayor Dunagan, and the resolution passed by a unanimous vote.

8. Approval of the Amendments to the GHMPO Complete Streets Policy

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

MOTION: Mayor Miller made a motion to approve the Amendments to the GHMPO Complete Streets Policy with a second from Mr. Bagwell, and the resolution passed by a unanimous vote.

9. 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: Mayor Miller made a motion to approve the Update to the Title VI Program and Environmental Justice Analysis, with a second from Mayor Dunagan, and the resolution passed by a unanimous vote.

10. 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.

11. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports

Representatives shared the status of transportation projects being completed by their jurisdictions: Mr. Andrew for the City of Flowery Branch, Mr. Rotalsky for the City of Gainesville, Mr. Brown for the City of Oakwood, Ms. Mertz for GDOT, Mr. Rearden for Hall County, and Ms. Roy for Jackson County.

12. Public Comments

Ms. Pilcher thanked Mr. Stradley with his help on the Martin Road concerns. She asked that the PC members express to their CAC representatives to seek public input on any issue that may become controversial in order for impacts to be shared with communities in a faster time frame.

Ms. Harris stated that she seconded Ms. Pilcher's comment. She stated that it can be hard for citizens to know which group to work with within the government. She further added that citizens are interested, and any open doors would be greatly appreciated.

13. Other

Mr. Yamala stated that at the previous Policy Committee meeting on May 2nd, the PC unanimously approved an application from the City of Gainesville requesting additional PL funds for a Dawsonville Hwy/McEver Road Intersection Improvement Study. Mr. Yamala asked that the committee approve a new study resolution that included an increase in scope that will not only look at the intersection but also look at potential alternate routes that could be constructed in order to alleviate congestion along the entire corridor.

MOTION: Mayor Dunagan made a motion to approve the resolution requesting additional PL funds for the Dawsonville Hwy & McEver Road Connectivity Study, with a second from Mayor Miller, and the resolution passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Stradley presented the committee with a written proposal for a North Hall County Parkway/Bypass. The proposal requests the PC ask GDOT to do preliminary engineering (PE) to determine the feasibility of building an East-West North Hall Parkway/Bypass and that GHMPO expedite placing this new roadway into the TIP and LRTP with public input during the planning process. Mr. Stradley then restated he was resigning from the Citizens Advisory Committee effective immediately.

Mayor Dunagan stated that everyone is aware that a northern bypass is needed and that he would like to table this discussion for the future for long range planning discussions.

MOTION: Mayor Dunagan made a motion to Table for future discussion on the Proposal for a North Hall County Parkway/Bypass, with a second from Mayor Scroggs, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

14. Upcoming Meeting Date: November 14, 2017

The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on November 14, 2017 at 10:00 AM at the Hall County Government Center.

15. Adjourn

There being no other business, Mayor Dunagan made a motion to close the meeting at 10:53 A.M. with a second from Mr. Bagwell. Meeting was adjourned.



Mayor Lamar Scroggs, Chairman



Joseph Boyd, Secretary