



Gainesville - Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization

GHMPO

Flowery Branch - Gainesville - Hall County - Oakwood

POLICY COMMITTEE

Hall County Government Center, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Minutes of March 11, 2014 Meeting

Voting Members Present:

Mayor Danny Dunagan, City of Gainesville
Chairman Richard Mecum, Hall County
Mayor Lamar Scroggs, City of Oakwood
Fred Richards, City of Flowery Branch
Matthew Fowler, GDOT

Voting Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Randy Knighton, Hall County
Jody Woodall, Hall County
Bob Hamrick, City of Gainesville
Kip Padgett, City of Gainesville
David Dockery, City of Gainesville
Stan Aiken, City of Gainesville
Bill Andrew, City of Flowery Branch
Stan Brown, City of Oakwood
Mayor James Nix, Town of Clermont
Dennis Bergin, City of Lula
Phillippa Lewis Moss, Gainesville – Hall
County Community Service Center

Richard Fangmann, Pond & Company
Jeff Gill, The Times
Brent Cook, GDOT
Justin Lott, GDOT
Julia Billings, GDOT
Kaycee Mertz, GDOT
Adam Ivory, CDM Smith
Adam Hazell, GMRC
Srikanth Yamala, GHMPO
Sam Baker, GHMPO
David Fee, GHMPO
Connie Daniels, Hall County

1. Welcome

Mayor Dunagan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Approval of November 6, 2013 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Mayor Scroggs made a motion to approve the November 6, 2013, minutes with a second from Chairman Mecum, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

3. GHMPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Update

Mr. Fangmann presented the recommendations for revisions to the GHMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. This is a partial update, not a plan revision, which focused on expanding the multi-use trail network. Recommendations would be considered for inclusion in the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

MOTION: Mayor Scroggs made a motion to accept the recommendations for the bicycle and pedestrian plan update. The motion received a second from Chairman Mecum and passed by a unanimous vote.

MOTION: Mayor Scroggs made a motion for the MPO to advise GDOT that the current US 129 project and any future Hall County road improvements should include a bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The motion received a second from Chairman Mecum and passed by a unanimous vote.

4. 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Baker explained federal requirements mandate that regional transportation plans be updated every four years. The MPO staff and selection committee members have interviewed consultants to assist with the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and recommended Pond & Company to the Hall County Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Brown explained that it was the Policy Committee that was the designated body to decide and approve which consultant would be chosen for the transportation plan update as the recipient of federal funds for this project.

In response to a question from Mr. Yamala, Mr. Fowler suggested that the MPO follow whatever selection process it advertised in its bid solicitation.

Mr. Andrew cited the Brooks Act, which prohibits cost being a consideration in projects using federal funds for a consultant and mandated that such selection be on the basis qualification only.

MOTION: Mayor Scroggs made a motion to recommend the Hall County Board of Commissioners select Pond & Company as the consultant for the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update. The motion received a second from Mr. Richards and passed by a unanimous vote.

5. Approval of GHMPO Planning Area Expansion

Mayor Dunagan requested clarification on how federal transportation planning funds are allocated to non-urbanized areas. Mr. Yamala explained that areas with 50,000 people or more are considered urbanized areas. Federal planning funds are given to the metropolitan planning organizations designated for such urbanized areas. For the non-urbanized areas, the planning funds are given to the state department of transportation to plan projects in non-urbanized areas.

Mr. Yamala further explained the basis of how members are selected for the GHMPO Policy Committee. The voting membership includes the majority of local governments within the Gainesville urbanized area, which includes the cities of Gainesville, Oakwood, Flowery Branch, unincorporated Hall County, and parts of Buford and Braselton.

Mr. Yamala then presented a map depicting the proposed new boundaries for GHMPO. The change is a result of the Gainesville urbanized areas expanding into Forsyth, Jackson, and Gwinnett Counties as determined by the latest census. The proposed expansion would include the western portion of Jackson County, which includes the Atlanta Urbanized Area.

Approval of this would result in the MPO having one new voting member, likely from the Town of Braselton, on the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), and the Policy Committee (PC).

Chairman Mecum inquired who the members are on the TCC, CAC and the PC, specifically, whether the mayors of Gillsville, Lula, or Clermont are on any of the MPO committees. Mr. Yamala explained the makeup of the committees and that North Hall County is represented by several staff on the TCC and with voting members on the CAC. Mayor Nix of Clermont is the current CAC chair. In addition, Chairman Mecum represents the entire County, including North Hall, on the PC.

Mr. Bergin asked whether the MPO receives transportation construction funds for projects in Gillsville, Lula, and Clermont. Mr. Yamala answered that the MPO does not; Mr. Fowler added that GDOT invests in projects both inside and outside the MPO boundary based on need, regardless of jurisdiction.

Mr. Bergin further inquired whether the MPO committee by-laws were being amended at this meeting. It was clarified that any amendments to the by-laws would be considered and acted upon at a future meeting.

MOTION: Mayor Scroggs made a motion to approve the GHMPO Planning Area Boundary Expansion with a second by Chairman Mecum, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

6. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports

Representatives discussed the status of transportation projects being completed in their jurisdictions: Mr. Andrews for the City of Flowery Branch, Mayor Dunagan and Mr. Dockery for the City of Gainesville, Mr. Brown for the City of Oakwood, Mr. Cook for GDOT, Mr. Hazell for GMRC, Mrs. Lewis Moss for Hall Area Transit and Mr. Woodall for Hall County.

MOTION: Mayor Scroggs made a motion for the MPO to recommend to GDOT that right-of-way acquisition be acquired for the property located at the corner of Jesse Jewell Parkway and Queen City with a second by Chairman Mecum, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

7. Upcoming Meeting Date

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2014 and will be hosted by the City of Gainesville.

8. Other

Mr. Baker provided information on the GDOT Quick Fix Program. Under this program, any local government may request quick-fix operational improvements to GDOT on state routes only that cost \$1 million or less and can be completed in 12 to 18 months. Requests should be made to the GDOT District 1 office.

The committee discussed rotating the location of the Policy Committee meetings among the jurisdictions. Mayor Dunagan offered to host the next Policy Committee meeting on May 13, 2014, in the City of Gainesville.

MOTION: Mayor Scroggs made a motion to rotate the Policy Committee meeting locations among the jurisdictions with a second by Mr. Richards and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

9. Adjourn

Chairman Dunagan adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.



Danny Dunagan, Chairman



Connie Daniels, Secretary