



**GHMPO**

# *Gainesville - Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization*

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

## **CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, February 23, 2016**

**4:00 PM**

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

### **Minutes of February 23, 2017 Meeting**

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

Renee Gerrell, Hall County  
Brent Hoffman, Hall County  
Wayne Stradley, Hall County  
Berlinda Lipscomb, City of Gainesville  
Charles Mensinger, City of Oakwood  
Tony Millwood, City of Oakwood  
Trey Bell, Hall County  
Jamie Hitzges, Jackson County

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

Charles Alvarez, Hall County  
Jerry Castleberry, City of Gainesville  
Diane O'Kelley, City of Gainesville  
Terry Turner, Town of Braselton  
Mayor James Nix, Hall County  
Jim Brown, Hall County  
Ron Petrie, City of Flowery Branch  
Mary Jardine, City of Gainesville  
Connie Propes, City of Gainesville

#### **Others Present:**

Sam Baker, GHMPO  
Srikanth Yamala, GHMPO  
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO  
Adam Ivory, CDM Smith  
Wade Carroll, JRW  
Wender Bulloch, Citizen  
Gary McClung, Citizen  
Darlene Long, Citizen

Phillippa Lewis Moss, HAT  
Anne Chenault, Citizen  
Deborah Simental, Citizen  
Jan McCord, Citizen  
Dawn Roslon, Citizen  
Pam Wysocki, Citizen  
Bob League, Citizen

### **1. Welcome**

Mr. Stradley called the meeting to order, and introductions were made.

### **2. Approval of July 28, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

***MOTION:*** Ms. Gerrell made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2017 meeting, with a second from Mr. Hoffman, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

### **3. Recommend Approval of the Resolution Adopting Amendment #6 to the Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Baker relayed that GDOT had requested the GHMPO to amend its 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program to change the project description and limits of the Spout Springs Road widening project from I-985 to Union Circle. Additional funds for right-of-way acquisition in 2017 are as follows:

- Increase federal funds from \$10,187,597 to \$12,135,200
- Increase state funds from \$2,546,899 to \$3,033,800
- Allocate \$310,000 of other funds
- Increase total right-of-way acquisition funds from \$12,734,496 to \$15,479,000

Mr. Baker also discussed the widening of Lanier Islands Parkway which will install a center-turn lane along SR 347/Lanier Islands Parkway from McEver Road to Lake Lanier Islands. The allocated additional funds are as follows:

- Federal funds of \$279,479.79
- Other funds of \$69,869.95
- Total funds of \$349,349.74

***MOTION:*** Ms. Lipscomb made a motion to accept the recommendation to approve the resolution adopting Amendment #6, with a second from Mr. Hoffman, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

### **4. Review of Draft FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Baker stated that the GHMPO staff had developed a draft FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and highlighted the stated FAST Act Planning Factors as well as GHMPO's Planning Priorities. The draft UPWP has been submitted to the Georgia Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal Transit Administration for review and comment. In addition, GHMPO staff is meeting with all the local jurisdictions within the GHMPO region to discuss their transportation needs and possibly incorporate additional activities to the draft UPWP. He stated that if anyone had any comments and suggestions regarding the draft document to contact the GHMPO staff. The UPWP draft will be voted on for adoption at the spring 2017 MPO committee meetings.

### **5. Recommend Approval of the Resolution Adopting the Hall Area Transit Development Plan Update**

Mr. Baker introduced Wade Carroll from J.R. Wilburn and Associates, Inc. whom was contracted to update the Hall Area Transit Development Plan in fall 2016. Mr. Carroll gave a presentation that highlighted the key findings of the study, including:

- Background information, outreach activities, peer reviews, etc.
- Current service characteristics

- Potential service options
- Four year fixed route service recommendations:
  - o Year 1 – Extend evening hours
  - o Year 2 – Increase peak hour headways
  - o Year 3 – Extend Routes 10 and 60 and add new route along SR 60
  - o Year 4 – Begin Saturday service (1-hour headways)
- Commuter service recommendations:
  - o Coordinate with Georgia Commute Options

Mr. Hoffman asked for clarification on cost of system for the next five years. Mr. Stradley asked for clarification regarding electronic fare boxes. Mr. Millwood asked if the HAT maps that had every stop identified were available.

