



## **POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 10:00 AM**

**Commission Meeting Room, Second Floor, Hall County Government Center**

**Minutes of March 8, 2022 Meeting**

### **Voting Members Present:**

Mayor Sam Couvillon, City of Gainesville, Chair  
Mayor Ed Asbridge, City of Flowery Branch  
Chairman Richard Higgins, Hall County  
Commissioner Kathy Cooper, Hall County  
Commissioner Jeff Stowe, Hall County  
Commissioner Jim Hix, Jackson County  
Charles Robinson, GDOT

### **Voting Members Absent:**

Mayor Lamar Scroggs, City of Oakwood

### **Others Present:**

Jock Connell, Hall County  
Zach Propes, Hall County  
Bill Nash, Hall County  
Srikanth Yamala, Hall County  
Jamie Dove, Jackson County  
Bryan Lackey, City of Gainesville  
Angela Sheppard, City of Gainesville  
Chris Rotalsky, City of Gainesville  
Matt Tarver, City of Gainesville  
Cory Jones, City of Gainesville

BR White, City of Oakwood  
Tonya Parish, City of Flowery Branch  
Rich Atkinson, City of Flowery Branch  
Phillippa Lewis Moss, Hall Area Transit  
Jeramy Durrence, GDOT District 1  
Colson Rivers, Indigo Energy  
Francisco Rosales, Indigo Energy  
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO  
Michael Haire, GHMPO

## **AGENDA**

### **1. Welcome**

Mayor Couvillon opened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

### **2. Approval of November 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Stowe made a motion to approve the draft meeting minutes of the November 9, 2021 Policy Committee meeting, with a second from Chairman Higgins, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Approval of the Draft FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Mr. Haire introduced the final draft of the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program, providing an overview of the changes that were made since the previous round of GHMPO committee meetings. The Draft FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) describes the planning projects, studies, and activities the Gainesville-Hall Metropolitan planning Organization (GHMPO) will undertake in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Notable changes to this draft of the FY 2023 UPWP include an increase focus on Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs) and updated PL funding amounts. Additionally, Work Element 4.5 – “Special Transportation Studies” has been updated to focus on the Bike and Pedestrian Plan as a main funding item. Additionally, Mr. Haire discussed the recent inclusion of newly created Y410 funds that stem from the new federal infrastructure bill (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act).

**MOTION:** Chairman Higgins made a motion to approve of the Draft FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with a second by Mayor Asbridge, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **4. Approval of the Draft Amendment #2 to the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Mr. Haire provided an overview of Draft Amendment #2 to the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which adds two new projects to the FY 2021-2024 TIP program years. The first project is the State Route 53 Mobility Study, which has been labeled GH-140, and the second project is a bridge improvement on State Route 283 over Flat Creek, which has been labeled GH-141.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Stowe made a motion to approve the draft, which was seconded by Chairman Higgins, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **5. Approval of the Braselton Trail Study Final Document**

Mr. Boyd provided an overview of the Braselton Trail Study, which included the background, potential routes, final route recommendations, and cost estimates. The final recommended route shows Braselton extending the Lifepath down State Route 211 in conjuncture with the 211 widening project by GDOT, then running parallel to I-85, and eventually connecting into the existing multiuse path network in downtown Braselton.

**MOTION:** Chairman Higgins made a motion to approve of the Braselton Trail Study Final Document, which was seconded by Commissioner Stowe, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **6. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports**

Representatives shared the status of transportation projects in their jurisdictions: Mr. Atkinson for the City of Flowery Branch, Mr. Rotalsky for the City of Gainesville, Mr. White for the City of Oakwood, Mr. Durrenre for the Georgia Department of Transportation, Ms. Moss for Hall Area Transit, Mr. Nash for Hall County, and Ms. Dove for Jackson County.

Commissioner Cooper asked Mr. Durrence of GDOT District 1 for details on the project that is occurring near the intersection of State Route 211 and Union Church Road in South Hall. Mr. Durrence responded that he would check into the project and follow back up with the Policy Committee on what the project entails and the timeline for its completion.

## **7. Other**

Mr. Boyd provided a brief update from the Trails Subcommittee of the Technical Coordinating Committee, recapping the work that the subcommittee has done in recent meetings to continue the planning and implementation of the Highlands to Islands trail system.

Commissioner Stowe asked if there were any physical maps available of the Highlands to Islands Trail system. Mr. Boyd responded that at this time, there were not, but a new website for the trail had recently launched ([www.hIGHLANDSTOISLANDS.org](http://www.hIGHLANDSTOISLANDS.org)) which contained interactive maps highlighting sections of the trail that were currently open, as well as sections that are planned or under active design. Mr. Boyd stated the Trails Subcommittee would discuss physical brochures and maps at their next meeting.

Mr. Boyd also spoke on the McEver Road Subcommittee and stated that the committee would be meeting again soon to further previous discussions regarding safety and congestion issues the corridor is facing.

## **8. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

## **9. Upcoming Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2022**

Mayor Couvillon noted the next Policy Committee meeting would be on May 10, 2022. The meeting location will be announced at a later time.

## **10. Adjourn**

There being no other items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 AM.



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Mayor Sam Couvillon, Chair



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Michael Haire, Transportation Planner