

## **Policy Committee**

**Commission Meeting Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hall County Government Center  
Draft Minutes of May 14, 2024 Meeting**

### **Voting Members Present:**

Mayor Ed Asbridge, City of Flowery Branch, Chair  
Mayor Sam Couvillon, City of Gainesville  
Mayor Lamar Scroggs, City of Oakwood  
Chairman Richard Higgins, Hall County  
Commissioner Jeff Stowe, Hall County  
Commissioner Jim Hix, Jackson County  
Megan Weiss, GDOT

### **Voting Members Absent:**

Commissioner Kathy Cooper, Hall County

### **Others Present:**

Matt Tarver, City of Gainesville  
Chris Rotalsky, City of Gainesville  
B.R White, City of Oakwood  
Jennifer Kidd-Harrison, City of Hoschton  
Mayor Debbie Martin, City of Hoschton  
Justin Lott, GDOT  
Brandon North, GDOT  
Jared Lombard, FHWA

Gina Roy, Jackson County  
Bill Nash, Hall County  
Frank Miller, Hall County  
Phillippa Lewis Moss, Hall Area Transit  
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO  
Michael Haire, GHMPO  
Jeff Gill, Gainesville Times

### **1. Welcome – Mayor Ed Asbridge, Chair**

Mayor Asbridge opened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

### **2. Approval of February 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Chairman Higgins made a motion to approve of the February 13, 2024 meeting minutes, which received a second from Commissioner Stowe, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **3. Update from the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)**

Mr. Boyd provided the committee with a brief recap of the most recent Technical Coordinating

Committee meeting, which took place on April 24, 2024. The TCC unanimously recommended approval of all agenda items.

#### **4. Update from the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)**

Mr. Boyd provided a brief recap of the recent Citizens Advisory Committee meeting, which took place on April 25, 2024. The CAC unanimously recommended approval of all agenda items.

#### **5. Presentation on 2020 Base Year and 2055 Do-Nothing Travel Demand Models**

Mr. North presented the 2020 Base Year and 2055 Do-Nothing Travel Demand Models for the Georgia Department of Transportation. Mr. North explained that the purpose of the Travel Demand Models is to serve as an analysis tool to forecast travel demand and transportation performance, replicate the existing trip making characteristics, forecast future travel demand, and identify transportation network deficiencies.

The 2020 Base Year Travel Demand Model uses the 2020 Base Year Socioeconomic (SE) Data to model existing traffic conditions and travel demand, providing a level-of-service (LOS) rating for major roads in the GHMPO planning area. The 2055 Do-Nothing Travel Demand Model projects demand out to 2055 based on the 2055 Base Year SE Data, and provides a projected LOS if no more roadway improvements were completed between now and then, aside from projects that already have their construction funding committed in the GHMPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. North discussed each Travel Demand Model and showed maps that provided a graphic representation of the LOS on many major corridors. Mr. North also provided an overview of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and Vehicle Hours Traveled (VHT) to show the impact on travel conditions in 2055.

Finally, Mr. North discussed the next steps in developing the four remaining Travel Demand Models, which will require the MPO to send additional project lists to factor in projects that will be under construction prior to 2055.

Mr. North received a question from Commissioner Stowe regarding whether projects included in a potential upcoming TSPLOST will be factored into future Travel Demand Models, to which Mr. North clarified that they would be included in a future project list and factored into the remaining Travel Demand Models that have not yet been developed.

**MOTION:** Chairman Higgins made a motion to approve the 2020 Base Year and 2055 Do-Nothing Travel Demand Models, which received a second from Commissioner Stowe, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

## 6. First Review of Updated GHMPO Bylaws

Mr. Boyd introduced a routine update to the GHMPO Bylaws, which govern how the three MPO committees are to be organized. The changes made in this update to the PC Bylaws include the following:

- First meeting of the year has been moved from the second Tuesday of March to the second Tuesday of February.
- Added text permitting voting via teleconference or phone.

The GHMPO Bylaw updates are anticipated to be adopted during the next round of Committee meetings in July and August.

