

## **Citizens Advisory Committee**

**HR Training Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hall County Government Center  
Draft Minutes of July 25, 2024 Meeting**

### **Voting Members Present:**

Renee Gerrell, Hall County – *Chair*  
Berlinda Lipscomb, City of Gainesville  
Beverly Nordholz, City of Gainesville  
Betsy Wigington, City of Gainesville  
Sammy Smith, City of Gainesville  
Jason Cox, City of Gainesville  
Tony Millwood, City of Oakwood  
Pat Jones, City of Oakwood  
John Rudio, City of Flowery Branch  
Rick Marzano, City of Flowery Branch  
Billy Edwards, Town of Braselton  
Adrienne Rice, Hall County  
Brent Hoffman, Hall County  
Kim Jackson, Hall County  
Bob Norton, Hall County

### **Voting Members Absent:**

Beverly Nordholtz, City of Gainesville  
Pat Jones, City of Oakwood  
Nick Haynes, Hall County  
Patrick O'Rourke, Hall County  
Jesse Patton, Hall County  
Jim Southard, Jackson County

### **Others Present:**

Mayor Ed Asbridge, City of Flowery Branch  
Zach Propes, County Administrator, Hall County  
Gina Roy, Assistant County Manager, Jackson County  
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO  
Michael Haire, GHMPO

## **1. Welcome – Renee Gerrell, Chair**

Ms. Gerrell opened the meeting at 4:00 PM.

## **2. Approval of April 25, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Ms. Smith made a motion to approve of the April 25, 2024 meeting minutes, with a second from Mr. Hoffman, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **3. Presentation on Hall County TSPLOST Referendum**

Zach Propes, Hall County Administrator, provided a presentation on the proposed TSPLOST for Hall County. Mr. Propes first explained that a TSPLOST is a 1% sales tax that will specifically be allocated to transportation projects. 80% of the proceeds collected over the six-year program will be specifically allocated to a number of big projects across Hall County, and the remaining 20% will be distributed to all local jurisdictions, including unincorporated Hall County, to use at their discretion on projects that complement the larger scale projects. The TSPLOST is projected to collect \$390,000,000.00 over the six years that the program is active.

Mr. Propes also discussed several of the key projects that will receive TSPLOST funding – namely Phase II of the Spout Springs Road widening, Phase I of the McEver Road widening, improvements on White Sulphur Road/Crescent Road, improvements on the Ridge Road corridor, and improvements on Browns Bridge Road.

Additionally, Mr. Propes provided a link to the interactive online TSPLOST project map that MPO staff will email to the Committee.

Mr. Propes received a question from Mr. Smith regarding what percentage of the sales tax revenue comes from out of county residents, estimating that it was close to 30%. Mr. Propes responded that he was very accurate and county-wide the percentage of sales tax coming from out-of-county residents does average out to about 30%. Additionally, Mr. Propes mentioned that some areas receive a higher amount of sales tax from out-of-county residents, such as the Gainesville Square, which averages about 40%.

Mr. Propes received a question from Ms. Wigington about what percentage of the votes is required for TSPLOST to pass, to which Mr. Propes responded that a simple majority of 50% plus one vote would be sufficient.

Mr. Propes received a question from Mr. Norton asking if TSPLOST would free up more funds in the budget to be used for other projects, which Mr. Propes confirmed that it would.

Mr. Propes received a question from a committee member asking if the County would be able to apply for grants from the state even after TSPLOST funds have been allocated to projects, to which Mr. Propes confirmed that they could, and that they intend to do so. By bringing TSPLOST funds to a project, the Georgia Department of Transportation would be more inclined to allocate funds to a project. TSPLOST can be very useful for accelerating long-planned projects.

### **4. Presentation on Jackson County TSPLOST Referendum**

Gina Roy, Assistant County Manager for Jackson County, provided a brief presentation on Jackson County's TSPLOST initiative in November 2024. Ms. Roy talked about several key improvements that would utilize Jackson County's TSPLOST funds, including an extension of the LifePath through downtown Hoschton. Key projects discussed include the interchange at I-85 and State Route 60 and the widening of State Route 124.

Mr. Rudio asked what improvements would be made to Maysville, which is not in the GHMPO planning boundary, and Ms. Roy responded that they had expressed interest in resurfacing many of their roads.

Ms. Roy was asked a question about a State Route 60 widening, and Mr. Boyd confirmed that this project was included in the latest Long Range Plan for the MPO and that it may be included as a split project in the 2025 to accelerate upgrades needed on the northern end of the corridor near Gainesville.

## 5. Update on Metropolitan Transportation Plan: 2025 Update Draft Project List

Mr. Haire briefly discussed the draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) project lists, which were discussed more in-depth at the MTP Steering Committee meeting earlier in the day. The following project lists were discussed:

1. **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Projects** – Projects currently funded in our short-range plan, listed for informational purposes.
2. **Federal and State Funded Projects** – Funded using federal and state funding available in the planning area.
3. **TSPLOST Projects** – Projects that would be included in the plan if either Hall or Jackson County's TSPLOST initiatives pass in the November referendums. Some projects deemed necessary based on the needs assessment will be moved into the main project list if TSPLOST is not approved.
4. **Potential Projects (Not TSPLOST)** – Potential new projects that were identified by GHMPO or RS&H based on the needs assessment. This list is not a part of the main financially constrained project list, but are listed here for future consideration by jurisdictions.
5. **Questionable Projects** – These projects have been identified previously, but the project team is seeking input from local jurisdictions regarding whether or not they are seen as necessary or a priority.

