POLICY COMMITTEE

Georgia Mountains Center
Minutes of March 12, 2007 Meeting

Voting Members Present:
Diane Hirling, City of Flowery Branch, Chairperson
Danny Dunagan, City of Gainesville
Sam Chapman, Hall County
Lamar Scroggs, City of Oakwood
Ulysses Mitchell, GDOT

Voting Members Absent:
None

Others Present:
Bill Andrew, City of Flowery Branch
Tim Merritt, City of Gainesville
Kip Padgett, City of Gainesville
Phillipa Lewis-Moss, City of Gainesville
Doug Derrer, Hall County
Jody Woodall, Hall County
Randy Knighton, Hall County
Connie Daniels, Hall County
Russell McMurry, GDOT
Teri Pope, GDOT
Billy Cantrell, GDOT
Jason Crane, GDOT
Janice Crow, Hall Area Transit
Jeff Carroll, Wilbur Smith Associates
John McHenry, GHMPO
Srikanth Yamala, GHMPO

1. WELCOME

Ms. Hirling opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and having everyone introduce themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 14, 2006 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: *Mr. Scroggs made a motion to approve the November 14, 2006 Minutes. The motion was received and seconded by Mr. Mitchell and passed by a unanimous vote.*

3. BROWNS BRIDGE PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. McMurry, GDOT, presented the basic concept for this project; a 4-lane road, bike lane, curb and gutter with 48" depressed grass median. He stated there may be a need for 6-lanes in the future, but noted there is no where to receive the 6-lanes right now. There will be a public information open house on March 27, 2007 at Chattahoochee Elementary School in Forsyth County and March 29, 2007 at McEver Elementary School, both from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

4. APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO THE GHMPO BIKE PED PLAN

Mr. McHenry stated they would like to recommend a multi-use trail with separation of road way and trail if there is to be 6-lanes in the future.

MOTION: *Mr. Scroggs made a motion to approve the GHMPO Bike Ped Plan, with a second by Mr. Dunagan and passed by a unanimous vote.*

5. REVIEW OF DRAFT PARTICIPATION PLAN

Mr. Yamala reviewed the highlights of the Participation Plan and asked that the committee review the document and forward any comments to him. This plan will be presented for 45-day public comment period and will be brought back before the Policy Committee to recommend adoption.

6. REVIEW OF DRAFT PROJECT LIST FOR 2030 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Mr. McHenry went over the revised schedule, new federal requirements, financial plan and development of the draft project list and dates they must be completed. There was a development meeting March 1 where the draft projects were divided in to four tiers. Mr. Carrol expounded on the tiers and estimated project costs.

7. FISCAL CONSTRAINT AND ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Mr. McMurry presented a PowerPoint presentation "Where We Are with Transportation Funding." This information was pertinent to all jurisdictions. Mr. McHenry noted that Mr. Presley with the Council for Quality Growth had spoke at the TCC Meeting regarding Bill 434 and Bill 509. Mr. McHenry will provide copies of the Bills to the Policy Committee for review and consideration.

8. RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE RFP FOR TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Ms. Crow with Hall Area Transit stated they want to make good use of their dollars, so they are creating a five year plan that will assess community interest in and support for specific transit services county wide.

MOTION: *Mr. Dunagan made a motion to approve the RFP for a Transit Development Plan with a second by Mr. Mitchell and passed by a unanimous vote.*

9. REVIEW OF DRAFT FY 08 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Mr. Yamala presented the draft FY2008 Unified Planning Work Program describing the organizations planning goals and activities, cost estimates for each activity, funding sources and work schedule for July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. He stated they are proposing to add an additional staff member to the MPO. The draft document will be presented to the committee for adoption at their next meeting.

10. JURISDICTION AND AGENCY REPORTS

Representatives discussed the status of transportation projects being completed in their jurisdictions: Mr. Andrews for Flowery Branch, Mr. Brown for Oakwood, Mr. Padgett for Gainesville; Mr. Woodall for Hall County; Ms. Crow for Hall Area Transit.

11. UPCOMING MEETING DATE - May 8, 2007 at the Georgia Mountains Center.

12. OTHER

Mr. McHenry relayed that this would be his last meeting, he has accepted a job with the Gwinnett Village Community Improvement District.

13. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the chairman at 11:33 a.m.

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Diane Hirling, Chairperson

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Connie Daniels, Secretary