



**GHMPO**

# *Gainesville - Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization*

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

## **POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Gainesville Municipal Court  
701 Queen City Parkway SW, Gainesville, GA 30501  
Minutes for May 8, 2018 Meeting**

### **Voting Members Present:**

Mayor Lamar Scroggs, City of Oakwood, Chair  
Benny Bagwell, Hall County  
Mayor Danny Dunagan, City of Gainesville  
Gina Roy, on behalf of Chairman Tom Crow,  
Jackson County  
Mayor Mike Miller, City of Flowery Branch  
Charles Robinson, GDOT

### **Voting Members Absent:**

### **Others Present:**

Srikanth Yamala, GHMPO  
Sam Baker, GHMPO  
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO  
Emily Foote, Hall County  
Sarah McQuade, Hall County  
Brandon Kirby, GDOT  
Scott Frederick, GDOT  
Johnathan McLoyd, GDOT  
Stan Brown, City of Oakwood  
Chris Rotalsky, City of Gainesville  
Matt Tarver, City of Gainesville  
Angela Sheppard, City of Gainesville

Connie Propes, CAC  
Ken Rearden, Hall County  
Phillippa Lewis Moss, HAT  
Kevin McInturff, TCC Chair, Hall County  
Bill Andrew, City of Flowery Branch  
Anne Chenault, Citizen  
Wayne Stradley, Citizen  
Jeff Gill, Gainesville Times  
Marc Eggers, AccessWDUN

### **1. Welcome**

Mayor Scroggs called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**2. Approval of February 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

***MOTION:*** Mayor Dunagan made a motion to approve the February 13, 2018 meeting minutes, with a second from Mr. Bagwell, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**3. Report from the Technical Coordinating Committee**

Mr. McInturff, the Chairperson of the Technical Coordinating Committee, gave a brief recap of the April 17, 2018 TCC meeting, where the TCC voted to recommend approval of all agenda items, including an Amendment to the FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program, Approval of the Draft FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program (Version B), Approval of the Draft Resolution Amending the Financially-Constrained Project List of the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan: 2015 Update, and a Draft Resolution Amending the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program.

**4. Report from the Citizens Advisory Committee**

Ms. Propes spoke on behalf of the CAC Chairperson Renee Gerrell, giving a recap of the April 26, 2018 CAC meeting, where the CAC voted to recommend approval of all agenda items, including an Amendment to the Citizens Advisory Committee Bylaws, an Amendment to the FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program, Approval of the Draft FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program (Version B), Approval of the Draft Resolution Amending the Financially-Constrained Project List of the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan: 2015 Update, and a Draft Resolution Amending the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program. The CAC, in addition, made a motion recommending that a traffic study be conducted of Memorial Park Drive in Gainesville in light of citizen comment regarding traffic condition on this road. Furthermore, the Committee made a motion recommending that a letter be sent to the Georgia Department of Transportation requesting removal of Martin Road from the planned interchange signs at the currently constructed Exit 14 interchange on I-985.

**5. Approval of an Amendment to the Citizens Advisory Committee Bylaws**

Requested changes to the Citizens Advisory Committee bylaws were submitted to the committee. These changes were reflected in Article VII, Meetings, Subsection 6, which changed the unexcused absence limit from three (3) to two (2) per fiscal year before the Chairperson of the Policy Committee notifies a member that his/her attendance is required and request the member confirm his/her commitment to attend future meetings and to report to the nominating jurisdiction.

***MOTION:*** Mayor Miller made a motion to approve the Amendment to the Citizens Advisory Committee Bylaws, with a second from Mayor Dunagan, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**6. Approval of an Amendment to the FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Boyd presented an amendment to the FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program. An application requesting federal transportation planning funds for the Jackson County Transportation Master Plan Update was submitted to the PL Funds Review Committee at the Georgia Department of Transportation on March 26, 2018 and was awarded a grant of \$32,805, with a local match/lump sum payment by Jackson County of \$142,195. This draft amendment to the FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program moves the Jackson County Transportation Master Plan Update from the unfunded list of projects on page 29 into the funded Special Transportation Studies under Task 4, Sub-Element 4.6 on page 22.

***MOTION:*** Ms. Roy made a motion to approve the Amendment to the FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program, with a second from Mr. Bagwell, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

## **7. Approval of the Draft FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Boyd presented the Draft FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program. The Draft FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program describes the planning projects, studies, and activities the Gainesville-Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization will undertake in FY 2019 from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. In FY 2019, GHMPO and its planning partners intend to complete the following four planning studies:

1. Dawsonville Highway-McEver Road Connectivity Study
2. Gainesville Trail Connectivity Study
3. South Hall Trail Study
4. Oakwood Citywide Traffic Improvement Study

Two versions of the draft FY 2019 UPWP were presented. Version A lists the North Hall Parkway Study as anticipated to begin in FY 2022, while Version B lists the North Hall Parkway Study to begin in FY 2019.

