



# *Gainesville - Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization*

**GHMPO**

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

## **CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, October 26, 2017**

**4:00 PM**

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

### **Minutes of October 26, 2017 Meeting**

#### **Voting Members Present:**

Renee Gerrell, Hall County  
Brent Hoffman, 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  
Joe Kennedy, Hall County  
Ken Stanley, Hall County  
Ed Edwards, City of Flowery Branch  
Connie Propes, City of Gainesville  
Patrick O'Rourke, Hall County  
Scott Wild, City of Flowery Branch  
Heather Taylor, Hall County

#### **Others Present:**

Sam Baker, GHMPO  
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO  
Emily Vioglavich, Hall County  
Adam Ivory, CDM Smith  
Marc Eggers, WDUN  
Wayne Stradley, Citizen

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

Tabitha Gooch, Jackson County  
Jennifer Kid-Harrison, Town of  
Braselton  
Sammy Smith, City of Gainesville  
Leesa Stoner, City of Gainesville  
Beth Weikel, Hall County

Robert Horne, Citizen  
Anne Chenault, Citizen  
Gary McClung, Citizen  
Darlene Long, Citizen  
Nick Bowman, Gainesville Times  
Russ England, Citizen

### **1. Welcome**

Ms. Gerrell called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Introductions were made, and a quorum was established.

**2. Election of CAC Chair and Vice Chair for FY 2018**

**MOTION:** *Ms. Propes made a motion to nominate Renee Gerrell as Chairperson, with a second from Mr. Hoffman, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

*Mr. Stanley made a motion to nominate himself as Vice Chairman, with a second from Mr. Mensinger, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

**3. Approval of July 27, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** *Mr. Bell made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2017 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting, with a second from Ms. Lipscomb, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

**4. Recommend Approval of the Resolutions Amending the FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Baker presented a draft amendment of the FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program adding the four studies listed below and \$570,000 for these studies to the budget which were approved after the adoption of the FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program:

- Dawsonville Highway-McEver Road Connectivity Study: \$200,000
- Gainesville Trail Study: \$120,000
- South Hall Trail Study: \$150,000
- Oakwood Citywide Traffic Improvement Study: \$100,000

**MOTION:** *Mr. Hoffman made a motion to Recommend Approval of the Resolution Amending the FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program, with a second from Ms. Jardine, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

**5. Recommend Approval of a Resolution Requesting Additional PL Funds for Jackson County Transportation Plan**

Mr. Baker presented a draft resolution requesting additional PL funds for Jackson County to update its Transportation Master Plan by 2019 to coincide with the update of the Jackson County Comprehensive Plan in 2020. Mr. Baker stated that GHMPO would like to submit an application requesting additional planning funds totaling \$140,000 to fund the Jackson County Transportation Master Plan Update with a 20% cash local match from Jackson County.

Ms. Lipscomb asked if the project had already secured funding. Mr. Baker stated that the MPO would be applying for funding in 2018.

**MOTION:** *Mr. Hoffman made a motion to Recommend Approval of a Resolution Requesting Additional PL Funds for Jackson County Transportation Plan, with a second from Ms. Lipscomb, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

## **6. Gainesville-Hall Regional Freight Study Update**

Mr. Ivory presented an update in order to obtain feedback from CAC members on the following tasks that have been accomplished so far:

- Developed goals and objectives for a regional freight mobility plan
- Developed performance measures to assess our freight network
- Assessed freight trends, opportunities and needs
- Formed freight policies
- Prepared a draft list of short-term, mid-term, and long-term freight projects for the region

Mr. Bell commented that certain items in the mid-term list could be needed sooner and inquired on how items could be moved up on the list. Mr. Baker explained that items on the mid-term and long-term lists can be moved up as funding becomes available.

**Public Comments:** Ms. Long asked when Task 4 (Martin Road exit) will be addressed. Mr. Baker stated that the Atlanta Highway widening was discussed during the Freight Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Baker further stated that the MPO discussed it with the City of Flowery Branch officials, and it was determined that widening of Atlanta Highway is not merited at this time based on current and projected traffic volumes on this road. Mr. Ivory commented that the only section of Atlanta Highway that comes close to a failure level of congestion when projected until 2040 is the intersection of Atlanta Highway and SR 53. Mr. Stradley asked how the MPO decides which project is most important when it comes to the timing of funding. Mr. Baker answered that since funding comes through GDOT, the Department can influence the order in which projects are completed. Mr. Baker also explained that all agenda items, including funding and implementation of projects, are discussed in the Technical Coordinating Committee and the Citizens Advisory Committee, and the recommendations of each are forwarded to the Policy Committee for final decision.

## **7. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports**

At the Technical Coordinating Committee meeting on October 11, 2017, representatives shared the status of transportation projects being completed by their jurisdictions: Mr. Matt Tarver for the City of Gainesville, Mr. Stan Brown for the City of Oakwood, Ms. Jennifer Scott for the Town of Braselton, Mr. Brandon Kirby for GDOT, and Mr. Kevin McInturff for Hall County. A summary of their reports was distributed to the CAC members.

## 8. Public Comments

None.

## 9. Other

Ms. Gerrell expressed her concern regarding the attendance policy for the CAC as stated in the committee's bylaws adopted on August 8, 2017. She informed the members that the Policy Committee had denied the CAC's previous request to amend the attendance policy to change the number of unexplained absences allowed in a fiscal year from three to two. Ms. Gerrell commented that she would like to ask the Policy Committee to revise its previous ruling.

***MOTION:*** Ms. Propes made a motion to resubmit the proposed amendment to the Policy Committee and send a copy to all jurisdictions, with a second from Ms. Jardine, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Gerrell addressed the previously tabled request for additional planning funds to be used in FY 2019 for a potential North Hall Parkway Study. Ms. Gerrell explained that the CAC's request was tabled at the last Policy Committee meeting. Ms. Gerrell stated that she would like the item to be revisited and approved at the next Policy Committee meeting.

***MOTION:*** Mr. Stanley made a motion to request the Policy Committee to reconsider North Hall Parkway Study, with a second from Mr. Hoffman, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Gerrell informed the members that one of the voting members of the Policy Committee is a non-elected official. Ms. Gerrell voiced her concern that a non-elected official is representing unincorporated Hall County on the Policy Committee. Mr. Stanley agreed with Ms. Gerrell. Ms. Gerrell stated she would like to request that the Policy Committee amend its bylaws to prohibit a non-elected official being appointed to the Policy Committee.

***MOTION:*** Ms. Propes made a motion to request an amendment to the Policy Committee bylaws to not allow a non-elected official to be appointed to the Policy Committee, with a second from Mr. Stanley.

While voting on the motion, Mr. Hoffman suggested that the CAC research the issue and find out why a non-elected official was appointed before asking the Policy Committee to amend its bylaws. After discussion, Ms. Propes rescinded her motion. Ms. Gerrell commented that they will research the issue and discuss it at the next meeting.

**10. Upcoming Meeting Date: February 22, 2018**

The next CAC meeting will be on Thursday, February 22, 2018 at the Hall County Government Center.

**11. Adjourn**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:42pm.

  
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Renee Gerrell, Chairperson

  
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Emily Vioglavich, Secretary