



# *Gainesville - Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization*

## **GHMPO**

Flowery Branch - Gainesville - Hall County - Oakwood

### **POLICY COMMITTEE**

Georgia Mountains Center, Room A  
Minutes of May 12, 2009 Meeting

#### **Voting Members Present:**

Sam Chapman, Hall County  
Myrtle Figueras, City of Gainesville  
Diane Hirling, City of Flowery Branch  
Montie Robinson, City of Oakwood  
Ulysses Mitchell, GDOT

#### **Others Present:**

Randy Knighton, GHMPO  
Srikanth Yamala, GHMPO  
Jeff Carroll, Wilbur Smith Associates  
Janice Crow, Hall Area Transit  
Bill Andrew, City of Flowery Branch  
Stephanie Harmon, GMRDC  
Jeff Gill, The Times  
Larry Sparks, City of Oakwood

#### **Voting Members Absent:**

Jason Crane, GDOT  
Russell McMurray, GDOT  
Jody Woodall, Hall County  
Connie Daniels, Hall County  
Phil Sutton, Hall County  
Phillippa Lewis Moss, Gainesville-Hall CSC  
Dee Taylor, City of Gainesville

#### **1. Welcome**

Mr. Chapman called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

#### **2. Approval of March 10, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Ms. Figueras made a motion to approve the March 10, 2009, Minutes with a second by Ms. Hirling and passed by a unanimous vote.

#### **3. Approve the Draft FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Yamala reported that FHWA requested a draft resolution be included with the draft FY 2010 UPWP. Mr. Yamala directed the attention of the committee to the Major Transportation Studies work element and provided a handout on previous and ongoing studies. Mr. Andrew commented on the letter the City of Flowery Branch had sent to the GHMPO Policy Committee requesting funding assistance to conduct a transportation study and agreed to provide a letter of commitment in terms of the local match to GHMPO as soon as their City Council approves the FY 2010 budget. Mr. Yamala ensured the GHMPO committees will be updated as the study progresses.

**MOTION:** Ms. Figueras made a motion to approve the Draft FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program with a second by Mr. Robinson and passed by a unanimous vote.

#### **4. Northern Connector Study - Data Layers and Ranking**

Mr. Yamala stated this study is in the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan and the MPO received a formal request from the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce asking for this study. He pointed out the need for an east-west corridor based on projected population growth, employment and traffic conditions by 2030.

Mr. Carroll explained the data layers and rankings associated with the study. He presented sample runs of where the connector could run. Different scenarios of the proposed alignments will be presented at the next Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Yamala informed the committee that the second stakeholder meeting for the Northern Connector Study was held on April 21, 2009.

#### **5. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program - Transportation**

Mr. Yamala explained this is a new grant to assist state, local and tribal governments in implementing strategies to reduce fossil fuel emissions, reduce total energy use and improve energy efficiency in the transportation, building and other sectors and to spur economic growth and create/retain jobs. He noted Hall County alone is eligible as a direct grant recipient for \$726,600 dollars and that the grant covers a wide variety of activities. No local funding match is required and the application deadline is June 25, 2009.

#### **6. Administrative Modifications and Amendments to the 2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Yamala presented four administrative modifications and seven amendments to the 2008-2013 TIP. Mr. Yamala stated that GHMPO staff met with Steve Farrow, GDOT Board Member and Russell McMurray, GDOT District Engineer to get an update on both projects and budget issues.

#### **7. Update on the 2009 Georgia Legislative Session**

Mr. Yamala reported that the 1% sales tax for transportation projects had not passed in the General Assembly. Senate Bill 200 did pass creating a GDOT Director of Planning position. The Legislature would choose 20% of all funding projects and nearly all the new projects from a list provided by the Governor. The current Transportation Board would select repair and repaving projects. There are changes being made throughout GDOT and all the details have not been worked out at this time.

#### **8. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports**

Representatives discussed the status of transportation projects being completed by their jurisdictions: Mr. Woodall for Hall County, Mr. Taylor for the City of Gainesville, Mr. Sparks for the City of Oakwood, Ms. Hirling for the City of Flowery Branch, Ms. Lewis Moss for Hall Area Transit and Ms. Harmon for the Georgia Mountain Regional Development Center.

#### **9. Upcoming Meeting Date**

The next Policy Committee meeting will be August 11, 2009.

## **10. Other**

Ms. Lewis Moss invited the Policy Committee members to have their next meeting at the new Hall Area Transit Administration Building located on Main St.

## **11. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

---

Sam Chapman, Chairperson

---

Connie Daniels, Secretary