



# *Gainesville - Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization*

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**GHMPO**

Flowery Branch - Gainesville - Hall County - Oakwood

## **POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Georgia Mountains Center, Rooms A&B  
Minutes of November 10, 2009 Meeting**

**Voting Members Present:**

Myrtle Figueras, City of Gainesville  
Diane Hirling, City of Flowery Branch  
Sam Chapman, Hall County  
Lamar Scroggs, City of Oakwood  
Tom McQueen, GDOT

**Voting Members Absent:**

None

**Others Present:**

Randy Knighton, GHMPO  
Srikanth Yamala, GHMPO  
David Fee, GHMPO  
Billy Powell, Hall County Commissioner  
Steve Gailey, Hall County Commissioner  
Phil Sutton, Hall County  
Jody Woodall, Hall County  
Connie Daniels, Hall County  
Jason Crane, GDOT  
Robert Mahoney, GDOT  
Andrew Heath, GDOT  
Patricia Clayton, LLCPA  
Billy Clayton, LLCPA  
Norma Powell, LLCPA  
Sandra Convard, LLCPA  
Jin Wilkins, LLCPA  
Kelly Gardner, LLCPA  
Kim Fisher, LLCPA  
Jerry Morishige, LLCPA  
Paul Dennis, LLCPA  
Lyn Smith, LLCPA  
Don Slenenpiper, LLCPA  
Joe Fincher, LLCPA  
Tommy Turner, LLCPA  
Dan C. Hall, Jr., LLCPA  
Thad Smallwood, LLCPA  
Grey Chund, LLCPA  
Teri Frazier, LLCPA  
Dan McGill, LLCPA

Bill Andrew, City of Flowery Branch  
James Riker, City of Flowery Branch  
Janice Crow, Hall Area Transit  
Larry Sparks, City of Oakwood  
Ron Osterloh, Pond & Company  
Phillippa Lewis Moss, Gainesville-Hall CSC  
Jason Close, The Architecture Group  
Stephanie Harmon, GMRDC  
Dee Taylor, City of Gainesville  
Butch McDuffie, GTA  
Debbie Lawson-Davis, LLCPA  
Janet Clayton, LLCPA  
Sonja Peterson, LLCPA  
Carrie Hartfield, LLCPA  
Carolyn Williams, LLCPA  
James Tully, LLCPA  
Tracy Sherwen, LLCPA  
Rand Fisher, LLCPA  
Deborah Palmer, LLCPA  
Jumsl Hz, LLCPA  
Kem Slater, LLCPA  
Jamie Fincher, LLCPA  
Jack Buie, LLCPA  
Alice Hall, LLCPA  
Gene Brooks, LLCPA  
Jenny Buie, LLCPA  
Joe Yeager, LLCPA  
John W. Gibbs, LLCPA  
Thelma Shafer, LLCPA

Jud Davis, LLCPA  
Jack Price, LLCPA  
Annette Forster, LLCPA  
Howard Smith, LLCPA  
Milchael Dione, LLCPA  
Jason Ulseth, LLCPA  
Paul Harris, LLCPA  
Jeffery Smith, LLCPA  
Jan Albitz, LLCPA  
Pat Powell, LLCPA  
Leroy Oliver, LLCPA  
John Holcomb, LLCPA  
Vince Davis, LLCPA  
Taylor Davis, LLCPA  
J. Kelly Matus, LLCPA  
Gary Bradley, LLCPA  
Carole Buie, LLCPA  
Zsa Wonkowski, LLCPA  
Denise Cameron, LLCPA  
Linda Steakley, LLCPA  
Dennis Martin, LLCPA  
Jeb Bates, LLCPA  
Linda A. Harris, LLCPA  
Thomas Hawn, LLCPA  
Lynda D. Jacobs, LLCPA  
Laura Harris, LLCPA  
Terry Barron, LLCPA  
David Vaughan, LLCPA  
Steve Burrell, LLCPA  
Pat Head, LLCPA  
Betsy Wischart, LLCPA  
Julie Turner, LLCPA  
Gina Rand, LLCPA  
Pat DeNote, LLCPA  
Amy Britt, LLCPA  
Dale Beane, LLCPA  
Tom Haight, LLCPA  
Kevin Boyd, LLCPA  
Mark Montgomery, LLCPA  
Gretchen Ruppenthal, LLCPA  
Bob Belladonna, LLCPA

