

Policy Committee

Commission Meeting Room, Hall County Government Center Minutes of August 10, 2021 Meeting

Voting Members Present:

Mayor Danny Dunagan, City of Gainesville, Chair
Mayor Lamar Scroggs, City of Oakwood, Vice
Chair
Chairman Richard Higgins, Hall County
Commissioner Jeff Stowe, Hall County
Commissioner Kathy Cooper, Hall County
Charles Robinson, GDOT

Voting Members Absent:

Mayor Mike Miller, City of Flowery Branch
Chairman Tom Crow, Jackson County

Others Present:

Angela Sheppard, City of Gainesville
Chris Rotalsky, City of Gainesville
Jock Connell, Hall County
Srikanth Yamala, Hall County
Bill Nash, Hall County
BR White, City of Oakwood
Justin Lott, GDOT District 1
Melodii Peoples, GDOT District 1

Beth Davis, GDOT
Philippa Lewis Moss, Hall Area Transit
Jeff Gill, Gainesville Times
Sarah McQuade, GHMPO
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO
Michael Haire, GHMPO
Laura Ogletree, GHMPO


AGENDA

1. Welcome

Mayor Dunagan opened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

2. Approval of May 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Mayor Scroggs made a motion to approve the draft meeting minutes of the May 11, 2021 Policy Committee meeting, with a second from Chairman Higgins, and the motion passed unanimously.



3. Report from the Technical Coordinating Committee

Mr. Boyd provided a brief overview of the Technical Coordinating Committee meeting that occurred on July 21, 2021.

4. Report from the Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Boyd provided a brief overview of the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting that occurred on July 29, 2021.

5. 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: Chairman Higgins made a motion to approve the Draft Title VI Update, Environmental Justice Analysis & Participation Plan, with a second from Commissioner Stowe, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of Draft PL Fund Application for the SR 53 Bypass Study

Mr. Boyd informed the Policy Committee of efforts to apply for additional PL funds to conduct 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 \$100,000 in PL funds with \$25,000 in local matching funds provided by Jackson County, Braselton, and Hoschton. Additionally, GDOT has had conversations with GHMPO about getting involved with the study and extending the study scope farther north along I-85 and farther 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.

MOTION: Commissioner Stowe made a motion to approve the Draft PL Fund Application for the SR 53 Bypass Study, with a second from Chairman Higgins, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. 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.

MOTION: Chairman Higgins made a motion to approve Draft Amendment #1 to the FY 2022 UPWP, with a second from Commissioner Stowe, and the motion passed unanimously.

8. 2021 Crash Profiles – 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 (GEARS), 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. Mr. Haire added that he could provide a link to the full reports, as well as the crash data in a map package for local jurisdiction use, if any Policy Committee members were interested.

9. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports

Representatives shared the status of projects being completed by their jurisdictions: Mr. Rotalsky for the City of Gainesville, Mr. White for the City of Oakwood, Ms. Moss for Hall Area Transit, Mr. Yamala for Hall County, and Mr. Lott for the Georgia Department of Transportation.

10. Other

Mr. Boyd provided a brief update on the two TCC subcommittees: the Trails Subcommittee and the McEver Road Subcommittee. The Trails subcommittee is currently in the process of identifying and ranking trail segments by priority, with the two primary goals being the completion of the Atlanta Highway/UNG connector trail and the Gainesville Airport trail connecting the Midtown Greenway with the Chicopee Trail. The McEver Road Subcommittee is currently exploring options for alleviating congestion along the corridor with multiple potential improvements, including the possible installation of roundabouts. MPO staff will have additional information on both committees at the next Policy Committee meeting in November.

Additionally, Mr. Boyd gave a brief update on the Atlanta to Charlotte High Speed Rail, which has shifted the proposed route from going through Gainesville to going through Athens.

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11. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

12. Upcoming Meeting Date: November 9, 2021

Mayor Dunagan reminded the Policy Committee of their next meeting date on November 9, 2021. The location will be announced closer to the meeting date.

13. Adjourn

There being no other items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.



Mayor Danny Dunagan, City of Gainesville, Chair

Laura Ogletree, Clerk