



**GHMPO**

# *Gainesville - Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization*

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

## **TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

Hall County Government Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

Minutes of July 19, 2017 Meeting

### **Voting Members Present:**

Bill Andrew, City of Flowery Branch  
Sam Baker, GHMPO  
Rhonda Brady, City of Gainesville  
Stan Brown, City of Oakwood  
Denise Farr, Hall County  
Adam Hazell, GMRC  
Kevin McInturff, Hall County  
Chris Rotalsky, Gainesville  
Gina Roy, Jackson County  
Jennifer Scott, Town of Braselton  
Quinton Spann, GDOT  
Srikanth Yamala, GHMPO  
Adam Hazell, GMRC

### **Voting Members Absent:**

Rusty Ligon, City of Gainesville  
Phillippa Lewis Moss, HAT  
Ken Rearden, Hall County  
Brandon Kirby, GDOT

### **Others Present:**

Joseph Boyd, GHMPO  
Matt Tarver, City of Gainesville  
Wayne Stradley, GHMPO CAC Chair  
Kaycee Mertz, GDOT  
Phil Peavy, GDOT  
Marc Eggers, WDUN  
Tommy McElroy, GPD

Connie Propes, GHMPO CAC Member  
Gina Pilcher, Citizen  
Darlene Long, Citizen  
Dennis Madea, Citizen  
Anna Chenault, Citizen  
Gary McClung, Citizen

## **1. Welcome**

Ms. Scott called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

## **2. Approval of April 19, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2017 meeting, with a second from Ms. Brady, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**3. Recommend Approval of the Resolutions Adopting the FY 2018-FY 2021 Transportation Improvement Program and Amendment #4 to the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan: 2015 Update**

Mr. Baker presented a draft update of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which highlights projects to be implemented between fiscal years 2018 and 2021. Mr. Baker also discussed Amendment #4 to the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan: 2015 Update. This amendment adds the following four projects to the plan's project list:

- Railroad crossing on Tumbling Creek Road at Norfolk Southern Railroad
- Widening of Old Winder Highway/SR 211 from SR 124 to Friendship Road/SR 347
- Replacement of a bridge on Thompson Bridge Road/SR 60 at the Chattahoochee River
- Widening of I-985 from I-85 to Mundy Mill Road/SR 53

Mr. Brown asked for clarity regarding when the Tumbling Creek project would be constructed. It is listed as opening in 2020, but the Hall County staff members (Mr. McInturff and Ms. Farr) stated they are hopeful that construction would be completed by 2018. They are still in talks on right-of-way acquisition with the railroad company.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Ms. Long asked for clarification about public involvement and the public comment period regarding the TIP update and the Regional Transportation Plan amendment. Mr. Baker stated that ads were placed in the Gainesville Times and that the plan updates have been posted online for comment. Ms. Pilcher asked for clarity regarding where the I-985 widening project would terminate. Mr. Spann responded that this project is still in preliminary engineering stage and the decision on how far to widen will be based upon the traffic and crash data available and will be made at a later date.

**MOTION:** Mr. Brown made a motion to recommend approval of the resolutions adopting the FY 2018 – FY 2021 Transportation Improvement Program and Amendment #4 to the Gainesville-Hall Regional Transportation Plan: 2015 Update, with a second from Mr. McInturff, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**4. Recommend Approval of a Resolution Requesting Additional PL Funds for a Joint Trail Connection Study by the City of Flowery Branch, City of Oakwood, and Hall County in the Sterling/Quarry Area**

Mr. Andrew presented a draft resolution requesting additional PL funds for a Trail Connection Study for southern Hall County that would be a combined effort among the City of Flowery Branch, City of Oakwood, and Hall County. The purpose of this proposed study would be to identify where such a trail could be constructed in order to connect the multi-use pathways along Friendship Road, up to Spout Springs Road, along Thurmon Tanner Parkway, and into the Highlands to Islands Trail in Oakwood. Mr. Andrew also stated he hoped this study would lead to better coordination with the City of Gainesville regarding standardization of trail facilities and signage.

Mr. Spann reinforced that since this study proposes in-kind local match, all jurisdictions must keep accurate track of time spent on the project as well as know that the project must be administered directly by the MPO staff. Mr. Yamala stated that all jurisdictions were aware of

the new in-kind funding procedures and that it was understood that if any shortage of in-kind funding occurred, the jurisdictions involved would be responsible for the remaining balance of the local match portion of the study in cash.

**MOTION:** Mr. Rotalsky made a motion to recommend approval of the Resolution Requesting Additional PL Funds for a Joint Trail Connectivity Study, with a second from Mr. Hazell. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **5. Recommend Approval of the Amendments to the GHMPO Complete Streets Policy**

Mr. Boyd presented the proposed changes to the GHMPO Complete Streets Policy and stated that no comments had been received regarding the policy changes since the previous TCC meeting. Ms. Brady asked for clarity regarding the policy, to which Mr. Baker stated that the policy is meant to serve as guidelines that may not always be appropriate in every situation.

