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Metropolitan Planning Organization

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POLICY COMMITTEE

Virtual Meeting Due To State & Federal COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations
Draft Minutes of November 10, 2020 Meeting

Voting Members Present:

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

Voting Members Absent:

Others Present:

Bill Nash, Hall County
Frank Miller, Hall County
Bryan Lackey, City of Gainesville
Chris Rotalsky, City of Gainesville
Angela Sheppard, City of Gainesville
Matt Tarver, City of Gainesville
Kim Coley, GDOT
Kelvin Mullins, GDOT
Johnathan McLoyd, GDOT
Rachel Hatcher, RS&H
Eric Lusher, Pond
Adam Ivory, CDM Smith
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO
Michael Haire, GHMPO

AGENDA

1. Welcome

Mayor Dunagan opened the meeting at 10:07 AM.

2. Approval of August 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Mayor Miller made a motion to approve the draft meeting minutes of the August 11, 2020 Policy Committee meeting, with a second from Commissioner Stowe, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Boyd, on behalf of the TCC Chair Adam Hazell, presented a summary of the Technical Coordinating Committee meeting on October 14, 2020, stating that they recommended approval of all voting items.

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

Mr. Boyd, on behalf of the CAC Chair Tony Millwood, presented a summary of the Citizen Advisory Committee meeting on November 5, 2020, stating that they recommended approval of all voting items.

5. **Approval of the Draft Amendment #1 to the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Mr. Boyd explained that he was informed by the Georgia Department of Transportation that they will not be moving forward with this amendment at this time.

MOTION: Mr. Robinson made a motion to table Draft Amendment #1 to the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), with a second by Commissioner Stowe, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

6. **Approval of the Draft Jackson County Transit Feasibility Study**

Ms. Hatcher of RS&H presented the final draft of the Jackson County Transit Feasibility Study, giving an overview of several different possible scenarios for future transit plans, as well as potential scenario costs. After the presentation, Ms. Roy added that the Jackson County Board of Commissioners has also adopted the final study.

MOTION: Mayor Miller made a motion to approve the draft, which was seconded by Ms. Roy, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

7. **Updates from the State Route 365/Jesse Jewell Traffic Impact Study**

Mr. Lusher updated the committee on the progress of the State Route 365/Jesse Jewell Traffic Impact Study. The study is scheduled for completion by December 2020 and will come before the Policy Committee for adoption at the next voting meeting scheduled for March 2021.

8. **Jurisdiction and Agency Reports**

Representatives shared the status of transportation projects in their jurisdictions: Mayor

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Miller for the City of Flowery Branch, Mr. Tarver for the City of Gainesville, Ms. Coley for the Georgia Department of Transportation, Mr. Boyd, on behalf of Philippa Lewis Moss, for Hall Area Transit, Commissioner Stowe and Mr. Miller for Hall County, and Ms. Roy for Jackson County.

9. Other

Mr. Haire provided an update on the 2019 County Crash Profiles, which were amended to include charts for high accident intersections. Mr. Haire recommended the committee download the full report online for more information.

Mayor Miller stated his appreciation to all involved in the planning of the recently opened Exit 14 off of I-985 as he has heard from multiple businesses and industry leaders that it has had a great impact on development and access within the immediate area.

Commissioner Stowe announced to the committee that a response was received from GDOT District 1 regarding a signal warrant analysis at the intersection of Gaines Mill Road and US 129/Athens Highway near Gainesville. GDOT stated that at this time, a signal was not warranted at the intersection based on an analysis of traffic counts and crash data within the intersection. GDOT has since announced a recommendation to install an RCUT at this intersection as a safety improvement. They are seeking the approval of Hall County and area residents on this proposed improvement. A community meeting is being set up with area residents on December 5 to gather feedback on the proposed improvements. Based off community feedback, the County will provide GDOT with a recommendation on the proposed RCUT improvements.

The committee received a question from Mayor Dunagan on whether or not a concrete median had been discussed on Jesse Jewell/Browns Bridge Road. Mr. Mullins stated that the GDOT District 1 office received a letter of non-support for the installation for a median along a large portion of Jesse Jewell Parkway/Browns Bridge Road. He stated his office would go back and review crash data with his traffic operations team and review a possible change in scope for the project.

Mayor Miller requested an update from Hall County and GDOT regarding traffic congestion related to left turning vehicles from Hog Mountain Road (southbound) onto Friendship Road (eastbound), especially with seasonal crowds at the nearby corn maze. Mr. Mullins and Mr. Robinson responded that they would investigate if any changes were discussed internally at GDOT and would follow back up with the committee shortly.

10. Public Comment

There were no public comments

11. Upcoming Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021

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12. Adjourn

There being no other items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 AM.

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Chairman Richard Higgins, Hall County, Chair

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Laura Ogletree, Clerk

DRAFT

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