

**GAINESVILLE-HALL METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CONFERENCE ROOM
DECEMBER 14, 2004**

**POLICY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Voting Members Present: Cindy VanDyke, Gary Gibbs, Montie Robinson, George Wangemann, Bryan Puckette

Non-voting Members present: Russell McMurry, Bill Meyer, Phillipa Lewis Moss, Kip Padgett, Hugh Tyner

Voting Members Absent:

Non-voting Members Absent: Tony Dittmeier, Andy Edwards, Steve Kish

Staff Present: John McHenry, Livvy Cotton

Others Present: Verdell Hawkins, Bryan Shuler, Stan Brown

CALL TO ORDER George Wangemann

1. WELCOME

In the absence of Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Wangemann called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and thanked everyone for coming. Mr. Wangemann noted that Mr. Gibbs was en route and would take over the meeting upon his arrival

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 18, 2004

Mrs. Moss noted that she was shown both as being present and as being absent. She was present at the October 18 meeting and asked that the Minutes be corrected.

Mr. Robinson noted that under "Motion" for Items 2, 3 and 7 he was shown as Lamar Scroggs and asked that corrections be made.

MOTION: **Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the Minutes of October 18, 2004, as presented, subject to the above-noted corrections. The motion received a second from Ms. VanDyke and passed by unanimous vote.**

3. APPROVAL OF GHMPO 2030 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mr. McHenry gave an overview of the Long Range Transportation Plan, explaining that it deals with growth over the next 25 years. During the second public hearing approximately 50 people were in attendance. Regarding air quality, plans are to coordinate with the Atlanta Regional Commission. The TCC recommends approval of this document. The CAC is also recommending approval, with a recommendation for further study of Projects 23, 24 and 41.

At this point in the meeting Mr. Wangemann advised this body would entertain comments from the public present today:

Mr. Jerry Castleberry read from a newspaper article he authored in 1985 (a copy of which is on record) regarding the city's shrinking African-American community. He then spoke in opposition to the widening of Myrtle Street, stating this is a residential street. If the city needs an east/west corridor, then they need to take on Pearl Nix Parkway or the railroad. Ms. Faye Bush spoke in opposition to the Myrtle Street portion of the plan, stating she agreed with Mr. Castleberry's comments. She further commented she has been fighting this for over 30 years. Ms. Marianne Scott advised she would like to support the city's efforts to create a pedestrian-friendly city and to teach our children in our schools the value of walking, bike riding, etc. Ms. Brenda Coursey advised she would like to echo what others have said. Her group has been fighting the loop for years now. The City of Gainesville needs to start working on an outer loop and not destroy residential communities. Mr. Bryan Shuler indicated he was not present representing the Gainesville City Council, but they have discussed this document at large. The city is very supportive of the comments made regarding that portion of the roadway between E. E. Butler Parkway and Downey Boulevard (or Jesse Jewell Parkway) and they would like to see that portion of the road deleted from the plan. He further commented a road does not necessarily have to be widened to increase its capacity. In some cases road widening can do damage to the community. Improvements to major intersections can, in some cases, do the same thing without great detriment to the community. A discussion followed which resulted in the following motion:

MOTION: Mr. Wangemann made a motion to approve the Long Range Transportation Plan, subject to the deletion of that portion relating to the widening of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard from E. E. Butler Parkway to Downey Boulevard. The motion received a second from Mr. Robinson and passed by unanimous vote.

4. APPROVAL OF GHMPO 2005-2007 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. McHenry gave a brief overview and advised the TCC has recommended approval of this document. The CAC recommends this body give strong consideration to the possibility of prioritizing the Dawsonville Highway and Winder Highway projects.

It is hoped that some Federal funding from projects that fail to be let can be used to move these project forward; hopefully around 2006. Ms. VanDyke commented the DOT is required to balance funds by congressional districts, which is State law. They are aware of this situation and know of certain projects that may not make the 2005-2006 deadline. They will try to encourage some of this money be let for these two projects. Mr. Gibbs commented Hall County is hoping for additional funds from the legislature that will also help on funding these projects.

MOTION: Mr. Wangemann made a motion to adopt the GHMPO 2005-2007 Transportation Improvement Program document and to strive to acquire funds to enable moving up the Dawsonville Highway and Winder Highway improvements through monies that may become available. The motion received a second from Mr. Puckett and passed by unanimous vote.

5. GHMPO BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN

Mr. McHenry advised the county is currently looking to hire a consultant to complete a comprehensive bicycle/pedestrian plan and hopes to have concurrence from the community to begin during the New Year.

MOTION: Mr. Gibbs made a motion to approve with a second by Ms. VanDyke. The vote was unanimous in favor of approval.

6. DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL STUDIES

Mr. McHenry gave a brief overview and noted one possibility would be to look at the new interchange of I-985 and Martin Road, with specific regard to impact on the various jurisdictions. Mr. McHenry stated that the Martin Luther King, Jr. corridor should be revisited, to include streetscaping projects as an alternative to widening.

Mr. Padgett commented the TCC recommends the South Enota corridor be studied with regard to hospital expansion.

7. UPCOMING MEETING DATE

Mr. Gibbs advised a schedule of meeting dates is included in the packets and the next scheduled meeting date will be **March 8, 2005**.

8. OTHER

Mr. Tyner recommended this body support the legislative group regarding getting the distribution of transportation funds by congressional district returned to the way it used to be. Mr. Gibbs encouraged everyone to write a letter to their legislative delegation. A discussion followed and the consensus was that a letter should be generated from this body in support of revising the distribution of funds to its former method and to have a signature line for all members.

Mr. McHenry thanked all present for their participation in the initial year of the GHMPO.

Mr. Gibbs apologized for his delay in arrival and asked the members present to stay tuned to the community and to make the right decisions and choices.

9. ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss; a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Wangemann at 11:10 a.m. with a second by Ms. VanDyke. The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Gibbs, Chairman

Grace Grindle, Sr. Secretary