



Gainesville - Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization

GHMPO

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

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Hall County Government Center, HR Training Room
Minutes of January 31, 2019 Meeting**

Voting Members Present:

Renee Gerrell, Hall County, Chairperson
Ken Stanley, Hall County, Vice-Chairperson
Brent Hoffman, Hall County
Joe Kennedy, Hall County
Patrick O'Rourke, Hall County
Heather Taylor, Hall County
Berlinda Lipscomb, City of Gainesville
Beverly Nordholz, City of Gainesville
Connie Propes, City of Gainesville
Sammy Smith, City of Gainesville
Tony Millwood, City of Oakwood
Tabitha Gooch, Jackson County
Trey Bell, Hall County
Pat Jones, City of Oakwood
Ed Edwards, City of Flowery Branch

Others Present:

Srikanth Yamala, GHMPO
Sam Baker, GHMPO
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO
Emily Foote, Hall County
Bill Andrew, City of Flowery Branch
Megan Reed, The Gainesville Times
Coleen Pecha, Citizen
Rose Marie Fagan, Citizen
Sue Barcus, Citizen
Oliver McClellan, Citizen
Jonnene Marie Jones, Citizen
Lynn Agnes, Citizen
Joe Dorris, Citizen
Matt & Donna Horton, Citizen
Vasile Munteanu, Citizen
Cheri Bouchier, Citizen
Mark Bouchier, Citizen
Steve Hanson, Citizen
Jim & Merce Bolling, Citizens

Voting Members Absent:

Beth Weikel, Hall County
Jennifer Kidd-Harrison, Town of
Braselton
Mary Jardine, City of Gainesville
David Jones, City of Flowery Branch

Marjorie Cooper, Citizen
Joseph Courtenay, Citizen
Ron Woehner, Citizen
Jo Woehner, Citizen
Sharon Kittrell, Citizen
Barbara Brucelle, Citizen
H.Herrington, Citizen
Sandra Baummer, Citizen
G. Eichenbaum, Citizen
Tony Herdener, Citizen
Jason Everek, Citizen
Brian Whalen, Citizen
Dave Jaeger, Citizen
Grasie Heinen, Citizen
Arthur W. Cooper, Citizen
James D. Edwards, Citizen
Frank & Kathy Blau, Citizens
Philip Bonelli, Citizen
Mickey Dutton, Citizen
Clyde Morris, Citizen

1. Welcome

Ms. Gerrell called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

2. Approval of October 25, 2018 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2018 meeting, with a second from Mr. Hoffman, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Gerrell moved items #8 and #10 up in the meeting agenda.

8. Recommend Approval of the Resolutions Adopting the South Hall Trail Study Report

Mr. Boyd presented the South Hall Trail Study report and its recommendations for alignment to connect existing trails in southern Hall County. Ms. Gerrell asked what the timeline would be to build the proposed Bragg Road section. Mr. Boyd answered that Bragg Road is listed as tier two, which has a 5-9 year projected build date. A public discussion ensued. The following citizens spoke in opposition to the proposed Bragg Road and Capitola Road trail: Merce Bolling, Oliver McClellan, Marie Jones, Marjorie Cooper, Lynn Agnes, and Sue Barcus. The following citizens spoke in opposition to the proposed trailhead on Blackjack Road: Mickey Dutton, Matt Horton, and Steve Barker. The following citizens spoke in favor of the South Hall Trail Study: Brian Whalen and Philip Bonelli. Mr. Andrew, City of Flowery Branch City Manager, addressed public comment regarding the status of Sterling on the Lake as a public vs. private subdivision. Mr. Andrew stated that the City of Flowery Branch preserved the public right-of-way along Bragg Road when it was closed for a future trail system. Mr. Andrew stated that the City of Flowery Branch supports the proposed trail along Bragg Road.

Motion: Mr. Smith made a motion to recommend approval to open discussion, with a second from Ms. Lipscomb.

Mr. Bell stated that the trail should be a benefit to the property owners and expressed concern over the trailhead on Blackjack Road. Mr. Stanley proposed that the Committee table this item. Mr. Millwood expressed concern that Bragg Road was not for sale when the study was conducted. Mr. Smith asked why Bragg Road is listed as a second tier project. Mr. Smith asked if an alternative route can be found that would preserve the ultimate goal of connectivity between trail systems. Mr. Kennedy asked if there can be a new alternate route for Bragg Road without having to conduct another study. Mr. Baker answered that the study has already been completed, and the Policy Committee is set to vote on the study in two weeks. Mr. Baker asked the public who were in opposition if they have an alternate route in mind that would be acceptable to them if Bragg Road is not pursued. Ms. Barcus answered that Hog Mountain Road would be an acceptable alternative. Ms. Gerrell asked if the consultants looked at alternative routes. Mr. Boyd answered that other alternatives were considered, and Bragg Road was chosen as the preferred alignment by the City of Flowery Branch. Ms. Taylor expressed concern that the Policy Committee would vote on this item regardless of this Committee tabling it. Mr. Boyd informed that the Committee can recommend that the Policy Committee also table this item at its meeting.

If you have a disability or impairment and need special assistance, please contact GHMPO prior to the meeting at 770-297-2625.

MOTION: Mr. Stanley made a motion to table the item until the April 25, 2019 meeting and request that the Policy Committee also table this agenda item regarding adoption of the South Hall Trail Study, with a second from Mr. Smith, and the motion passed. Mr. Hoffman opposed.