Mayor Dunagan commented that the City of Gainesville will not contribute money towards the local match needed to fund the North Hall Parkway Study. Ms. Roy commented that Jackson County does not have money to contribute either. Mayor Scroggs added that the City of Oakwood will also not contribute money to fund the study.

Ms. Chenault and Mr. Stradley spoke in favor of Version B and moving the North Hall Parkway Study to 2019.

***MOTION:*** Mr. Bagwell made a motion to Table the Draft FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program. The motion did not receive a second and failed.

Mr. Yamala commented that the 2019 Unified Planning Work Program must be adopted by June 30, 2018 in order for the Gainesville-Hall MPO to receive federal transportation planning funds to operate in FY 2019. He added that even though Version B moves the North Hall Parkway Study from FY 2022 to FY 2019, funding for the local match would have to be discussed and finalized before the grant could ever be applied for to conduct the study. Mayor Miller commented that he is in favor of Version B if it is noted that the City of Flowery Branch will not be contributing to the funding for the North Hall Parkway Study.

**MOTION:** Mayor Miller made a motion to approve Version B of the Draft FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program, with a second from Mr. Bagwell, and the motion passed by a 5 – 1 vote (Mayor Dunagan opposed).

## **8. Approval of the Draft Resolution Amending the Financially-Constrained Project List of the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan: 2015 Update**

Mr. Baker presented the Draft Resolution Amending the Financially-Constrained Project List of the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The Martin Road Widening project was removed last year from the mid-term phase (2024-2032) of the RTP's project list. It was replaced with Martin Road Alternative Improvements #7. The widening was a \$46 million project. Whereas, the cost estimate for the alternative improvements is below \$1 million. This change has, therefore, freed up approximately \$45 million for other transportation projects in the mid-term phase of the plan while still maintaining fiscal constraint. The City of Gainesville has requested that the Green Street Corridor Improvements (GH-121) be added in the mid-term phase of the project list for the RTP. This project is estimated to cost \$13 million in 2018 or \$15 million in 2024, adjusted for inflation. In addition, the Georgia Department of Transportation has requested to add the widening of I-85 from north of I-985 to north of SR 53 (GH-123, PI# 110610) to the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). For a project to be added to the TIP, it needs to be included in the RTP first. GDOT has identified funding for the I-85 widening project, and the addition of the project will not affect the financial constraint of the RTP.

**MOTION:** Mayor Dunagan made a motion to approve the Draft Resolution Amending the Financially-Constrained Project List of the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan: 2015 Update, with a second from Ms. Roy, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

## **9. Approval of the Draft Resolution Amending the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Baker presented the Draft Resolution Amending the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Georgia Department of Transportation has asked the GHMPO to amend its TIP for the following:

- Program additional funds for the widening of I-85 from north of I-985 to north of SR 53.
- Program funds for GDOT's oversight of Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) project.

**MOTION:** Mr. Bagwell made a motion to approve the Draft Resolution Amending the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program, with a second from Mayor Dunagan, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

In addition, Mayor Miller made a motion that a letter be drafted to GDOT from the Policy Committee requesting that when I-985 is widened (PI# 0014130), GDOT also consider widening the underpass along Spout Springs Road and Phil Niekro Boulevard below I-985 at Exit 12 in Flowery Branch in light of the widening of Spout Springs Road (PI# 0009679).

**MOTION:** *Mayor Miller made a motion to send a formal letter requesting the widening of the underpass at Exit 12 on I-985 (Spout Springs Road and Phil Niekro Boulevard), with a second from Mayor Dunagan, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

## **10. Ongoing Studies Status Updates**

Mr. Tarver provided updates for the Dawsonville Highway-McEver Road Connectivity Study and the Gainesville Trail Connectivity Study. Mr. Boyd provided an update for the South Hall Trail Study. Mr. Brown provided an update for the Oakwood Citywide Traffic Improvement Study.

## **11. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports**

Mr. Yamala commented that the Martin Road Stakeholders Committee has requested to have "Martin Road" removed from the signage for Exit 14 on I-985.

**MOTION:** *Mayor Scroggs made a motion to request that "Martin Road" be removed from the proposed signage for Exit 14, with a second from Mayor Dunagan.*

Mr. Kirby commented that if production has already begun on the signs, there will be an additional cost to alter the wording.

**MOTION:** *Mr. Bagwell made a motion to amend Mayor Scrogg's motion to request that "Martin Road" be removed from the proposed signage for Exit 14 if there is no additional cost associated, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

## **12. Upcoming Meeting Date: August 14, 2018**

The next Policy Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at the Flowery Branch City Hall.

## **13. Public Comments**

There were no additional public comments.


## **14. 2020 Census: Impact of "Large Urban" Designation for Hall Area Transit**

Ms. Lewis-Moss informed the committee members on the potential future impact of a Large Urban Transit Provider designation for Hall Area Transit after the 2020 Census and the opportunities and challenges associated with such designation.

**15. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

  
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Mayor Mike Miller, Chairman

  
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Emily Foote, Secretary