Sheila Davis, LLCPA  
A. L. Morton, LLCPA  
Mike Forster, LLCPA  
Yvonne Smith, LLCPA  
D. Smith, LLCPA  
G. Stout, LLCPA  
Susan Wiley, LLCPA  
Jim Barco, LLCPA  
Britt Harris, LLCPA  
Jodie Stephens, LLCPA  
Bob Fuss, LLCPA  
Kathleen Higgins, LLCPA  
Debbie Davis, LLCPA  
Carrie Rogers, LLCPA  
Susan Bradley, LLCPA  
Bud Schenck, LLCPA  
Betty Fisher, LLCPA  
Mark Carmeron, LLCPA  
Ken Steakley, LLCPA  
Shirley Hastings, LLCPA  
William Head, LLCPA  
Turner Wisehart, LLCPA  
Wes Turner, LLCPA  
M. L. Finnegan, LLCPA  
Carolyn J. Miller, LLCPA  
Tom Paris, LLCPA  
Mary Carol Moore, LLCPA  
Laura Wiegand, LLCPA  
Raymond Towery, LLCPA  
Rosemary Bates, LLCPA  
Bettie Nottingham, LLCPA  
Bernard Dersnah, LLCPA  
Jae Wiegand, LLCPA  
Bill Doster, LLCPA  
Ron Smith, LLCPA  
Sue Sneed, LLCPA  
Marilyn Haight, LLCPA  
Robin Gravitt, LLCPA  
Diana Montgomery, LLCPA  
William Ruppenthal, LLCPA

## 1. Welcome

Mayor Figueras called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone. She introduced the new GDOT members: Tom McQueen and Andrew Heath. She thanked Jason Crane, GDOT, for his support of the GHMPO over the past several years.

## 2. Approval of August 11, 2009 Meeting Minutes

***MOTION:*** Mr. Chapman made a motion to recommend approval of the August 11, 2009, Minutes with a second by Mayor Hirling and passed by a unanimous vote.

## 3. Northern Connector Study

Mr. Yamala explained this technical study was conducted primarily to analyze traffic flow on existing roadways through 2030 based on the location of the connector. The concepts that were presented at the last meeting were not intended to depict routes or particular alignments. To address misunderstandings and misrepresentations regarding the study a Fact Sheet was issued to put the study in its correct context and provide accurate information to the public.

Mr. Yamala presented details of what had been happening with the Northern Connector Study since the Policy Committee (PC) met in August. He explained that the Hall County Board of Commissioners had voted unanimously at the September 24, 2009 to recommend that the Gainesville/Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization's Policy Committee remove all proposed concepts except the original GH-066 project from the current 2030 long range transportation plan and further recommended to use existing right of ways, including state routes, for future studies.

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) made a motion to forward a statement to the PC stating that the CAC has heard the comments of Lake Lanier Community Preservation Association (LLPCA) and agree that the group's viewpoint had merit and need to be considered in the future, but they also need to continue the planning process of looking at alternative routes that may be closer to Gainesville than GH-066 and have less impact.

Ms. Lawson-Davis, representing the LLCPA, was in opposition to the conceptual routes 1A through 2B of the Northern Connector Study. LLCPA feels now is the optimum time to eliminate them from further study at taxpayers expense and she explained the reasons why they object: negative environmental and aesthetic impact on Lake Lanier by the construction new bridges, the loss of the Olympic Rowing Venue, cost to taxpayers and impacts on present neighborhoods and loss of property values.

Mr. Chapman made a motion that they not consider the four concepts 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B as potential routes for the Northern Connector during the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) process; however, project GH-066 would remain an option for discussion as a long range project. The motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Chapman then made a motion that the only official concept plan to be considered would be GH-066. Mayor Hirling seconded the motion. Before the motion went to vote Mayor Scroggs stated he would like to amend the motion that they make a broader study not just for a Northern Connector but a continuation of the study for a another bypass that would benefit Oakwood, Flowery Branch, Gainesville and all of Hall County.

Mayor Figueras stated she would like to separate this into two motions and not consider the southern portion in the first motion. Mr. Knighton interpreted the motion as being the four concepts, 1A, 2A, 1B, 2B, mentioned would not be a part of this, only the GH-066, which is currently on the adopted long range transportation plan, is the only Northern Connector concept that would move forward as part of a larger evaluation for the 2040 MTP.