10. Dawsonville Highway-McEver Road Connectivity Study Results & Recommendations

Mr. Cote, consultant with RS&H contracted to conduct the study, presented the results of the study, the various alternatives considered to alleviate traffic congestion at the Dawsonville Highway-McEver Road intersection and in its vicinity, and the study's recommendations. Clyde Morris requested that the data and methodology be made public. Mr. Cote stated that the study has been finalized, and the information has been provided to the City of Gainesville to be made public. Mr. Baker stated that the GHMPO will post the study on its website when completed.

3. Recommend Approval of the Resolution Supporting the 2019 State Targets for Safety Performance Management

Mr. Baker stated that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has established new state performance targets for safety performance management. The Gainesville-Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization (GHMPO) is now presented with the option to either adopt the same state targets for our MPO region or set our own performance targets, and do so by executing a resolution by February 27, 2019, per requirement from the Federal Highway Administration.

MOTION: Mr. Hoffman made a motion to recommend approval of the resolution supporting the 2019 state targets for safety performance management, with a second from Mr. Millwood, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

4. Recommend Approval of the Resolution Supporting the 2019-2022 State Performance Targets for Transit Asset Management

Mr. Baker stated that the Georgia Department of Transportation has established state performance targets for transit asset management (TAM) for the small urban areas' transit providers. GHMPO has incorporated such TAM targets into its planning documents. He suggested that the Committee recommend approval of a resolution adopting the state TAM performance targets for the GHMPO region.

MOTION: Mr. Hoffman made a motion to recommend approval of the resolution supporting the 2019-2022 state performance targets for transit asset management, with a second from Ms. Jones, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

5. Recommend Approval of an Amendment to the FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Boyd stated that the Unified Planning Work Program for the current fiscal year is being amended to show that additional federal funds have been received and added to GHMPO's budget to undertake the update of the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan. In addition, GHMPO would conduct a Sign and Speed Study, in coordination with the City of Flowery Branch, and would share the study cost from its current fiscal year budget.

MOTION: Mr. Stanley made a motion to recommend approval of the amendment to the FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program, with a second from Ms. Jones, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

6. Review the First Draft of the FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Baker presented the first draft of the FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for review and comment. In FY 2020, GHMPO would complete a federally-required update of the regional transportation plan, develop a new 2021-2024 transportation improvement program, and update GHMPO's website following a rebranding initiative. This UPWP has been sent to the Georgia Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal Transit Administration for review and comment. It would go through a 30-day public comment period and be presented again at the next round of MPO committee meetings before it is scheduled to be adopted in May 2019.

Mr. Hoffman inquired about the North Hall Parkway Study requested previously by the Committee. Mr. Yamala stated that the study would be a Hall County project, and the County has stated that it does not have the required local match for funding. Mr. Hoffman suggested sending a letter to the Hall County Board of Commissioners, GHMPO Policy Committee, and the City of Gainesville requesting funding on behalf of the Citizens Advisory Committee.

MOTION: Mr. Hoffman made a motion to send a letter to the Hall County Board of Commissioners, GHMPO Policy Committee, and the City of Gainesville requesting funding for a North Hall Parkway study, with a second from Mr. Kennedy, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

7. Recommend Approval of the Resolutions Adopting the Gainesville Trail Study Report

Mr. Boyd presented the Gainesville Trail Study report and its recommendations for alignment to connect existing trails in Gainesville.

Motion: Mr. Bell made a motion to recommend approval of the Gainesville Trail Study, with a second from Mr. Stanley, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

9. Recommend Approval of the Resolution Requesting PL Funds for the State Route 365/Jesse Jewell Parkway Traffic Impact Study

Mr. Boyd, on behalf of the City of Gainesville, proposed conducting a study to assess the future impacts of the new campus for Lanier Technical College, the future development of a 104-acre inland port to be constructed in northern Hall County along State Route 365 as well as various other developments in the area. The proposed study would recommend what transportation infrastructure improvements need to be made to mitigate the impacts of these new developments. Mr. Boyd added that GHMPO has the opportunity to submit an application to GDOT requesting federal transportation planning funds for such a study in March. To submit an application, a resolution from our Policy Committee along with commitment to provide 20% local cash match is required. The City of Gainesville has indicated that it has the necessary funds and will provide the required local match.

MOTION: Ms. Propes made a motion to recommend approval of the resolution requesting PL funds for the State Route 365/Jesse Jewell Parkway Traffic Impact Study, with a second from Mr. Bell, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

11. Review & Selection of a Potential New Logo for the Gainesville-Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization

Mr. Yamala discussed the background of the rebranding initiative for GHMPO and presented the result of a recent poll sent to the CAC members to rank their preference among three potential new logos. He stated that this poll result would be shared with the Policy Committee who would make the final decision on the new logo at its February 12, 2019 meeting.

12. Jurisdiction & Agency Reports

A report summarizing the jurisdiction and agency reports presented to the Technical Coordinating Committee on January 16, 2019 was provided to the Citizens Advisory Committee.

13. Upcoming Meeting Date: April 25, 2019

14. Public Comments

There were no additional public comments.

15. Other

Mr. Bell suggested that the GHMPO staff remove the banner image of the Sterling on the Lake subdivision from the home page of the GHMPO website. The staff agreed to do so.

16. Adjourn

MOTION: Mr. Bell made a motion to conclude the meeting at 6:10 PM, with a second from Mr. Hoffman, and the meeting was concluded.



Renee Gerrell, Chair



Emily Foote, Secretary