



GHMPO

Gainesville - Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

**Hall County Government Center, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Minutes of February 15, 2017 Meeting**

Voting Members Present:

Ken Rearden, Hall County
Gina Roy, Jackson County
Rich Atkinson, City of Flowery Branch
Rhonda Brady, City of Gainesville
Quinton Spann, GDOT
Brandon Kirby, GDOT
Sam Baker, GHMPO
Srikanth Yamala, GHMPO
Phillippa Lewis Moss, HAT
Jennifer Scott, City of Braselton
Kevin McInturff, Hall County

Voting Members Absent:

Denise Farr, Hall County
Rusty Ligon, City of Gainesville
Adam Hazell, GMRC
Stan Brown, City of Oakwood
Chris Rotalsky, Gainesville

Others Present:

Joseph Boyd, GHMPO
Matt Tarver, City of Gainesville
Kim Coley, GDOT
Renee Gerrell, GHMPO CAC Vice Chair
Kris Phillips, GDOT Asst. Area Mgr.
Wayne Stradley, GHMPO CAC Chair
Jeff Gill, The Times
Emily Foote, Hall County
Adam Ivory, CDM Smith
Wade Carrol, JR Wilburn & Associates

Gary McClung, Citizen
Patricia Terrell, Citizen
Gina Pilcher, Citizen
Brian Bright, Citizen
Deborah Simental, Citizen
Connie Propes, GHMPO CAC
Darlene Long, Citizen
Matt Cox, Citizen
Wender Bulloch, Citizen
Marc Eggers, WDUN

1. Welcome

Ms. Scott called the meeting to order, and introductions were made.

2. Approval of July 20, 2016 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Ms. Roy made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2016 meeting, with a second from Mr. Rearden, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

3. Recommend Approval of the Resolution Adopting Amendment #6 to the Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Baker relayed that GDOT had requested the GHMPO to amend its 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program to change the project description and limits of the Spout Springs Road widening project from I-985 to Union Circle. Additional funds for right-of-way acquisition in 2017 are as follows:

- Increase federal funds from \$10,187,597 to \$12,135,200
- Increase state funds from \$2,546,899 to \$3,033,800
- Allocate \$310,000 of other funds
- Increase total right-of-way acquisition funds from \$12,734,496 to \$15,479,000

Mr. Baker also discussed the widening of Lanier Islands Parkway which will install a center-turn lane along SR 347/Lanier Islands Parkway from McEver Road to Lake Lanier Islands. The allocated additional funds are as follows:

- Federal funds of \$279,479.79
- Other funds of \$69,869.95
- Total funds of \$349,349.74

Public Comment: Gina Pilcher asked if any timeline has been established for the construction of the Spout Springs project with respect to the two schools on the roadway. Mr. Rearden responded that there did not appear to be a set schedule yet but that the construction of that project would definitely take longer than a summer to complete.

MOTION: Mr. Yamala made a motion to recommend approval of the resolution to adopt the amendment to the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program, with a second by Ms. Brady, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

4. Review of Draft FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Baker stated that the GHMPO staff had developed a draft FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and highlighted the stated FAST Act Planning Factors as well as GHMPO's Planning Priorities. The draft UPWP has been submitted to the Georgia Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal Transit Administration for review and comment. In addition, GHMPO staff is meeting with each local jurisdiction within the GHMPO region to discuss their transportation needs and possibly incorporate additional activities to the draft UPWP. He stated that if anyone had any comments and suggestions regarding the draft document to contact the GHMPO staff. The UPWP draft will be voted on for adoption at the spring 2017 MPO committee meetings.

5. Recommend Approval of the Resolution Adopting the Hall Area Transit Development Plan Update

Mr. Baker introduced Wade Carroll from J.R. Wilburn and Associates, Inc. whom was contracted to update the Hall Area Transit Development Plan in fall 2016. Mr. Carroll gave a presentation that highlighted the key findings of the study, including:

- Background information, outreach activities, peer reviews, etc.
- Current service characteristics
- Potential service options
- Four year fixed route service recommendations:
 - o Year 1 – Extend evening hours
 - o Year 2 – Increase peak hour headways
 - o Year 3 – Extend Routes 10 and 60 and add new route along SR 60
 - o Year 4 – Begin Saturday service (1-hour headways)
- Commuter service recommendations:
 - o Coordinate with Georgia Commute Options

Public Comment: A member of the public who did not identify himself asked how much the system costs per rider. Ms. Lewis Moss explained that it differs based on the service type, but it typically averages around \$3.50 per rider per trip to operate. Dial-a-Ride can be much more expensive due to the expanse of the service network and the restraints on driver options. Mr. Baker also further commented that Hall Area Transit has to leave a large portion of potential federal funds unclaimed because of the lack of required local match to access those funds.

