

Policy Committee

Commission Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Hall County Government Center
Draft Minutes of August 13, 2024 Meeting

Voting Members Present:

Commissioner Jim Hix, Jackson County, Chair
Commissioner Jeff Stowe, Hall County
Casey Ramsey for Chairman Richard Higgins, Hall County
Katie Crumley for Commissioner Kathy Cooper, Hall County
Jomar Pastorelle, GDOT

Others Present:

Corey Jones, City of Gainesville
Chris Rotalsky, City of Gainesville
Dan Schultz, City of Oakwood
Jennifer Kidd-Harrison, City of Hoschton
Dan Branch, City of Buford
Justin Lott, GDOT
Elizabeth Johnson, GDOT

Voting Members Absent:

Mayor Sam Couvillon, City of Gainesville
Mayor Ed Asbridge, City of Flowery Branch
Mayor Lamar Scroggs, City of Oakwood

Gina Roy, Jackson County
Frank Miller, Hall County
Jorge Gomez, Hall County
Sarah Crowe, Hall County
Steve Cote, RS&H
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO
Michael Haire, GHMPO
Jeff Gill, Gainesville Times

1. Welcome – Commissioner Jim Hix, Chair

Commissioner Hix opened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

2. Approval of May 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Stowe made a motion to approve of the May 14, 2024 meeting minutes, which received a second from Mr. Ramsey, 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 July 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 July 25, 2024. The CAC unanimously recommended approval of all agenda items.

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

Mr. Cote discussed the draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) project lists. 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. Cote discussed that the project lists are currently being refined based on stakeholder feedback, and will be refined further after the upcoming Open Houses with the public on August 22nd and September 10th. The next steps for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan include developing a final project list that is fiscally constrained based on GDOT's projections of funding that will be available to GHMPO through 2055. The final project lists will be presented for approval at the December 10th, 2024 Policy Committee meeting. This meeting was shifted from the original date in order to accommodate necessary changes to the lists based on the outcomes of the TSPLOST referendums.

6. Approval of Draft Flowery Branch Parking and Mobility Study

Mr. Boyd provided a brief presentation on the Draft Flowery Branch Parking and Mobility Study, completed this month by Flowery Branch and Stantec. The project team performed several counts of parking occupancy on normal weekdays, weekends, and during special events. It was determined

that while additional parking would be beneficial, the community may be better served in the short term by street upgrades and improvements rather than the construction of a new parking deck or surface lot. Additionally, much of the informal parking could be formalized, and the study recommended that the City explore parking management systems.

MOTION: Commissioner Stowe made a motion to approve Draft Flowery Branch Parking and Mobility Study, which received a second from Ms. Crumley, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

7. 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.

MOTION: Commissioner Stowe made a motion to approve Amendment #3 to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which received a second from Mr. Ramsey, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

8. Approval of Draft GHMPO Committee Bylaws

Mr. Haire 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.

MOTION: Commissioner Stowe made a motion to approve of the Draft GHMPO Committee Bylaws, which received a second from Mr. Ramsey, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

9. Approval of Draft Application for Additional PL Funds for the Hoschton Transportation Plan

Mr. Boyd 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: Commissioner Stowe made a motion to approve of the Draft Application for Additional PL Funds for the Hoschton Transportation Plan, which received a second from Mr. Ramsey, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

10. Other

Mr. Haire provided a brief update on the State Route 13 / Atlanta Highway Corridor Study. The Hall County Board of Commissioners voted to approve of the contract with Keck + Wood on July 25th, and GHMPO staff have been working with Keck + Wood on gathering early background data for the plan. A kickoff meeting will be scheduled in the near future with the Steering Committee.

Mr. Boyd shared that the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Action Plan is holding an Open House on Thursday, August 22nd, at Hall County Government Center. This Open House will be in conjunction with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan: 2025 Update and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

11. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports

Representatives shared the status of projects being completed by their jurisdictions: Mr. Jones for the City of Gainesville, Mr. Lott for the Georgia Department of Transportation, Mr. Gomez for Hall County, and Ms. Roy for Jackson County.

Mr. Lott received questions from Commissioner Stowe regarding the delayed widening of Dawsonville Highway, which is due to rising costs of construction. Mr. Stowe also asked for an update on the intersection of State Route 60/Candler Road and Calvary Church Road/Old Candler Road. Mr. Lott clarified that the project will include the installation of a right thru lane from Candler

Road to Queen City Parkway and that he will follow up with the Committee on further details for this project.

12. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

13. Upcoming Meeting Date

Commissioner Hix reminded the Committee of their next meeting date on December 10, 2024. Mr. Boyd clarified that the meeting had been shifted from the previous November date to accommodate changes needed to the Draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan project list based on whether Hall and Jackson County's TSPLOST initiatives pass or fail.

14. Adjourn

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

Commissioner Jim Hix, Chair

Michael Haire, GHMPO