



Gainesville - Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization

GHMPO

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

POLICY COMMITTEE

Oakwood City Hall
4035 Walnut Circle, Oakwood, GA 30566
Minutes of March 15, 2016

Voting Members Present:

Chairman Richard Mecum, Hall County
Bill Andrew, City of Flowery Branch (for Mike Miller)
Mayor Danny Dunagan, City of Gainesville
Mayor Lamar Scroggs, City of Oakwood
Gina Roy, Jackson County (for Tom Crow)
Kaycee Mertz, GDOT (for Matthew Fowler)

Voting Members Absent:

Others Present:

John McHenry, City of Flowery Branch
Julia Billings, GDOT
Bryan Lackey, City of Gainesville
David Dockery, City of Gainesville
Phillippa Lewis Moss, Hall Area Transit
Stan Brown, City of Oakwood
Srikanth Yamala, GHMPO
Sam Baker, GHMPO
Connie Daniels, Hall County

Scott Jorden, Southeastern Engineering
Jennie Agerton, Southeastern Engineering
Brian Bolick, Atkins
Wayne Stradley, CAC Vice Chair
Connie Propes, CAC Member
Anne Chenault, Citizen
Jim O'Dell, Citizen
Jeff Gill, The Times

1. Welcome

Mr. Andrew called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Approval of November 10, 2015 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: *Mayor Dunagan made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2015, meeting with a second from Chairman Mecum and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

3. Public Comments

Anne Chenault spoke for the Riverside Drive community regarding the proposed realignment of Enota Avenue, GH-101. She cited reasons the neighborhood is opposed to this project and presented other scenarios that they believe would be more suitable routes.

4. Report from the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)

Mr. McHenry, TCC Chairman, briefly described the items discussed at the TCC meeting on February 17, 2016.

5. Report from the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Mr. Stradley, CAC Vice Chairman, gave a report on topics discussed at the February 25, 2016, CAC meeting.

6. Approval of the Resolution Amending the Participation Plan

Mr. Baker relayed that the MPO had received a request from GDOT stating the Federal Transit Administration had requested wording be added to the Participation Plan detailing the public involvement process for the TIP. The TCC and CAC have recommended approval of this resolution.

MOTION: Mayor Dunagan made a motion to approve the resolution amending the Participation Plan, with a second from Ms. Roy, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

7. Approval of the Resolution Amending the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Baker explained GDOT Office of Planning had requested the GHMPO to program funds for utilities for the widening of Atlanta Highway and update the cost of acquiring right-of-way for the bridge replacement on Cleveland Highway at the Chattahoochee River.

Mayor Dunagan relayed that he had been talking with a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representative regarding the location of this bridge because of an abandoned park on the other side of where the bridge was to be placed, which is also owned by the Corps. Mr. Yamala will meet with GDOT to discuss this.

MOTION: Mayor Dunagan made a motion to approve the utilities for the widening of Atlanta Highway resolution amending the FY 2016 – 2019 Transportation Improvement Program with a second from Chairman Mecum, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

MOTION: Mayor Dunagan made a motion to Table the resolution amending the FY 2016 – 2019 Transportation Improvement Program regarding updating the cost of acquiring right-of-way for the bridge replacement on Cleveland Highway at the Chattahoochee River, with a second from Mayor Scroggs, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

8. Green Street Corridor Study Status Update

Mr. Bolick explained this Green Street Corridor Study is a joint effort between the City of Gainesville, GDOT and the MPO to better understand what lies beneath the surface. The study will include the conditions of the roads, what is under the roads, underground utilities, drainage, soil conditions, trees, and potential historical assets. A presentation of their findings will be given at the next TCC, CAC and PC meetings.

9. Overview of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act

This is the first major transportation authorization since 2005. Mr. Baker discussed the highlights of the new FAST Act transportation funding act signed in to law by the president in December 2015, with spending obligations of \$281 billion for highways, mass transit and highway and motor carrier safety.

There is increased emphasis on freight infrastructure development and improvements and there will be grants available to meet these needs. He suggested the MPO work on a freight study and devise a list of needed projects throughout Hall and Jackson Counties.

10. Approval of the Resolution Requesting Additional PL Funds in FY 2017

Mr. Baker explained that previously the MPO had been able to roll over unused funds received from the FTA and FHWA at the end of a fiscal year and use such funds on projects and studies in the following year. That will no longer be allowed. Instead, additional funds, if needed, must be requested. Therefore, the MPO is suggesting that funds be requested from the PL Funds Review Committee for a Green Street Corridor Study: Phase 2 and a Regional Freight Study.

MOTION: Mayor Dunagan made a motion to approve the resolution requesting additional PL funds, with a second from Ms. Roy, and the motion passed by a 5 – 0 vote (Ms. Mertz abstained).

11. Crash Profiles of Hall County & Jackson County

Crash data from 2011 through 2015 of Hall County and Jackson County, obtained from the Georgia Electronic Accident Reporting System (GEARS) developed by GDOT, was presented by Mr. Baker. GEARS provides extensive information on total number of crashes, fatal crashes, injuries, location, month, day, time, contributing factors, age, gender, etc.

12. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports

Representatives shared 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. Mertz for GDOT, Ms. Lewis Moss for HAT, Chairman Mecum for Hall County and Ms. Roy for Jackson County.

13. Upcoming Meeting Date: May 10, 2016

The next PC meeting will be on May 10, 2016 hosted by Hall County in the Government Center.

14. Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

MOTION: Mayor Dunagan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m., with a second from Mayor Scroggs, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.



Bill Andrew, Acting Chairman



Connie Daniels, Secretary