

# *Gainesville - Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization*

## **GHMPO**

Braselton - Flowery Branch - Gainesville - Oakwood - Hall County - Jackson County

### **CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, July 28, 2016**

**4:00 PM**

**Hall County Government Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Training Room**

#### **Minutes of July 28, 2016 Meeting**

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

Mayor James Nix, Hall County  
Jim Brown, Hall County  
Renee Gerrell, Hall County  
Brent Hoffman, Hall County  
Wayne Stradley, Hall County  
Ron Petrie, City of Flowery Branch  
Berlinda Lipscomb, City of Gainesville  
Mary Jardine, City of Gainesville  
Connie Propes, City of Gainesville  
Charles Mensinger, City of Oakwood  
Tony Millwood, City of Oakwood

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

Charles Alvarez, Hall County  
Trey Bell, Hall County  
Rob Strickland, Hall County  
Jamie Hitzges, Jackson County  
Ike Swofford, City of Flowery Branch  
Jerry Castleberry, City of Gainesville  
Diane O'Kelley, City of Gainesville  
Terry Turner, Town of Braselton

##### **Others Present:**

Sam Baker, GHMPO  
Srikanth Yamala, GHMPO  
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO  
Andrea Timpone, Citizen  
Chris Caudle, Citizen  
Benjie Hopkins, Citizen  
Marsha Hopkins, Citizen  
Sherry DuBose, Citizen  
Dan White, Citizen  
Laurel Roseberry, Citizen  
16 citizens (did not sign attendance sheet)

Scott Jordan, SEI  
Jennie Agerton, SEI  
Rhonda Brady, City of Gainesville  
Zack Thompson, City of Gainesville  
B J Williams, WDUN  
Wender Bulloch, Citizen  
Patsy Paget, Citizen  
Gary McClung, Citizen  
John Paget, Citizen  
Darlene Long, Citizen  
Connie Daniels, Hall County

#### **1. Welcome**

Ms. Lipscomb called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

## **2. Approval of February 25, 2016 and April 28, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

***MOTION:*** Ms. Gerrell made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2016 and April 28, 2016 meetings, with a second from Ms. Propes, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

## **3. Public Comments**

*Public comments were heard after all other business was completed.*

The following spoke regarding the routing of truck traffic on to Riverside Drive:

- Benjie Hopkins, 1068 Riverside Drive, Gainesville
- Laurel Roseberry, 833 Memorial Drive, Gainesville
- Marcia Hopkins, 1068 Riverside Drive, Gainesville

The following spoke in opposition to the proposed interchange on I-985:

- Darlene Long
- Dan White, 4859 Wildlife Way, Flowery Branch
- Chris Caudle, 4806 Deer Creek Court, Flowery Branch
- Debra Simental, Quailwood, Flowery Branch
- Sherry DuBoise, 4617 Quailwood Drive, Flowery Branch
- Wender Bulloch, 4385, Martin Road, Flowery Branch

## **4. Recommend Approval of the Resolution Amending the Regional Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Baker relayed that GDOT had requested the GHMPO to amend its Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program to program funds for the replacement of the Elachee Drive bridge over I-985. The state and federal governments will provide funding for this, and it will not affect funding of other projects or the financial constraint of the RTP.

Ms. Timpone stated Elachee Nature Center has over 100,000 visitors a year, and they are concerned for the safety of their visitors. They appreciate the GHMPO support on requesting that the bridge plan addresses safety issues for pedestrians and bicyclists by incorporating high railings and fencing in the design.

***MOTION:*** Mr. Hoffman made a motion to recommend approval of the resolution amending the Regional Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program with emphasis on bicycle and pedestrian safety issues being addressed. The motion received a second from Ms. Gerrell and passed by a unanimous vote.

**5. Recommend Approval of the Resolution Requesting Additional PL Funds for a Bike-Share Feasibility Study**

Mr. Baker stated that the GHMPO staff recommends requesting \$75,000 of additional planning funds to conduct a bike-share feasibility study. The study would evaluate specific locations, define the size and phasing of the system, and recommend a business model to follow.

***MOTION:*** *Mr. Brown made a motion to recommend approval of the resolution requesting additional PL funds for a Bike-Share Feasibility Study, with a second by Mr. Nix, and the motion failed by a 4 -7 vote.*

**6. Green Street Corridor Study: Phase 1 Completion Results**

Ms. Agerton provided an overall assessment of their findings on the Green Street Corridor Study. Drainage, condition of pipes, paving, trees, and utilities (electric, sewer, water, gas and telephone), were some of the things they analyzed. Not surprisingly, the study concluded that the street is too narrow, has an aged infrastructure, and has double the truck traffic of most state routes. Phase II of the study will provide alternative analysis for the City officials to determine the next step in the process.

**7. Proposed Rulemaking on Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform**

Mr. Boyd explained that the U.S. Department of Transportation has proposed rules for MPOs that will substantially alter the MPOs' planning area boundaries and coordination among them. The goal of the proposed rules is to result in unified planning products for each urbanized area, even if there are multiple MPOs designated within that urbanized area. This proposal could potentially affect the GHMPO's existence, planning area, planning documents, and extent of coordination with ARC.

The Gainesville urbanized area which is significantly different and unique from the Atlanta urbanized area could be required to merge as a result of the proposed rules. The governor and MPOs, however, can decide not to merge MPOs based on size and complexity. Even if GHMPO is allowed to remain separate, certain planning documents will be required to merge with Atlanta, which would result in loss of local voice and control over our region.

The GHMPO is drafting a formal response and encouraged individuals jurisdictions to submit comments and provide the MPO with their comments and concerns to incorporate in the MPO's response.

**8. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson**

***MOTION:*** *Ms. Propes made a motion to nominate Wayne Stradley as Chairperson. The motion received a second from Ms. Gerrell and passed by a unanimous vote.*

***MOTION:*** *Ms. Propes made a motion to nominate Rene Gerrell as Vice Chairperson. The motion received a second from Mr. Hoffman and passed by a unanimous vote.*

## 9. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports

A list of transportation projects being completed by the jurisdictions of the City of Flowery Branch, the City of Gainesville, GDOT, Hall County, and Jackson County was distributed.

## 10. Upcoming Meeting Date

The next CAC meeting is on October 20, 2016.

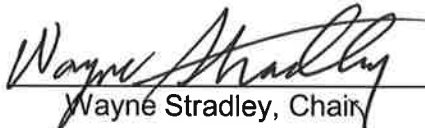
## 11. Other


Notebooks with updated documents are available for CAC members. Please let staff know if you have not received yours.

## 12. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**MOTION:** *Mr. Hoffman made a motion to adjourn at 5:40 p.m. The motion received a second from Mr. Brown and passed by a unanimous vote.*

  
Wayne Stradley, Chair

  
Joseph Boyd, Secretary