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## **CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Virtual/Public Meeting Due To State & Federal COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations Minutes of July 30, 2020 Meeting**

#### **Voting Members Present:**

Renee Gerrell, Hall County, Chair  
Tony Millwood, City of Oakwood, Vice-Chair  
Patrick O'Rourke, Hall County  
Heather Taylor, Hall County  
Brent Hoffman, Hall County  
Joe Kennedy, Hall County  
Beverly Nordholtz, City of Gainesville  
Berlinda Lipscomb, City of Gainesville  
Pat Jones, City of Oakwood  
Chip McCallum, City of Flowery Branch  
David Jones, City of Flowery Branch  
Jennifer Kidd-Harrison, Town of Braselton  
Michele Price, Jackson County  
Connie Propes, City of Gainesville

#### **Voting Members Absent:**

Nick Allen, Hall County  
Trey Bell, Hall County  
Sammy Smith, City of Gainesville

#### **Others Present:**

Joseph Boyd, GHMPO

Michael Haire, GHMPO

### **1. Welcome**

Ms. Gerrell opened the meeting at 4:01 PM.

### **2. Approval of April 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Ms. Nordholtz made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2020 meeting, with a second from Mr. McCallum, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

### **3. Recommend Approval of the Draft FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Boyd presented the draft FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program which includes updates within the current 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) by developing a new TIP for fiscal years (FY) 2021 to 2024. This draft TIP programs transportation projects for funding and implementation over the identified four-year period.

County would be aligned with the widening of State Route 211 in Gwinnett and Barrow counties. Mr. Boyd stated that he would seek clarification from GDOT regarding the timing of those projects. Lastly, Mr. Boyd took a question from Mr. O'Rourke regarding whether or not the federal funding projections for the next several years regarding transit would need to be amended if the results of the census changes the status of Hall County. Mr. Boyd explained that they may need to amend these projections after the census.

**MOTION:** Ms. Jones made a motion to recommend approval of the of the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program, with a second from Mr. McCallum, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

#### **4. 2020 Crash Profiles for Hall County & Jackson County**

Mr. Haire presented data gathered from the Georgia Electronic Accident Reporting System (GEARS), maintained by the Georgia Department of Transportation, that detail the location and manner of collisions in Hall and Jackson counties for the year 2019. Each county had a map detailing the location of crashes, and another detailing injuries and fatalities. The maps were supplemented with data detailing five-year trends and high accident months. Mr. Haire recommended downloading the full report online.

Mr. Haire took a comment from Ms. Gerrell regarding trends in the data, noting that while some years did not see a significant decrease in accidents, they did see a decrease in injuries and fatalities. Ms. Jones asked if there were severity requirements for the accidents that are recorded in GEARS. Mr. Haire clarified that any accident of any severity where the police became involved was automatically filed in GEARS.

#### **5. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports**

Mr. Boyd began recapped agency reports from the TCC meeting. Mr. Boyd took a question from Mr. McCallum regarding if there were any plans to widen McEver Road in the near future. Mr. Boyd explained that a subcommittee was recently started to begin having conversations on the future of McEver Road. At their first meeting, they discussed the possibility of adding roundabouts at several key intersections, in order to alleviate traffic. Mr. Boyd explained that solutions are still developing.

Mr. Boyd also provided an update on a few questions that were posed to GDOT from members of the CAC. The first was in regards to the pedestrian safety question that was raised regarding the crossing over the Flat Creek Bridge along Atlanta Highway/State Route 13 in Gainesville. GDOT responded that they are still actively working with several departments to come up with safe and viable options to improve pedestrian access over this bridge and will be following up again soon. The second question was regarding the Highway Emergency Response Operators, or HERO, program that currently operates along the interstates in Atlanta. The question was raised about the possibility of ever extending HERO coverage up I-985 into Hall County, to which GDOT responded that there was no plans known at the district level at this time to extend HERO coverage, but stated that the I-985 corridor was already covered by the Coordinated Highway Assistance & Maintenance Program (CHAMP), which provided similar services.

Additionally, Mr. Boyd stated that the City of Gainesville was currently working with Hall County regarding several concepts to help alleviate congestion within the intersection of Old Flowery Branch Road and Memorial Park Road, which is currently a four-way stop. They hope to find an economical solution soon and will provide more details to the Committee this fall.

Lastly, Ms. Gerrell asked if GHMPO was aware of what traffic impacts were projected by the new school opening next to Gainesville Elementary School. Mr. Boyd responded that he was not aware of the exact details but would reach out the City of Gainesville to get further information and would follow back up.

## **6. Other**

### **- Election of CAC Chair and Vice Chair for FY 2021**

**MOTION:** Ms. Jones nominated Mr. Millwood for the position of CAC Chair, which was seconded by Mr. McCallum.

**MOTION:** Ms. Nordholtz moves to close nominations, which was seconded by Ms. Jones.

Mr. Millwood was unanimously confirmed as Chair for FY 2021.

**MOTION:** Ms. Nordholtz nominates Mr. Smith for the position of CAC Vice Chair. Motion was rescinded as Mr. Smith was not in attendance.

**MOTION:** Mr. O'Rourke is nominated by Mr. Hoffman, which was seconded by Mr. McCallum.

Mr. O'Rourke was unanimously confirmed as Vice Chair for FY 2021.

### **- Update Regarding TCC Subcommittees**

Mr. Boyd updated the committee on the two subcommittees which recently kicked off: the McEver Road Subcommittee and the Trails Subcommittee. Mr. Boyd stated if any committee members were interested, to please reach out to him after the meeting for further information and on ways to get involved.

## **7. Public Comment**


There were no public comments.

## **8. Upcoming Meeting Date: October 22, 2020**

## **9. Adjourn**

Ms. Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. McCallum.

There being no other items of business, the motion was approved and the meeting concluded at 4:35 PM.

  
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Tony Millwood, Chair

  
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Laura Ogletree, Clerk