



Gainesville - Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization

GHMPO

Flowery Branch - Gainesville - Hall County - Oakwood

POLICY COMMITTEE Georgia Mountains Center Minutes of November 13, 2007 Meeting

Voting Members Present:

Mayor Diane Hirling, City of Flowery Branch,
Chairperson
Mayor Bob Hamrick, City of Gainesville
Sam Chapman, Hall County
Stan Brown, City of Oakwood
Ulysses Mitchell, GDOT

Voting Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Larry Sparks, City of Oakwood
Janice Crow, Hall Area Transit
Chip Burger, URS
Shelley Davis, GHCC
Jason Crane, GDOT
Russell McMurry, GDOT

Bill Andrew, Flowery Branch
Phillippa Lewis Moss, City of Gainesville
Randy Knighton, GHMPO
Srikanth Yamala, GHMPO
David Fee, GHMPO
Connie Daniels, Hall County

1. Welcome

Mayor Hirling called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

2. Approval of August 14, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Mayor Hirling stated that the time of adjournment for the August 14, 2007 meeting was wrong; it should have been noted as 11:45 a.m.

MOTION: *Mayor Hamrick made a motion to approve the August 14, 2007 Minutes with the time change noted. The motion was received and seconded by Mr. Chapman and passed by a unanimous vote.*

3. Approval of a minor amendment to the 2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Program

Due to the increased attention on development in South Hall, Hall County identified \$1 million dollars to conduct a preliminary engineering study on the Spout Springs Road widening project. As a result, Mr. Yamala mentioned the need to amend the 2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Since this process calls for a minor amendment, a 15-day public comment and review period ran from October 29th through November 12th. There were no comments. Mr. Yamala noted that there is no change in the estimated construction costs and there is no impact on air quality conformity.

MOTION: Mr. Chapman made a motion to approve the amendment to the 2008 - 2013 Transportation Improvement Program with a second by Mayor Hamrick and passed by a unanimous vote.

4. Report on Transit Development Plan Study

Mr. Burger explained that this study is a five year action plan for Hall Area Transit (HAT). He presented a summary of the results on surveys conducted on the public and current HAT riders. Comments were received through community outreach and interviews with stakeholders. Mr. Burger expounded the methods and media coverage used to inform the community about these activities.

5. Update on GDOT's SR 400/365 Corridor Studies

Mr. Crane gave an update on the ongoing SR 400/365 Corridor Studies. He said travel time is expected to increase as safety and traffic congestion remain major concerns in the future. Three scenarios are being considered: a freeway (6 lanes with interchanges), a partial freeway (6 lane freeway but with limited access in rural areas) and "no build" (do nothing). The next step calls for comparing these scenarios against the goals of project and presenting findings to the public in early 2008.

6. Call for projects under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program

Mr. Fee mentioned that GDOT announced a call for applications for CMAQ projects has been extended for FY 2008-2013. This call is primarily for projects which reduce PM 2.5 emissions. Proposed projects should encourage traffic flow or retrofit diesel engines. Projects which include diesel retrofits of publicly-owned fleets as such school buses are strongly urged to apply. This project is 80% federal funded with 20% local match. Applications are due to GDOT by December 21, 2007.

7. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports

Representatives discussed the status of transportation projects being completed in their jurisdictions: Mr. Brown for Oakwood, Mr. Knighton for Hall County, Mayor Hamrick for Gainesville, Mr. Andrew for Flowery Branch, Ms. Lewis-Moss for HAT and Mr. McMurry for GDOT.

8. Upcoming Meeting Date

The next meeting will be March 11, 2008.

9. Other

- a) Mr. Yamala stated GHMPO had received a letter from the EPA recommending a finding of conformity for the GHMPO and ARC nonattainment areas for 8-hour ozone and PM2.5 standards for the 2030 LRTP and 2008–2013 TIP.
- b) Mr. Yamala ensured that everyone had a schedule of the 2008 GHMPO committee meetings.
- c) Mr. Chapman reported there would be a Meet and Greet session at Lanier Tech on November 20th for Ms. Gena Abraham, the new GDOT Commissioner.

- d) Mr. Andrew relayed that Mr. Mike Evans with the Department of Transportation is up for re-election and suggested the Policy Committee endorse his candidacy. Several noted the support Mr. Evans had provided Hall County on transportation projects. Mr. Yamala was requested to draft a letter for review by the Policy Committee members.

MOTION: Mayor Hamrick made a motion to pass a resolution to support Mr. Evans in his re-election bid with a second by Mr. Brown and passed by a unanimous vote.

- e) Mr. Knighton expressed his gratitude for the committee members supporting the Spout Springs project and those who had worked diligently to obtain the funds necessary for the project.

10. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

MOTION: Mr. Chapman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m. with a second by Mr. Hamrick and passed by a unanimous vote.

Mayor Diane Hirling, Chairperson

Connie Daniels, Secretary