



## **Citizens Advisory Committee**

**Second Floor HR Training Room, Hall County Government Center**

**Minutes of July 29, 2021 Meeting**

### **Voting Members Present:**

Tony Millwood, City of Oakwood, Chair  
Heather Taylor, Hall County  
Berlinda Lipscomb, City of Gainesville  
Beverly Nordholz, City of Gainesville  
Sammy Smith, City of Gainesville  
Pat Jones, City of Oakwood  
Chip McCallum, City of Flowery Branch  
David Jones, City of Flowery Branch

### **Voting Members Absent:**

Patrick O'Rourke, Hall County  
Brent Hoffman, Hall County  
Sloan Spivey, Hall County  
Nick Allen, Hall County  
Joe Kennedy, Hall County  
Greg Simpson, Hall County  
Renee Gerrell, Hall County  
Michele Price, Jackson County  
Connie Propes, City of Gainesville  
William Bush, City of Gainesville  
Jennifer Kidd-Harrison, Town of Braselton

### **Others Present:**

Jeff Gill, Gainesville Times  
Sarah McQuade, GHMPO  
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO

Michael Haire, GHMPO  
Laura Ogletree, GHMPO

## **1. Welcome**

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

## **2. Approval of February 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 29, 2021 meeting, with a second from Ms. Jones. The motion passed by unanimous vote.



### **3. Recommend Approval of Draft Title VI Program, Environmental Justice Analysis & Participation Plan**

Mr. Haire provided a brief overview of the Draft Title VI Program, Environmental Justice Analysis & Participation Plan. Mr. Haire explained that the primary function of this document is to ensure that all citizens within the GHMPO planning boundary are able to engage in the planning process and have fair access to transportation facilities. Additionally, Mr. Haire explained that the primary change in this routine update is the inclusion of the Public Participation Plan (PPP), which was previously adopted separately, as an appendix of the Title VI document.

**MOTION:** Mr. Smith made a motion to recommend approval the Draft Title VI Program, Environmental Justice Analysis & Participation Plan, with a second from Ms. Jones, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **4. Recommend Approval of Draft PL Fund Application for the SR 53 Bypass Study**

Mr. Boyd informed the Citizens Advisory Committee of efforts to apply for additional PL funds to fund a State Route 53 Bypass Study, which would seek to evaluate options for alleviating congestion in the downtown areas of the Towns of Hoschton and Braselton. The application is requesting \$125,000, but that can be updated in the future if needed. Additionally, GDOT has had conversations with GHMPO about getting involved with the study and extending the study scope to farther north on I-85 and south into Barrow County, which is located within the Atlanta Regional Commission planning area. While GDOT is still working through the details on the possible study scope, they have asked GHMPO committees to take action on the application as it currently stands.

Mr. Boyd received a question from Ms. Taylor regarding what the requested funds could be used for if GDOT did take over the study, and Mr. Boyd responded that the funds would have to be used for the study, but we would know prior to officially requesting the funds if GDOT was going to take part in the study. If GDOT expands the scope, the application for PL funds will not be submitted.

Ms. Lipscomb asked if the study would be similar to I-985 if GDOT takes over, and Mr. Boyd responded that it would become a more general mobility study with many different options on the table.

**MOTION:** Mr. Smith made a motion to approve of the Draft PL Fund Application for the SR 53 Bypass Study, with a second from Ms. Nordholz, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

## **5. Recommend Approval of Draft Amendment #1 to the FY 2022 UPWP**

Mr. Boyd introduced the first draft amendment to the FY 2022 UPWP. The purpose of Draft Amendment #1 is to transfer \$10,000 of funds from Work Element 1.1 – “Operations and Administration” to Work Element 4.5 – “Special Transportation Studies” in order to accommodate a potential Design Guide document for the Highlands to Islands Intergovernmental Agreement, which would cost approximately \$15,000.

Mr. Boyd received a question from Mr. Millwood about the airport trail segment, to which Mr. Boyd responded that the trail was one of the committee’s first priorities, with the City of Gainesville planning to begin design work in the near future.

**MOTION:** Mr. Smith made a motion to recommend approval of Draft Amendment #1 to the FY 2022 UPWP, which was seconded by Ms. Taylor. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

## **6. 2021 Crash Profiles Update – Hall County & Jackson County**

Mr. Haire introduced new Crash Profile reports, which detail vehicular collisions throughout both Hall and Jackson Counties during the year of 2020. Using data retrieved from the Georgia Electronic Accident Reporting System, these documents contain maps showing collision locations for regular collision, collisions with an injury, collisions with fatalities, as well as additional data for different conditions surrounding the collisions. Additionally, the Crash Profiles contain data pertaining to five-year trends in both counties. Mr. Haire explained that the pages in the meeting packet were excerpts from the full document, which is available on the GHMPO website.

GHMPO staff received several questions from committee members. First, Mr. Smith asked if the data indicated whether physical road design could be a part of the cause of the accidents, and whether or not GDOT was using this data to improve specific locations. Mr. Haire explained that the full documents did have a listing of high accident intersections and hotspots, and that data was shared with GDOT, who would likely utilize that data to make decisions on transportation projects.

Mr. Millwood asked about the definition of an accident, to which Mr. Haire responded that an accident was a collision of one or more cars with anything else.

Ms. McQuade asked if pedestrians or bicyclists were included in the collision counts, to which Mr. Boyd responded that in the past, there was bicycle and pedestrian information included, but that in recent years, it wasn’t included.

Lastly, Mr. Millwood asked if any local jurisdictions were using drones to dispatch to accident locations, to which Mr. Boyd responded that none were utilizing drones to his knowledge.

## **7. TCC Agency Reports**

Mr. Boyd provided a brief overview of the agency reports from the TCC meeting on July 21, 2021. Mr. Boyd also took this time to discuss the countywide rollout of WeGo from Hall Area Transit with the committee.

Mr. Boyd received a question from Mr. Millwood about the McEver Road subcommittee, and Mr. Boyd explained that recommendations to improve several key intersections along the corridor have been shared with local jurisdictions and they will have more information for the CAC in the fall.

## **8. Other**

Mr. Boyd briefly discussed the proposed high-speed rail between Atlanta and Charlotte and the current environmental impact studies that they are conducting. The preferred corridor would bring the rail line through Athens and not Gainesville.

Ms. Taylor asked about the new road signs in the City of Gainesville that abbreviate street names, to which Mr. Boyd responded that he would need to ask the City of Gainesville about that and would follow up.

Mr. McCallum asked about the Spout Springs widening and how the highway underpass may cause traffic congestion due to the inability to widen underneath the bridge. Mr. Boyd agreed that it could lead to increased congestion if the underpass is not eventually widened, but that GDOT has taken the widening of I-985 off the table for now, so the issue will have to be addressed at a later time.

Mr. Smith asked if GHMPO would have any projects ready to go if any federal funding became available in the near future from transportation legislature being discussed by the United States Congress. Ms. McQuade responded that each of the local jurisdictions have projects in mind, but that they will have to see exactly how that funding is passed along to the local levels before any decisions are made.

Mr. Smith briefly mentioned a few local locations that received naming recognition from the Georgia assembly:

- The intersection at State Route 365 and Lanier Technical College has been named after the late Jim Walters.
- The bridge over Flat Creek along Atlanta Highway/State Route 13 has been named the David Anderson Memorial Bridge.

**9. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**10. Upcoming Meeting Data: October 28, 2021**

**11. Adjourn**

There being no other items of business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.



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Tony Millwood, Chair



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Laura Ogletree, Clerk