## 7. Approval of Draft Amendment #2 to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Boyd introduced the second amendment to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Boyd explained that this amendment updates the funding for two projects and removes a third project from the TIP. Additionally, this amendment makes minor revisions to the Committee membership lists, and adds language clarifying which project updates are eligible for amendments vs. an administrative modification. The three projects being updated in this amendment are listed below:

- **Project Update: GH-016 / PI 003626 – Sardis Road Connector from SR 60 to Sardis Road near Chestatee Road**
  - Construction (CST) funding updated from \$36,637,685.00 to \$56,476,681.24
  - Construction (CST) year changed from FY 2024 to FY 2025
- **Project Update: GH-020A / PI 122060 – Widening of US 129 from Lakeview Street to south of Nopone Road (Phase I)**
  - Construction (CST) funding updated from \$47,173,294.00 to \$58,108,002.91
- **Project Removal: GH-023B / PI 0015280 – Spout Springs Road Widening Phase II – From Union Circle to South of SR 347**
  - Construction (CST) and Utilities (UTL) shifted from FY 2024 to FY 2028

**MOTION:** Commissioner Stowe made a motion to approve Amendment #2 to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which received a second from Chairman Higgins, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

## 8. Approval of Draft GHMPO 2024 Participation Plan

Mr. Haire introduced the final draft of the GHMPO 2024 Participation Plan. Mr. Haire explained that this document was previously included as a part of the Title VI Plan and is now, at GDOT's request, being adopted as a standalone document. The purpose of the Participation Plan is to, for the benefit

of the public, outline the procedures for the GHMPO planning process and list the strategies that the MPO uses to solicit public participation.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Stowe made a motion to approve of the GHMPO 2024 Participation Plan, which received a second from Chairman Higgins, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

## 9. Approval of Draft GHMPO 2024 Title VI Plan

Mr. Haire introduced the Draft GHMPO 2024 Title VI Plan, which serves as an update to the 2021 Title VI Plan. The purpose of the Title VI Plan is to ensure that GHMPO does not discriminate against any members of the public when conducting planning activities. The Title VI Plan outlines the processes through which the public can file a Title VI complaint against GHMPO, and lists out all previous investigations, complaints, and lawsuits, of which there are none to date.

**MOTION:** Chairman Higgins made a motion to approve the GHMPO 2024 Title VI Plan, which received a second from Commissioner Stowe, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

## 10. Other

Mr. Haire provided a brief update on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan: 2025 Update and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update. The project team is initiating the public involvement efforts for these projects, and an online survey will be launched in the next few weeks. Additionally, outreach materials will be distributed to local jurisdictions to aid in outreach efforts.

Mr. Haire discussed recent efforts to develop an application for additional PL funds in order to conduct a City of Hoschton Transportation Master Plan. This PL application will be included in the next round of Committee meetings, and will be submitted to GAMPO in September.

Mr. Haire also discussed the State Route 13 / Atlanta Highway Corridor Study, which will examine improvements that can be made on State Route 13 / Atlanta Highway from north of Thurmon Tanner Road up to Jesse Jewell Parkway. This project has been put out for bid, and the bid window will close on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Boyd provided an update on the Hall County, Georgia Safe Streets for All Action Plan. Public involvement efforts will commence this summer and the MPO will keep all local jurisdictions informed of how they can be involved and the progress of the plan.

## 11. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports

Representatives shared the status of projects being completed by their jurisdictions: Mayor Asbridge for the City of Flowery Branch, Mr. White for the City of Oakwood, Mr. Tarver for the City of Gainesville, Mayor Martin for the City of Hoschton, Mr. Lott for the Georgia Department of

Transportation, Mr. Lombard for the Federal Highway Administration, Ms. Moss for Hall Area Transit, Ms. Roy for Jackson County, and Mr. Miller for Hall County.

## **12. Public Comment**

In response to Mr. Lombard's discussion on discretionary grants, Commissioner Stowe asked Mr. Boyd to ask the City of Gainesville about potential improvements at the railroad crossing near White Sulphur and Pine Valley Road, and if there is any grant funding that the MPO should apply for to facilitate improvements.

Commissioner Stowe asked Mr. Lott about the intersection of State Route 60 and Calvary Church Road, and whether it would be possible to add a green left-turn arrow off of SR 60 and onto Calvary Church Road. Mr. Lott replied that he would check with GDOT Traffic Operations and see what can be done at that intersection.

## **13. Upcoming Meeting Date**

Mayor Asbridge reminded the Committee of their next meeting date on August 13, 2024. Jackson County Commissioner Jim Hix will begin serving as the Policy Committee Chair for FY 2025.

## **14. Adjourn**

There being no other items of business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.

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Commissioner Jim Hix, Chair

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Michael Haire, GHMPO