



Gainesville - Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization

GHMPO

Flowery Branch - Gainesville - Hall County - Oakwood

POLICY COMMITTEE

**Georgia Mountains Center, Room A
Minutes of March 11, 2008 Meeting**

Voting Members Present:

Sam Chapman, Hall County
George Wangeman, City of Gainesville
Monty Robinson, City of Oakwood
Mayor Diane Hirling, City of Flowery
Branch
Cindy Van Dyke, GDOT

Voting Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Adrian Niles, City of Gainesville
Dee Taylor, City of Gainesville
Phillippa Lewis- Moss, City of Gainesville
Shelley Davis, GHCC
Susie Dunn, ARC
Chip Burger, URS
Faye DiMassimo, URS
Larry Sparks, City of Oakwood
Stan Brown, City of Oakwood

Jason Crane, GDOT
Russell McMurray, GDOT
Janice Crow, Hall Area Transit
Connie Daniels, Hall County
Jeff Carroll, Wilbur Smith and Associates
Randy Knighton, GHMPO
Srikanth Yamala, GHMPO
David Fee, GHMPO

1. Welcome

Mr. Chapman called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

2. Approval of November 13, 2007 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Mayor Hirling *made a motion to approve the November 13, 2007 Minutes. The motion was received and seconded by Mr. Robinson and passed by a unanimous vote.*

3. Review of Draft FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Yamala presented the draft FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) describing the organizations planning goals and activities, cost estimates for each activity, funding sources and work schedule for July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. He mentioned that the MPO is considering adding a new staff member.

Mr. Carroll addressed the Northern Connector Study listed under the Major Transportation Studies section in the draft UPWP and outlined what the study would entail. Mr. Yamala

mentioned that staff will be working with federal and state partners to ensure they are in agreement with the outlined activities of the UPWP.

MOTION: Mayor Hirling made a motion to approve the study for the Northern Connector. The motion was received and seconded by Mr. Wangemen and passed by a unanimous vote.

4. Report on Transit Development Plan Study

Mr. Yamala explained the Transit Development Plan (TDP) was initiated in July 2007 to assist Hall Area Transit (HAT) in developing a strategic plan for the next five years. Mr. Burger used a PowerPoint presentation to relay the findings of the study including the maps of proposed routes and the recommendations for each phase in the five year plan.

5. 2008 Georgia Legislative Update on Transportation Funding

Mr. Fee informed the committee of current legislative actions considered by the Georgia General Assembly. Both the House and Senate are considering using a one percent increase in the sales/use tax to finance transportation projects. The House and Senate are divided on how much of the revenues raised should be available for local projects and what percentage would be available for projects in other parts of state. The Senate would allow counties to vote to decide whether they opted for the sales tax or not.

6. Administrative Change to 2008 – 2013 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Fee explained administrative changes for three projects; there is no conformity impact or change in the estimated budget for any of these projects.

7. JURISDICTION AND AGENCY REPORTS

The status of transportation projects being completed in the various jurisdictions was presented: Mr. McMurray for GDOT; Ms. Hirling for the City of Flowery Branch; Mr. Niles for the City of Gainesville; Mr. Knighton for Hall County; Mr. Brown for the City of Oakwood; Ms. Davis for the Chamber of Commerce; Ms. Crow for Hall Area Transit.

8. UPCOMING MEETING DATE

The next Policy Committee meeting will be May 13, 2008.

9. OTHER

The Citizen Advisory Committee had suggested that a letter of congratulations be sent to Mike Evans and letters of thanks written to the legislators that voted for him. Mr. Yamala will draft a letter for signatures by the Policy Committee members.

MOTION: Mr. Wangeman made a motion to approve a letter of congratulations be sent to Mr. Evans and a thank you letter to the legislatures that voted for him with a second by Mayor Hirling and passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. McMurray relayed that GDOT is conducting a statewide project prioritization study and based on the findings, GDOT's construction work program will be updated.

Ms. Dunn noted that Atlanta Regional commission (ARC) will continue to work with the GHMPO staff to coordinate with the next Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update schedule surrounding air quality conformity.

10. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the chairman at 11:00 a.m.

Sam Chapman, Chairperson

Connie Daniels, Secretary