



POLICY COMMITTEE

**GDOT District One Office, Conference Room 114
1475 Jesse Jewell Parkway NE, Gainesville, GA 30501
Minutes of July 30, 2019 Meeting**

Voting Members Present:

Chairman Richard Higgins, Hall County, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Jeff Stowe, Hall County
Mayor Mike Miller, City of Flowery Branch
Mayor Lamar Scroggs, City of Oakwood
Mayor Danny Dunagan, City of Gainesville
Gina Roy, Jackson County
Charles Robinson, GDOT

Voting Members Absent:

Commissioner Kathy Cooper, Hall County

Others Present:

Srikanth Yamala, GHMPO
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO
Sam Baker, GHMPO
Laura Ogletree, Hall County
Jock Connell, Hall County
Sarah McQuade, Hall County
Frank Miller, Hall County
Scott Puckett, Hall County
Ken Rearden, Hall County
Bill Andrew, City of Flowery Branch
Brian Bolick, Atkins

Bryan Lackey, City of Gainesville
Angela Sheppard, City of Gainesville
Chris Rotalsky, City of Gainesville
Matt Tarver, City of Gainesville
Phillippa Lewis Moss, HAT
Sue Anne Decker, GDOT
Johnathan McLoyd, GDOT
Habte Kassa, GDOT
Rich Edinger, CPL
Steve Cote, RS&H
Megan Reed, The Times

1. Welcome

Chairman Higgins opened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

2. Approval of May 14, 2019 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Mayor Dunagan made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2019 meeting, with a second from Mayor Miller, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

3. Report from the Technical Coordinating Committee

The TCC Chair, Adam Hazell, was absent from presenting the report.

4. Report from the Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Boyd, on behalf of the CAC Chair Renee Gerrell, presented a summary of the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting held on July 18, 2019.

5. Approval of an Amendment to the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan: 2015 Update

Mr. Boyd stated that, at the request of GDOT, the proposed Amendment #6 would split the widening of Cleveland Highway/SR 11/US 129(project no. GH-020) into three phases:

- Phase I: Cleveland Highway from Lakeview Street to south of Nopone Road (GH-020A)
- Phase II: Cleveland Highway from Brittany Court to south of Lakeview Street (GH-020B)
- Phase III: Cleveland Highway from Limestone Parkway to north of Brittany Court (GH-020C)

In addition, the three phases listed above be moved from the long-term phase (2033-2040) of the plan to the mid-term phase (2024-2032) for implementation.

Mayor Dunagan asked why the widening would start at Nopone Road and come south, to which Mr. Robinson responded that GDOT Planning had analyzed the three segments and concluded that the widening should begin at Nopone Road and go south due to the analysis of crash data and roadway configurations.

MOTION: Mayor Scroggs made a motion to approve the resolution amending the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan: 2015 Update, with a second from Mayor Dunagan, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

6. Approval of an Amendment to the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Boyd stated that with the approval of the amendment to the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan: 2015 Update, this amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) would need to be approved as well. He added that the proposed amendment would drop the widening of Cleveland Highway (GH-020) from the current 2018-2021 TIP for implementation beyond the current TIP's period.

MOTION: Mayor Dunagan made a motion to approve the resolution amending the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program, with a second from Commissioner Stowe, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

7. Approval of an Amendment to the FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program to Conduct a Jackson County Transit Feasibility Study

Mr. Boyd stated that GHMPO and Jackson County intend to team up to hire a consultant to conduct a Jackson County transit feasibility study in FY 2020 to explore what type of transit service is feasible in the County in light of the County's potential loss of federal transit funds for rural areas following the 2020 Census as a result of Jackson County becoming more urbanized. The proposed study, if approved, would be funded 80% with the MPO's Section 5303 grant, 10% match from GDOT, and another 10% local match in cash from Jackson County. The proposed amendment will add this activity, as an additional line item, to the MPO's work program for the current fiscal year.

MOTION: Ms. Roy made a motion to approve the resolution amending the FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program, with a second from Commissioner Stowe, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

8. Flowery Branch Sign and Speed Study

Mr. Edinger presented the results of the study CPL conducted for the City of Flowery Branch. In this study, the consultant conducted an inventory of the City's traffic signs and their condition. It then came up with a seven-year plan to replace the City's degraded signs. In addition, the study investigated traffic speed on four roads to determine whether the posted speed limits were appropriate. The study recommended raising the posted speed limit on Gainesville Street from 35 to 45 miles per hour and leaving the speed limit unchanged on Church Street, Lights Ferry Road, and East Main Street.

9. Approval of the Resolution Approving the Outputs of the GHMPO Travel Demand Models Developed by GDOT

Mr. Kassa presented the outputs of two travel demand models: the 2015 base-year model and 2050 no-build model. These two models were computer simulations of the road network in Hall County and Jackson County, showing travel demand, traffic volumes, levels of congestion, and levels of service in the region. The model results showed what the traffic condition is at present (2015) and what such condition is projected to be like in the future (2050) if no new transportation projects were implemented other than what is already underway. The model outputs were based upon socioeconomic data developed and submitted to GDOT by GHMPO.

MOTION: Mayor Miller made a motion to approve the resolution approving the outputs of the GHMPO Travel Demand Model by GDOT, with a second from Ms. Roy, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

10. Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan: 2020 Update

Mr. Cote provided a status update of the ongoing project to update the Regional Transportation Plan. Mr. Cote presented the committee with the first draft of the financially constrained project lists broken into four time bands. The team also developed a financial projection of how much funds are projected to be available for transportation projects

through year 2050 along with the level of potential additional funds if the region approves a Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST). There are two public open houses planned for August 19th and 20th to seek public input on which particular transportation projects to implement based upon revenue projection. A financially-constrained project list is scheduled to be adopted by September 17, 2019.

Mayor Dunagan stated that while I-85 Widening (GH-109) is an important project for the region, he would like to see more projects move into Band 2. Mr. Robinson responded that GDOT is currently looking into GH-109 in more detail and will get back with the committee and GHMPO staff shortly on other possibilities for this Band. Mr. Yamala stated that staff is planning to hold a work session on September 10, 2019 with the Policy Committee members which is a week prior to the scheduled voting meeting on September 17, 2019 to discuss this and other concerns regarding the finalized project lists. Ms. Roy asked if the TSPLOST projections were solely for Hall County, to which Mr. Cote responded yes. Mr. Yamala asked Ms. Roy if she would like to see Jackson County projections as well to which she responded yes. Mr. Cote stated that RS&H would add in those numbers for Jackson County as well. Mayor Miller requested that a map be created which overlays the current draft projects onto the map highlighting safety concern points that were submitted from the public survey. Mr. Cote responded that RS&H would create this map and send it back to the committee for their review shortly.

11. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports

Representatives shared the status of transportation projects being completed by their jurisdictions: Mr. Andrew for the City of Flowery Branch, Mr. Tarver for the City of Gainesville, Mr. Brown for the City of Oakwood, Mr. Rearden for Hall County, Mr. Robinson for GDOT, and Ms. Roy for Jackson County.

12. Upcoming Meeting Date: September 17, 2019

A work session for this meeting will be scheduled on September 10, 2019 at Hall County Government Center to discuss the draft RTP project lists.

13. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

14. Other: Next Meeting Location

Mr. Yamala suggested the next meeting be held at the Hall County Government Center to which there were no objections.

15. Adjourn

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.



Chairman Richard Higgins, Vice-Chair



Laura Ogletree, Clerk