MOTION: Mr. Rearden made a motion to recommend approval of the updated Transit Development Plan, with a second by Mr. McInturff, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

6. Gainesville-Hall Regional Freight Study

Mr. Baker introduced Adam Ivory from CDM Smith whom was contracted to conduct the Gainesville-Hall Regional Freight Study. Mr. Ivory gave a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Background information relating GHMPO's Freight Plan to the State of Georgia and National Freight Plans
- Mr. Ivory then spoke in detail regarding the multiple tasks that make up the Freight Plan, including:
 - o Task 1: Project Management and Stakeholder Engagement Plan
 - o Task 2: Regional Freight Mobility Plan Goals and Objectives
 - o Task 3: Freight Performance Measures Development
 - o Task 4: Assessment of Freight Trends, Opportunities and Needs

- Task 5: Identification of Corridors Connecting Exit 14 on I-985 and SR 53/Winder Highway
 - Discussion of the Martin Road Stakeholder Committee meetings and the exploration of alternatives to the widening of Martin Road project that are being considered currently

Public Comments: Gary McClung asked on Alternative 6 if there would be actual physical barriers deterring motorists from accessing Martin Road from Exit 14 or if it would just be paint or lines drawn on the pavement. Mr. Ivory answered that they are envisioning actual physical barriers. Gina Pilcher asked if Martin Road is one of the three alternatives to moving traffic from the Exit to SR 53 and what the other two are. Mr. Yamala answered that Atlanta Highway would provide such connection on the east side of I-985 and Thurmon Tanner Parkway would connect Exit 14 with SR 53 on the west side of I-985.

7. GHMPO Sidewalk Inventory Report

Mr. Boyd presented the final draft of the GHMPO Sidewalk Inventory Report. This report was created by the GHMPO staff and is intended for in-house planning purposes and reference only. The purpose of the report is for quick reference regarding pedestrian infrastructure location for any project moving forward as well as identifying gaps in the pedestrian infrastructure network that could be addressed in the future. Mr. Boyd stated that the report had been sent out to all local jurisdictions for comments. Any comments or requested changes moving forward should be sent to Mr. Boyd and would be appreciated.

Mr. McInturff commented that many of the sidewalks on the report that were designated as “Private” are actually publicly maintained by Hall County unless within a gated neighborhood. Hall County will perform maintenance on a sidewalk if damage from normal wear and tear occurs. If negligence leads to damage, the individual property owner or offending party is then responsible for the repairs.

8. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports

Representatives shared the status of transportation projects being completed by their jurisdictions: Ms. Brady for the City of Gainesville, Mr. Kirby for GDOT, An email from Mr. Brown for Oakwood, and Mr. McInturff and Mr. Rearden for Hall County.

9. Upcoming Meeting Date

The next TCC meeting will be on April 19, 2017.

10. Public Comments

Gary McClung with the Martin Road Corridor Study Stakeholder Committee submitted a letter to the TCC board members asking for the following:

1. Martin Road project (GH-024) officially be removed from the Transportation Improvement Plan and the Regional Transportation Plan.
2. Martin Road officially be removed from the Hall County Code of Ordinances as a designated "Gateway Corridor".
3. Move SR13/Atlanta Hwy Widening project (GH-033, PI#0001822 from Radford Rd to Hwy 53) to the Short Range projects list within the TIP.

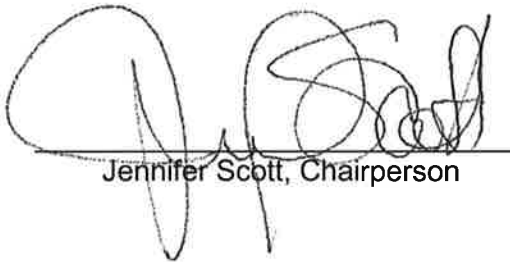
Ms. Scott thanked the Committee for their comments and said the TCC would read through their proposal.

11. Other – U.S. Department of Transportation Final Rule on Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform

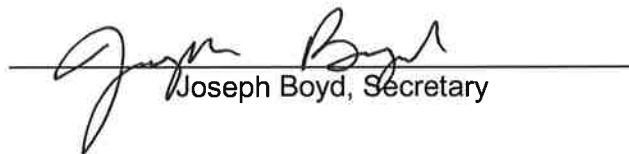
Mr. Baker gave an update on the Final Rule issued by the United States Department of Transportation regarding Metropolitan Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform. In December 2016, USDOT finalized the rule, stating that within a single urbanized area, only one MPO may exist. If multiple currently exist, they must merge and create a single MPO with single planning documents. An exception may be granted if all MPOs involved as well as the State Governor appeal to the USDOT Secretary of Transportation that it is in the best interest of the region for multiple MPOs to exist. This rule will not be implemented until after the 2020 US Census. Once the Census data has been made public, all MPOs have two years to come into compliance or successfully appeal the final rule.

12. Adjourn

MOTION: Mr. Yamala motioned for the meeting to close, Mr. Rearden seconded that motion. None opposed.



Jennifer Scott, Chairperson



Joseph Boyd, Secretary