**MOTION:** Mr. Brown made a motion to recommend approval of the amendments to the GHMPO Complete Streets Policy, with a second from Mr. Andrew. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **6. Recommend Approval of an Update to the Title VI Program and Environmental Justice Analysis**

Mr. Boyd presented a draft Title VI Program and Environmental Justice Analysis report which has been updated with more recent data from the American Community Survey. This document highlights areas within the MPO that have higher than average numbers of elderly, minority, and/or non-English speaking population. This report highlights GHMPO projects with respect to those minority populations in order to ensure that projects are being evenly distributed across the planning area and not just focused in areas reflecting majority socioeconomic characteristics.

**MOTION:** Mr. Yamala made a motion to recommend approval of the update to the Title VI Program and Environmental Justice Analysis report, with a second from Mr. Hazell. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **7. Recommend Approval of the Amendments to the Technical Coordinating Committee Bylaws**

Mr. Yamala presented the proposed changes to the TCC bylaws that were initiated by the CAC chairperson Mr. Wayne Stradley. The changes are largely minor and administrative as the bylaws have been largely untouched since the formation of the MPO in 2003. The proposed changes also reflect comments submitted by the City of Gainesville after the April/May 2017 round of MPO committee meetings.

**MOTION:** Mr. Hazell made a motion to recommend approval of the Amendments to the Technical Coordinating Committee Bylaws, with a second from Ms. Brady. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

## **8. Review of 2017 Hall County and Jackson County Crash Profile Updates**

Mr. Boyd presented updated crash profile reports for Hall and Jackson counties that were based on 2016 crash data. The data was pulled from the state crash data reporting system (GEARS) which is maintained by GDOT. These reports highlighted total, injury, fatality, and pedestrian-involved crashes as well as various identifying high accident locations.

Mr. Brown stated that he felt it would be more important to focus on long-range trends for crashes across the county since accident reporting using GPS location may still yield many errors. Mr. Spann responded that though in the past some errors were seen in the GPS location coordinates for crashes, accident location reporting is becoming increasingly more accurate.

Ms. Brady asked that GHMPO staff provide the City of Gainesville the data that was utilized to create the Crash Profile reports.

## **9. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports**

Representatives shared the status of transportation projects being completed by their jurisdictions: Ms. Brady for the City of Gainesville, Mr. Brown for the City of Oakwood, Ms. Scott for the Town of Braselton, Ms. Mertz for GDOT, Ms. Farr for Hall County, and Ms. Roy for Jackson County.

## **10. Public Comments**

Ms. Pilcher asked for a status of the Alternative 7 project along Martin Road which has been turned over to Hall County Engineering as Martin Road is a county road. Mr. Baker stated that Hall County is currently in talks of doing a traffic study for Martin Road to see if the proposed improvements are warranted to the roadway since speed limits and stop signs cannot be changed without warrant. Mr. McInturff stated Hall County is currently working on what such a study would look like with administration. Ms. Pilcher stated that she believes these changes must be implemented before Exit 14 opens. Mr. Yamala responded that Hall County and the Board of Commissioners are aware of the community concerns regarding the timing of improvements in light of Exit 14 and that the community will be updated whenever the next steps in the project are able to be taken.

## **11. Other**

Mr. Stradley, the chairperson of the Citizen Advisory Committee, gave an overview of the subcommittee to the CAC called the North Hall Parkway Subcommittee. This subcommittee is focused on increasing safety along Green Street in Gainesville by trying to find alternative

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routes for trucking companies to utilize to the north of the City. Mr. Stradley stated the goals and objectives of this subcommittee moving forward.

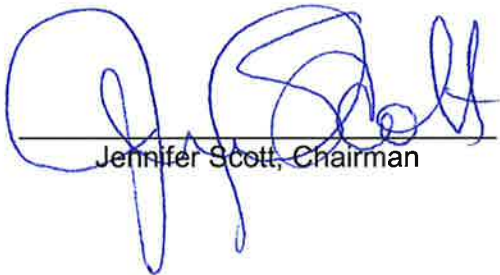
Mr. Stradley stated that, per the comments on the proposed bylaw changes submitted by the City of Gainesville, he was under the conclusion that subcommittees may not be formed in the future. Mr. Yamala clarified that the Policy Committee is not against subcommittees. The Committee would like to be presented with and approve of said subcommittees before they move forward.

### **12. Upcoming Meeting Date: October 11, 2017**

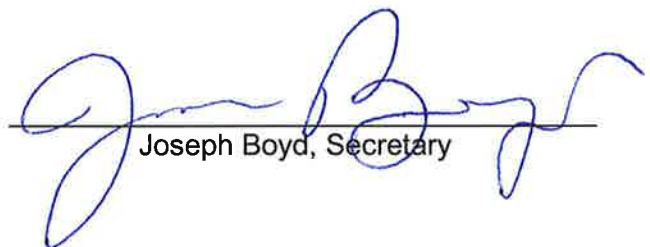
The next TCC meeting will be on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at the Hall County Government Center.

### **13. Adjourn**

There being no other business, Ms. Scott closed the meeting at 12:03 p.m.



Jennifer Scott, Chairman



Joseph Boyd, Secretary

