



**GHMPO**

# *Gainesville - Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization*

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

## **POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Public Safety Complex (Gainesville Justice Center), Municipal Courtroom  
701 Queen City Parkway SW, Gainesville, Georgia  
Minutes of February 10, 2015 Meeting**

### **Voting Members Present:**

Mayor Danny Dunagan, City of Gainesville  
Mayor Lamar Scroggs, City of Oakwood  
Councilwoman Mary Jones, City of Flowery  
Branch  
Matthew Fowler, GDOT

### **Voting Members Absent:**

Chairman Richard Mecum, Hall County  
Chairman Tom Crow, Jackson County

### **Others Present:**

Gina Roy, Jackson County  
John McHenry, City of Flowery Branch  
Kip Padgett, City of Gainesville  
Rhonda Brady, City of Gainesville  
Chris Rotalsky, City of Gainesville  
David Dockery, City of Gainesville  
Stan Brown, City of Oakwood  
Mayor James Nix, City of Clermont  
Richard Ticehurst, Hall Area Transit  
Jeff Gill, The Times

Julia Billings, GDOT  
Kaycee Mertz, GDOT  
Kim Coley, GDOT  
Tamara Christian, FHWA  
Josh Stephens, GHCC  
Richard Fangmann, Pond & Company  
Eric Lusher, Pond & Company  
Srikanth Yamala, GHMPO  
Sam Baker, GHMPO  
Connie Daniels, Hall County

### **1. Welcome**

Mayor Scroggs called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

### **2. Approval of November 12, 2014 and November 20, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** *Mayor Dunagan made a motion to approve the minutes of the meetings on November 12, 2014, and November 20, 2014, with a second by Mr. Fowler, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

### **3. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

#### **4. Report from the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)**

Mr. Brown reported that the TCC had been briefed on the Atlanta-Charlotte Passenger Rail Corridor Investment Plan, and the Committee asked that it be presented to the PC. Mr. Brown remarked that the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) work session the PC held in November provided good information and was very beneficial.

#### **5. Report from the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)**

Mayor Nix relayed that the CAC had received a presentation regarding the benefits of upgrading the airport.

Also, a question was raised regarding why the widening of SR 60/Thompson Bridge Rd. was on the Gainesville-Hall RTP project list, but not the widening of SR 369/Browns Bridge Rd.

They have been told that Browns Bridge Road could not be widened because such widening could not end at the Hall County border but must continue through Forsyth County to a logical terminus at SR 400. Forsyth County, however, has no plans to widen Browns Bridge Road. On the otherhand, the plan for the widening of Thompson Bridge Rd. is to terminate at Yellow Creek Road. Mayor Dunagan agreed that Browns Bridge Road needs to be widened sooner than Thompson Bridge Rd.

Mr. Yamala explained they could add operational improvements, including straightening curves and adding turn lanes, to Browns Bridge Road and move it into the mid-term project list. Mr. Fowler stated he wants to make sure whatever changes are made do not affect fiscal constraint.

**MOTION:** *Mayor Dunagan made a motion to add operational improvements to SR 369/Browns Bridge Road and move it into the mid-term project list. The motion received a second by Mayor Scroggs, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

#### **6. Review of Draft FY 2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Mr. Baker explained the UPWP highlights the work the MPO accomplished in FY 2015 and the tasks they have planned for the upcoming fiscal year. The amount of planning funds could change based on the amount received from the federal government due to the upcoming lapse of funding at the end of May. The document has been submitted to FHWA and GDOT for review. This document is for review only at this time and will be presented again for adoption in May.

#### **7. Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 2015 Update**

Mr. Fangmann revealed that there has been a lot of work done on the Gainesville-Hall RTP 2015 Update to ensure the numbers are correct. They have received comments from the MPO staff and will be forwarding the plan to FHWA and GDOT for their review. After the required public review and comment period, they expect to present the finalized plan to the committees for adoption in May.

## **8. Atlanta-Charlotte Passenger Rail Corridor Investment Plan Update**

Mr. Baker showed a PowerPoint presentation depicting the proposed Atlanta-Charlotte Passenger Rail Corridor Investment Plan. He discussed potential routes, diesel versus electric trains, frequency of trips, travel time, potential ridership, cost estimates, and environmental impact of the plan. A draft plan is expected to be completed between the fall of 2015 and summer 2016.

## **9. Hall County Trails Initiative Status Update**

Mr. Brown announced that the Vision 2030 Greenspace Committee has volunteered to lead the trails initiative. This project is in line with their goals for Hall County, and they are eager to be a part of it. The plan was to get private involvement to move this forward, as this has done well in other jurisdictions, and it seems to be moving in a good direction.

## **10. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports**

Representatives discussed the status of transportation projects being completed by their jurisdictions: Mr. McHenry for the City of Flowery Branch, Mr. Dockery for the City of Gainesville, Mr. Brown for the City of Oakwood, Ms. Coley for GDOT, Mr. Baker for Hall County, and Ms. Roy for Jackson County.

Mr. Brown stated the City of Oakwood had adopted a resolution opposing the State of Georgia's Transportation Funding Act of 2015. They feel like this is taking money out of local pockets and putting it in state pockets to meet up with their short fallings. This does not seem like the logical solution to solve the transportation funding.

## **11. Upcoming Meeting Date**

The next PC meeting will be May 12, 2015, at the Hall County Government Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Commission Meeting Room.

## **12. Other**

Mr. Baker announced that the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce is organizing the Annual Transportation Forum on March 12, 2015, at the University of North Georgia, Gainesville Campus. Representatives from GDOT and GHMPO will be speaking.

Mayor Dunagan read a resolution drafted by the Policy Committee opposing the State of Georgia's proposed Transportation Funding Act of 2015 and asked the GHMPO to support the resolution stating that this would send a strong message to the State from the MPO board if it were adopted. If motor fuel is removed or exempted from local sales taxes, the Georgia Department of Revenue data estimates that Hall County could lose approximately \$10,339,171 annually.

Mayor Dunagan relayed that the City of Gainesville maintains the red lights on the state right-of-ways and does a lot of the mowing along state roads. The city spends approximately \$885,000 a year to maintain the state lighting and roadways.

Mayor Scroggs stated the City of Oakwood had adopted a similar resolution and Mayor Dunagan noted the City of Gainesville has also.

**MOTION:** *Mayor Scroggs made a motion to adopt the resolution opposing the State of Georgia's Transportation Funding Act of 2015 with a second by Councilwoman Jones, and the motion passed (Mr. Fowler abstained).*

### 13. Adjourn

**MOTION:** *Mayor Scroggs made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m. with a second by Ms. Jones, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Lamar Scroggs, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Connie Daniels, Secretary