



# *Gainesville - Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization*

**GHMPO**

Flowery Branch - Gainesville - Hall County - Oakwood

## **POLICY COMMITTEE**

Georgia Mountains Center, Room C  
Minutes of August 14, 2007 Meeting

### **Voting Members Present:**

Diane Hirling, City of Flowery Branch, Chairperson  
Bob Hamrick, City of Gainesville  
Sam Chapman, Hall County  
Monty Robinson, City of Oakwood  
Ulysses Mitchell, GDOT

### **Voting Members Absent:**

None

### **Others Present:**

Jason Crane, GDOT  
Doug Derrer, Hall County  
Phillippa Lewis-Moss, City of Gainesville  
Neil Kantner, GDOT  
Randy Knighton, Hall County  
Srikanth Yamala, GHMPO  
David Fee, GHMPO  
Janice Crow, Hall Area Transit

Chip Burger, URS  
Shelly Davis, GHCC  
Bill Andrew, City of Flowery Branch  
Larry Sparks, City of Oakwood  
Emily Ritzler, WSA  
Jeff Carroll, WSA  
Connie Daniels, Hall County

## **1. WELCOME**

Mayor Hirling called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She introduced Mr. Fee, the new Transportation Planner with GHMPO.

## **2. APPROVAL OF May 8, 2007 MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:** *Mr. Hamrick made a motion to approve the May 8, 2007 Minutes. The motion was received and seconded by Mr. Robinson and passed by a unanimous vote.*

## **3. 2030 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE**

### **a. June 12<sup>th</sup> public meeting summary**

Mr. Carroll presented an overview of the third and final public meeting on the 2030 LRTP Update. Maps illustrating the present and future traffic conditions were presented along with the list of projects. The meeting was well-attended and several comments were received on the proposed project list.

**b. Draft Air Quality Conformity Determination Report**

Mr. Fee reminded the committee that since Hall County was designated as part of a 20-county 8-hour ozone and 22-county particulate matter (PM 2.5) nonattainment area, GHMPO has coordinated its efforts with the ARC to adhere to the standards of the federal Clean Air Act. The draft Air Quality Conformity Determination Report outlines to the EPA the methodology used to measure 8 hour ozone and PM 2.5. The tentative schedule for the EPA to adopt this regional document is November 2007.

**c. Approval of Draft 2030 LRTP**

Mr. Yamala reported that the development of the draft 2030 LRTP has been a year long planning process that involved extensive public outreach and agency coordination. The draft 2030 LRTP Update meets the new federal requirements under SAFETEA-LU. The 45 day public notice period ended August 13, 2007.

Mr. Carroll thanked the GHMPO committees for their assistance and praised the way they were able to maintain schedules.

***MOTION:*** Mr. Chapman made a motion to approve the Draft 2030 LRTP Update with a second by Mr. Robinson and passed by a unanimous vote.

**4. APPROVAL OF DRAFT 2008-2013 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Mr. Yamala presented the draft 2008-2013 TIP, which is primarily a subset of the 2008-2013 projects listed in the draft 2030 LRTP Update. There were no further comments received from the public on the TIP during the 45 day comment and review period, which ended August 13, 2007.

***MOTION:*** Mr. Chapman made a motion to approve the Draft 2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Program with a second by Mr. Mitchell and passed by a unanimous vote.

**5. GDOT STATEWIDE TRUCK LANES STUDY**

Mr. Crane reported on the feasibility study for truck only lanes that begun in April 2006 and runs through October 2007. A PowerPoint presentation introduced the truck only lanes concept and locations in Georgia which were had the greatest need for dedicated truck lanes.

**6. REPORT ON GEORGIA SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Mr. Fee presented information and a handout regarding this federal program and the process to obtain funding.

**7. REPORT ON UPCOMING NORTHERN CONNECTOR STUDY**

Mr. Carroll mentioned that the Northern Connector project resulted during the LRTP Update process. This new roadway would provide a connection in North Hall between SR 60/Thompson Bridge Rd and SR 365. This concept was presented to the public during three public meetings and several positive comments were received. He stated that his team will be doing preliminary analysis and conduct stakeholder interviews in the next couple of months.

## 8. REPORT ON TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN STUDY

Mr. Burger stated they will be producing a Transit Development Plan for Hall Area Transit over the next 12 months. Among other things, the study will look at improving planning, funding, delivery and potential for regional connectivity. The effort will entail community outreach and agency coordination programs.

## 9. JURISDICTION AND AGENCY REPORTS

Reports were given on the status of transportation projects within their jurisdictions: Mr. Knighton for Hall County; Mr. Sparks for the City of Oakwood, Mr. Hamrick for the City of Gainesville, Mr. Andrew for the City of Flowery Branch, Ms. Crow for Hall Area Transit and Mr. Kantner for GDOT.

## 10. UPCOMING MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be November 13, 2007.

## 11. OTHER

Mr. Chapman expressed concern that he was not invited to the GDOT Board meeting at Lake Lanier Islands which was sponsored by the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce. He wanted to make sure all Policy Committee members get invitations to appropriate transportation gatherings in the region.

## 12. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the chairman at 10:30 a.m.

***MOTION:*** *Mr. Hamrick made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second by Mr. Robinson and passed by a unanimous vote.*

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Diane Hirling, Chairperson

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Connie Daniels, Secretary