



Gainesville - Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization

GHMPO

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

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

**Hall County Government Center
2875 Browns Bridge Road, Gainesville, GA 30504
Draft Minutes for November 13, 2018 Meeting**

Voting Members Present:

Mayor Mike Miller, City of Flowery Branch, Chair
Mayor Lamar Scroggs, City of Oakwood
Commissioner Richard Higgins, Hall County
Mayor Danny Dunagan, City of Gainesville
Gina Roy, on behalf of Chairman Tom Crow,
Jackson County
Charles Robinson, GDOT

Voting Members Absent:

Matt Tarver, City of Gainesville
Chris Rotalsky, City of Gainesville
Bryan Lackey, City of Gainesville
Sarah McQuade, Hall County
Ken Rearden, Hall County
Kevin McInturff, Hall County
Phillippa Lewis Moss, HAT
Marc Eggers, AccessWDUN

Others Present:

Srikanth Yamala, GHMPO
Sam Baker, GHMPO
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO
Emily Foote, Hall County
Johnathan McLoyd, GDOT
Scott Frederick, GDOT
Bill Andrew, City of Flowery Branch
Stan Brown, City of Oakwood

1. Welcome

Mayor Miller opened the meeting at 10:03 AM.

2. Approval of August 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Mayor Dunagan made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2018 meeting, with a second from Mayor Scroggs, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

3. Report from the Technical Coordinating Committee

Mr. Baker spoke on behalf of the TCC Chairperson BR White, giving a recap of the October 10, 2018 TCC meeting where the TCC voted to recommend approval of all agenda items, including the adoption of the draft resolution approving Amendment #2 to the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program.

4. Report from the Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Baker spoke on behalf of the CAC Chairperson Renee Gerrell, giving a recap of the October 25, 2018 CAC meeting where the CAC voted to recommend approval of all agenda items, including the adoption of the draft resolution approving Amendment #2 to the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program. He also thanked Matt Tarver and the City of Gainesville staff for providing the CAC a tour of the Gainesville Traffic Operations Center before the meeting on October 25th.

5. Approval of the Draft Resolution Approving Amendment #2 to the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Baker stated that the Georgia Department of Transportation has requested the GHMPO to amend its Transportation Improvement Program in order to change the limit of the I-85 widening project (GH-109/GDOT PI#0013545). The current limit is I-85 from north of SR 211/Old Winder Highway to north of US 129/SR11/Lee Street. The proposed new limit will be I-85 from north of SR 53/Winder Highway to north of US 129/SR 11/Lee Street. The change in project limit also required a Conformity Determination Report to be run in order to show the change in scope would not adversely affect the air quality of the region.

MOTION: Ms. Roy made a motion to approve the Resolution Approving Amendment #2 to the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program, with a second from Mayor Dunagan, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

6. Gainesville & South Hall Trail Study

Mr. Boyd introduced Ms. Storck from Alta Planning + Design. Ms. Storck gave an update on the Gainesville Trail and South Hall Trail studies outlining public involvement in the studies, as well as information on the analyses, implementation strategies, and prioritization of potential segments of the two trails and maintenance strategies. She stated that the studies were currently in the draft phase and that the project team was adjusting recommendations after feedback was received during the Open House held at the Spout Springs Library on November 1st.

Mayor Miller asked for clarification on whether or not any recommendations for the studies would utilize any private trail systems or segments, to which Ms. Storck responded that no private trails in the region are being included as a part of the recommendations.

Mayor Miller asked why the Bragg Road segment was not included on the slide discussing prioritization results, to which Ms. Storck responded that since that segment was still being explored, cost estimates and specific routing was not finalized, meaning no score was currently assigned to the segment. She stated that if the segment remains in the plan, it would be included in the prioritization scoring table in the final draft.

Mayor Miller asked about the timeline for the implementation of these trail recommendations, to which Mr. Yamala responded that though there are many grant opportunities available, there is currently no funding identified for the construction of these projects except for the side path along Spout Springs Road which is being paid for by Georgia DOT concurrently with the widening of the roadway. If funding opportunities are found through GHMPO, they will be brought back to the Committee for its approval.

Mayor Miller stated that he had received feedback from the community on the possible Bragg Road recommendation regarding safety and privacy. He asked if there was any data available that discusses the impact trails have on nearby communities in relation to property values, safety, and crime. Ms. Storck responded that even though the Bragg Road trail segment would only be recommended along public right-of-way, privacy issues would be worked through later on in the design phase if the project was ever actually implemented; this study is solely focusing on feasibility. Ms. Storck also responded that there are several available studies that discuss safety, security, and property values related to trails. She stated that trails have generally been found to raise property values. Ms. Stock also stated that like all public amenities, trails are not immune to crime, but there is no known evidence of increased crime due to the proximity of trails. Ms. Storck said that Alta will gather those studies and share them with the Mayor.

Mr. Yamala asked Ms. Storck to share with the Committee any unique opportunities and challenges that she sees when it comes to the implementation of this type of trail network in the region. Ms. Storck responded that funding is always a challenge but that there are many grant and partnership opportunities available to secure funding. She stated that the area has many great unique attributes such as Lake Lanier, Elachee Nature Center and their extensive mountain bike trail system, beautiful creeks, and great downtowns that are all excellent candidates for the connectivity to a regional trail network.

7. 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. Tarver for the City of Gainesville, Mr. Brown for the City of Oakwood, Mr. Frederick for the Georgia Department of Transportation, Mr. McInturff for Hall County, and Ms. Roy for Jackson County.

8. Upcoming Meeting Date: March 12, 2019

Mayor Dunagan proposed that the March 12, 2019 PC meeting be held at the City of Gainesville Public Safety Complex. He stated that City staff would check into the availability of the space and would notify GHMPO staff shortly.

9. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

10. Other

Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan: 2020 Update

Mr. Baker explained that by federal regulations, GHMPO has to update its Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) by June 2020. He informed the Committee that a Request for Proposals (RFP) had been issued seeking proposals from consultants by October 30th to undertake this project. A consultant is expected to be contracted by December 2018 to start work in January 2019. Mr. Baker outlined the breakdown of funding and presented a plan on how each local jurisdiction can meet its required local-match through in-kind hours of staff time spent on the RTP update. If the in-kind hours tracked do not meet the percentage of match required for that particular jurisdiction (which is based upon that jurisdiction's population located within the urbanized area of the MPO), that jurisdiction will be required to make up the difference in a cash payment at the end of the study.

Micro-Transit Feasibility Study

Mr. Baker informed the Committee that GHMPO has partnered with Hall Area Transit to conduct a Micro-Transit Feasibility Study to explore the feasibility of micro-transit service such as Uber, Lyft, etc. to either replace or supplement Hall Area Transit's current demand response service called Dial-A-Ride and fixed route service called Gainesville Connection in light of potential reduced federal funding for our transit service following the 2020 census. Mr. Baker stated that the question of also utilizing local taxi services had come up during the CAC meeting on October 25, 2018, to which staff responded that the study would look at all feasible options, including taxi services. Ms. Lewis-Moss also commented that across the country, many private taxi cabs have begun utilizing the technology of Uber and Lyft and that the study will help identify how all of these services could possibly complement Hall Area Transit.

GHMPO Rebranding Initiative

Mr. Baker explained that the GHMPO has contracted with Forum Communications to design a new logo for the MPO. Mr. Baker told the committee members should have received an email from him with a link to an online survey to seek their input on the new logo. The initiative should be completed by the end of November.

11. Adjourn

There being no other business, Mayor Scroggs made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with a second from Mayor Dunagan. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Mayor Mike Miller, Chairman

Emily Foote, Secretary