

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Virtual/Public Meeting Due To State & Federal COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations Minutes of February 25, 2021 Meeting

Voting Members Present:

Tony Millwood, City of Oakwood, Chairperson
Patrick O'Rourke, Hall County
Renee Gerrell, Hall County
Brent Hoffman, Hall County
Heather Taylor, Hall County
Berlinda Lipscomb, City of Gainesville
Sammy Smith, City of Gainesville
William Bush, City of Gainesville
Pat Jones, City of Oakwood
Chip McCallum, City of Flowery Branch
Michele Price, Jackson County

Voting Members Absent:

Nick Allen, Hall County
Joe Kennedy, Hall County
Greg Simpson, Hall County
Connie Propes, City of Gainesville
David Jones, City of Flowery Branch
Jennifer Kidd-Harrison, Town of Braselton
Beverly Nordholz, City of Gainesville

Others Present:

Eric Lusher, POND
Sue Anne Decker, GDOT District 1
Tricia Terrell, Citizen
Jeff Gill, Gainesville Times

Sarah McQuade, GHMPO
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO
Michael Haire, GHMPO

1. Welcome

Mr. Millwood opened the meeting at 4:00 PM.

2. Update from GDOT District 1 Regarding Flat Creek Bridge Quick Response Project

Ms. Decker from GDOT District 1 updated the committee on the Quick Response Project at Flat Creek Bridge, where a four-foot sidewalk is being created over the culvert. A contractor has been selected and they are currently waiting on warmer weather to begin pouring concrete. The project is estimated to take approximately 60 days to construct.



Ms. Decker received a question from Mr. Smith asking if it would take legislative action to name the culvert, as the project does not currently have a name. Ms. Decker responded that it would require legislative action to name the bridge or the project.

3. Approval of November 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Hoffman made a motion to approve the draft minutes of the November 5, 2020 meeting, with a second from Ms. Jones, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Recommend Approval of Draft Amendment #6 to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Haire introduced the sixth amendment to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program, explaining that until the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program is formally adopted at the state level, the FY 2018-2021 TIP is still considered active and must be amended with the same changes as the FY 2021-2024 TIP. For this amendment, the Georgia Department of Transportation has requested that \$800,000 of local (LOC) funds provided by the City of Gainesville be added to the Principal Engineering (PE) phase for FY 2021 for the Green Street median project (GH-121).

MOTION: Mr. Hoffman made a motion to recommend approval of Draft Amendment #6 to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program, with a second from Ms. Jones. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

5. Recommend Approval of Draft Amendment #1 to the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Haire presented the first amendment to the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program, which, like Amendment #6 to the FY 2018-2021 TIP, adds \$800,000 of funding for the PE phase in 2021 for the Green Street Median Project (GH-121), adding this item to the TIP's program years.

MOTION: Mr. Smith made a motion to recommend approval of Draft Amendment #1 to the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program, with a second from Mr. McCallum. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

6. Review of the Draft FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Boyd introduced the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program, specifically noting the availability of additional funding for Special Transportation Studies, should local jurisdictions decide to pursue commissioning a study. Mr. Boyd stated that the Braselton/Hoschton Bypass Study is currently the only study listed as potentially occurring in FY 2022 and would require approval from the GHMPO committees as well as local funding from Jackson County, Braselton, Hoschton, and potentially Barrow County to move forward.

Mr. Hoffman asked whether funds had been set aside for the North Hall Parkway Study. Mr. Boyd stated that the North Hall Parkway Study was listed as potentially occurring in FY 2023 but that there had been no recent change to GHMPO staff's knowledge regarding local jurisdictions wanting to pursue and pay for local matching funding of this potential study. He stated, like in 2020, the Citizens Advisory Committee may request again this project be a priority for the community in the coming years if they so choose.

7. Recommend Approval of the Draft SR 365/Jesse Jewell Traffic Impact Study

Mr. Lusher walked the committee through the SR 365/Jesse Jewell Traffic Impact Study, showing primary intersection priorities as well as larger recommended improvements.

Mr. McCallum asked whether they thought they could make the adjustments needed to keep up with traffic in Gainesville, or if they should look north in order to divert traffic around Gainesville. Mr. Lusher stated that they have had conversations about diverting traffic from Jesse Jewell Parkway up towards Academy Street in order to relieve pressure around target intersections due to Jesse Jewell Parkway being overburdened by traffic.

MOTION: Mr. Smith made a motion to recommend approval of the draft SR 365/Jesse Jewell Parkway Traffic Impact Study, which received a second from Mr. Hoffman. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

8. TCC Agency Reports

Mr. Boyd gave a brief overview of the agency and local jurisdiction reports from the Technical Coordinating Committee meeting held on February 17, 2021. Mr. Boyd specifically discussed the recent launch of WeGo by Hall Area Transit, a microtransit option currently operating in the City of Gainesville. WeGo is expected to begin service in all of Hall County beginning in July 2021.

9. Other

Mr. Boyd provided an update on the Trails Subcommittee, which is currently working on routing for the trail system throughout Hall County and is planning to meet in March to finalize trail segment priorities for development. Additionally, Mr. Boyd mentioned the McEver Road Subcommittee, which is currently exploring options of improvements to intersections along McEver Road and should have more information and concrete plans that can be discussed at the next Citizens Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Boyd received a question about whether or not the trail surrounding the quarry was a part of the official plan, to which Joseph responded that it was being shown as a possible path in the overall trail network.

Mr. Smith asked whether they could add to the FY 2022 UPWP a Master Sidewalk Inventory plan in order to identify locations that may need a sidewalk. He received a response from Ms. Gerrell stating that any time new work has been done by the Georgia Department of Transportation, they stated that sidewalks would be included where practical, but that she'd still like to pursue adding more. Mr. Boyd responded that there has been some interest in doing a sidewalk inventory that would map out existing infrastructure and could identify important gaps in the network that needed attention. Staff would place this possible study in the UPWP on recommendation from the CAC and then begin specific discussion regarding this study at the next round of committee meetings. The project would need approval from the three GHMPO committees and dedicated funding allocated from local jurisdictions for local match in order to conduct the study.

Mr. McCallum used this opportunity to inquire as to whether multiple counties are working with Braselton on the final design of the SR 211 widening project, to which Mr. Boyd stated that the Town of Braselton is within four different counties, three regional commissions, and two MPOs and coordinates all projects with every entity involved, including projects along State Route 211.

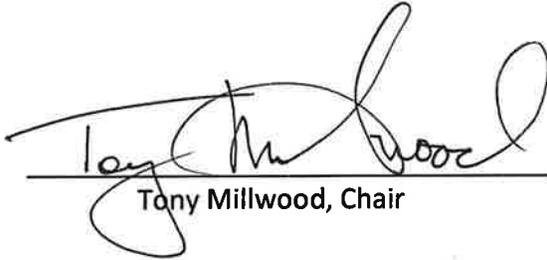
10. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

11. Upcoming Meeting Date: April 29, 2021

12. Adjourn

MOTION: Motion to adjourn by Ms. Jones, with a second from Mr. Hoffman. This passed by unanimous vote, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 PM.



Tony Millwood, Chair



Laura Ogletree, Clerk