***MOTION:*** Ms. Lipscomb made a motion to accept the recommendation to approve the adoption of the Hall Area Transit Plan Update, with a second from Mr. Hoffman, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

## **6. Gainesville-Hall Regional Freight Study Update**

Mr. Baker introduced Adam Ivory from CDM Smith whom was contracted to conduct the Gainesville-Hall Regional Freight Study. Mr. Ivory gave a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Background information relating GHMPO's Freight Plan to the State of Georgia and National Freight Plans
- Mr. Ivory then spoke in detail regarding the multiple tasks that make up the Freight Plan, including:
  - o Task 1: Project Management and Stakeholder Engagement Plan
  - o Task 2: Regional Freight Mobility Plan Goals and Objectives
  - o Task 3: Freight Performance Measures Development
  - o Task 4: Assessment of Freight Trends, Opportunities and Needs
  - o Task 5: Identification of Corridors Connecting Exit 14 on I-985 and SR 53/Winder Highway
    - Discussion of the Martin Road Stakeholder Committee meetings and the exploration of alternatives to the widening of Martin Road project that are being considered currently

Mr. Stradley commented that better vetting needed to occur on any future Martin Road alternative proposals. Ms. Gerrell asked for clarification regarding how the timing for the funding of Exit 14 became disconnected with the timing of the funding for Martin Road and Atlanta Highway projects. Mr. Yamala responded that the funding, though initially tied together with the new Exit, got disconnected from time to time due to lack of funds or other projects being shuffled on the priority list. Spout Springs Road widening being split into two phases was mentioned in reference.

*Public Comments:* Mr. McClung asked for and received clarification regarding what would be occurring at the Martin Road Stakeholder Committee Work Session and the third meeting. He also asked for clarification regarding the fiscal restraints of the Freight Study. Ms. McCord asked whether or not Martin Road Alternatives would have a rough dollar amount attached to them at future meetings, to which Mr. Yamala replied that they would.

## **7. Recommend Approval of an Amendment to the Citizens Advisory Committee Bylaws**

Mr. Stradley presented proposed amendments to the CAC bylaws. After discussion, it was decided that the amendment would no longer require new appointees to the CAC to get approval from the Policy Committee.

***MOTION:*** *Mr. Hoffman made a motion to accept the recommendation to amend the bylaws and a second was given from Mr. Millwood. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

## **8. GHMPO Sidewalk Inventory Report**

Mr. Boyd presented the final draft of the GHMPO Sidewalk Inventory Report. This report was created by the GHMPO staff and is intended for in-house planning purposes and reference only. The purpose of the report is for quick reference regarding pedestrian infrastructure location for any project moving forward as well as identifying gaps in the pedestrian infrastructure network that could be addressed in the future. Mr. Boyd stated that the report had been sent out to all local jurisdictions for comments. Any comments or requested changes moving forward should be sent to Mr. Boyd and would be appreciated.

## **9. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports**

A list of transportation projects being completed by the City of Gainesville, City of Oakwood, Georgia Department of Transportation, and Hall County was distributed.

## **10. Public Comments**

Mr. Hoffman addressed the citizens present and thanked them for their efforts and for making their voices heard.

Mr. Bulloch read a letter about his opposition to the widening of Martin Road and expressed his hopes that safety be the main objection moving forward on the Freight Study. He then highlighted a letter submitted to the CAC by the Martin Road Stakeholder Committee asking for the following:

- Martin Road project (GH-024) officially be removed from the Transportation Improvement Plan and the Regional Transportation Plan
- Martin Road officially be removed from the Hall County Code of Ordinances as a designated "Gateway Corridor"

- Move SR13/Atlanta Hwy Widening project (GH-033, PI#0001822 from Radford Rd to Hwy 53) to the Short Range projects list within the TIP

Ms. Simental stated that communication regarding projects needs to be improved with the citizens that reside near projects. Mr. Stradley stated that the use of either water bill notifications or post cards need to be explored for better communicating projects to the public.

#### **11. U.S. Department of Transportation Final Rule on Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform**

Mr. Baker gave an update on the Final Rule issued by the United States Department of Transportation regarding Metropolitan Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform. In December 2016, USDOT finalized the rule, stating that within a single urbanized area, only one MPO may exist. If multiple currently exist, they must merge and create a single MPO with single planning documents. An exception may be granted if all MPOs involved as well as the State Governor appeal to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation that it is in the best interest of the region for multiple MPOs to exist. This rule will not be implemented until after the 2020 U.S. Census. Once the Census data has been made public, all MPOs will have two years to come into compliance or successfully appeal the final rule.

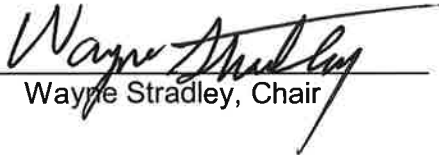
#### **12. Upcoming Meeting Date**

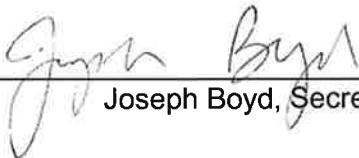
The next CAC meeting will be on April 27, 2017.

#### **13. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**MOTION:** Ms. Lipscomb made a motion to adjourn, with a second from Mr. Hitzges. The motion passed by a unanimous vote, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

  
Wayne Stradley, Chair

  
Joseph Boyd, Secretary