***MOTION:*** Mr. Chapman made a motion to recommend that the only official concept plan to be considered would be GH-066 with a second by Mayor Scroggs and passed by a 3-2 vote (Mayor Hirling and Mayor Figueras opposed).

Mr. Knighton, offered to meet with the executive committee or representatives of the LLCPA to develop a Northern Connector concept or recommendations that could formally be introduced by the LLCPA through the upcoming MTP. Ms. Lawson-Davis stated they would be honored to serve in this role in an advisory capacity only. The LLCPA agreed there is a need for a Northern Connector.

Mayor Figueras explained that this study was initiated by the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce who would like to be sure that businesses who locate here can expect an adequate degree of mobility on roads in the future.

Mayor Scroggs made a motion that they further study all of Hall County and not include only GH-066 but if another route is better that it be looked at also to tie together the thoroughfares going in and out of Gainesville as this would be something that would benefit all of Hall County. The motion died for lack of a second. Mayor Figueras told Mayor Scroggs she believed they were not getting a second because they believe the MTP will cover what he is asking for.

#### **4. 2010 State Legislative Agenda**

Mr. McDuffie told the PC that the Georgia Transit Association (GTA) has been operating over 15 years and is a group of transit providers, business members and citizens that advocate for better public transportation throughout the state. The need for funding of transit operations remains critical because Georgia is one of nine states that does not partner with local and federal governments to support the operation of public transportation systems. He presented a PowerPoint presentation showing who the providers are and how “taking the bus” benefits the local economy. The GTA is key to helping the state economically; helping to control air pollution, mitigate traffic congestion, etc. A copy of the GTA 2010 State Legislative Agenda was handed out. In February they will have a day at the Capitol where GTA and all their providers will advocate for public transportation. The GTA will host its annual meeting in Athens in December.

#### **5. Update on the Gainesville-Hall Area 2010 Census Complete Count Committee**

Ms. Lewis-Moss, co-chair of the Hall County Complete Count Committee, explained the importance of the 2010 census for the County. She stated for each person not counted, Hall County loses \$13,000 in Federal dollars over the next ten years. A PowerPoint presentation on the U.S Census was shown and what the census means to the County. A successful census count could result in two more congressional seats, more Federal money available for projects and less local dollars required for projects.

#### **6. City of Flowery Branch Transportation Study**

Mr. Riker updated the PC on their Transportation Study grant partially funded by the GHMPO. They have hired a consultant and expect the study to take 3 to 4 months to complete. The study will focus on the downtown area identifying projects and funding sources. The findings will be presented to the PC when the study is completed.

## **7. Hall Area Transit Maintenance Facility Feasibility Study**

Mr. Close gave an overview of the maintenance facility feasibility study for the Hall Area Transit (HAT). The study team toured existing facilities with the City of Gainesville and Hall County to assess present capacity and ability to meet future needs, as well as the potential to share a facility between jurisdictions is being explored as well. The study is expected to take 6 to 7 weeks to complete, and the results will be presented to the GHMPO committees.

## **8. Administrative Modifications and an Amendment to the 2008- 2013 Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Fee explained the administrative modifications and amendments to the 2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Plan. Most of the projects had the network years changed from 2010 to 2015 for air quality modeling or were resurfacing and maintenance projects under phase II of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

***MOTION:*** Mayor Hirling made a motion to accept the Administrative Modifications and an Amendment to the 2008 - 2013 Transportation Improvement Program with a second by Mayor Scroggs and passed by a unanimous vote.

## **9. 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan**

Mr. Yamala explained the development process of the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). He noted that the planning horizon year of the current Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) was 2030 but will be extended to 2040 for the MTP. Federal requirements mandate that regional transportation plans in metropolitan areas with air quality requirements be updated every four years. The GHMPO expects to have a consultant on board by January 2010 and the plan will be adopted by August 2011.

## **10. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports**

Representatives discussed the status of transportation projects being completed by their jurisdictions: Mr. Sparks for the City of Oakwood, Mr. Riker for the City of Flowery Branch, Mr. Taylor for the City of Gainesville, Mr. Woodall for Hall County and Mr. Mahoney for GDOT.

## **9. Upcoming Meeting Date**

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2010. A list of the 2010 GHMPO meeting dates was distributed.

## **11. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the chairman at 11:45 a.m.

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Myrtle Figueras, Chairperson

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Connie Daniels, Secretary