Mr. Haire will send out the draft project lists and an online map of all projects, and Committee members can provide comments until August 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Haire received a question from Mr. Rudio regarding whether or not the intersection improvements on Hog Mountain Road would be included within a proposed widening of that corridor if TSPLOST were to pass, to which Mr. Boyd responded that those improvements would be included.

Mr. Haire received a question about the new funding allocated to State Route 365, to which he responded that they don't have any more information on that project at this time. However, the outcomes of the State Route 365 Corridor Study suggested converting the corridor to limited access and widening it to six lanes

Staff received a question from Mr. Hoffman regarding the proposed 4-lane road to connect the terminus of Sardis Road Connector to US Route 129 / Thompson Bridge Road. Mr. Boyd responded

that this is being discussed as a next step once the Sardis Road Connector is complete to help traffic access US 129.

## **6. Recommend Approval of Draft Amendment #3 to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Mr. Haire introduced Draft Amendment #3 to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which will adjust funding amounts for one project included in the TIP, add a new roadway project, add two new non-roadway projects, and adjust project mileage for two more projects. The updates being made to the Transportation Improvement Program are listed below:

- Project Update: GH-130 / PI 0013762: Widening of State Route 60/Thompson Bridge Road from State Route 400 in Lumpkin County to Yellow Creek Road in Hall County.
  - Pre-Engineering (PE) funding updated from \$2,392,739.00 to \$2,153,465.10.
- New Road Project: GH-147 / PI 0016089: Widening of State Route 211 from Pinot Noir Drive to State Route 347 / Friendship Road.
  - Added to TIP program years due to 1% of the project being within the GHMPO planning area. Project costs reflect 1% of total funding.
  - Utilities (UTL) funding of \$3,454.00 added for Program Year 2027.
  - Construction (CST) funding of \$237,308.00 added for Program Year 2027.
- New Non-Road Project: GH-148 / PI 0020370: NEVI – Charging Stations. Four EV charging stations to be added along I-985 corridor, location TBD.
  - Utilities (UTL) funding of \$1,250,000.00 added for Program Year 2025.
- New Non-Road Project: GH-149 / NRT 24(04): Chicopee Area Woods Park Commission
  - Construction (CST) funding of \$286,303.00 added to Program Year 2025.

Mr. Hoffman commented that he does not agree with State Route 60 / Thompson Bridge Road being widened to four lanes prior to phase II of the Spout Springs Road widening. Mr. Boyd responded that Phase II of the Spout Springs Road Widening project was scheduled to be under construction before the widening of Thompson Bridge Road would begin, but that those projects are in flux.

Ms. Wigington asked what work will be done in Chicopee Woods, to which Mr. Haire responded that that information is not currently available.

**MOTION:** Mr. Rudio made a motion to recommend approval of Draft Amendment #3 to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program, with a second from Mr. Marzano, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

## **7. Recommend Approval of Draft 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 TCC Bylaws include the following:

- First meeting of the year has been moved from the *last Thursday of February* to the ***last Thursday of January***.
- Added text permitting voting via teleconference or phone (*GDOT reviewing if permitted*)

The GHMPO Bylaw updates are anticipated to be adopted at the upcoming Policy Committee meeting on August 13, 2024.

**MOTION:** Mr. Rudio made a motion to recommend approval of the Draft GHMPO Bylaws, with a second from Ms. Wigington, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

## **8. Recommend Approval of Draft Application for Additional PL Funds for the Hoschton Transportation Plan**

Mr. Haire presented a draft application for additional PL funds to conduct a Hoschton Transportation Plan in partnership with the City of Hoschton. This plan will provide the City with a complete look at all roadways within the city limits, and will have a list of short and long term projects to improve mobility and increase safety for motorists and pedestrians. This application is for \$120,000 of PL funds with a \$30,000 local cash match by the City of Hoschton. If approved, GHMPO staff will submit the application for consideration at the September PL Funds Review Committee meeting.

**MOTION:** Mr. Hoffman made a motion to recommend approval of the Draft PL Application for the Hoschton Transportation Plan, with a second from Mr. Millwood, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

## **9. Other**

Mr. Boyd provided a brief overview of the Flowery Branch Parking and Mobility Study, and discussed some of the recommendations made in the plan. Mayor Asbridge commented on the study and stated that the City was happy with the Study outcomes.

Mr. Boyd also provided a brief update on the State Route 13 / Atlanta Highway Corridor Study, the contract for which has now been awarded to Keck & Wood.

## **10. TCC Agency Report**

Mr. Boyd briefly discussed some of the notable project updates from the TCC Agency Report.

## 11. Public Comment

Flowery Branch Mayor Ed Asbridge took a moment to tell the members of the Citizens Advisory Committee that he appreciates everyone for taking the time to volunteer their time to be on the Committee and to helping plan for transportation in the region.

## 12. Upcoming Meeting Date: Tentatively December 5, 2024

Mr. Boyd briefly discussed that the next meeting will be postponed until December 5, 2024 in order to accommodate any changes needed to the MTP project list based on whether Hall and Jackson County's TSPLOST referendums pass or fail.

## 13. Adjourn

There being no other items of business, the meeting adjourned.

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Renee Gerrell, Chair

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Michael Haire, GHMPO