



## **POLICY COMMITTEE**

### **Commission Meeting Room, Second Floor, Hall County Government Center Minutes of May 10, 2022 Meeting**

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

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

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

Chairman Richard Higgins, Hall County  
Mayor Lamar Scroggs, City of Oakwood

#### **Others Present:**

Jock Connell, Hall County  
Srikanth Yamala, Hall County  
Frank Miller, Hall County  
Gina Roy, Jackson County  
Bryan Lackey, City of Gainesville  
Angela Sheppard, City of Gainesville  
Chris Rotalsky, City of Gainesville  
Matt Tarver, City of Gainesville  
Corey Jones, City of Gainesville  
Tonya Parish, City of Flowery Branch  
Rich Atkinson, City of Flowery Branch

Dan Schultz, City of Oakwood  
Phillippa Lewis Moss, Hall Area Transit  
Adam Hazell, GMRC  
Kelvin Mullins, GDOT  
Jomar Pastorelle, GDOT  
Pricilla Young, GDOT  
Randi Doveton, GHMPO  
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO  
Michael Haire, GHMPO

## **AGENDA**

### **1. Welcome**

Mayor Couvillon opened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

### **2. Approval of March 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Stowe made a motion to approve the draft meeting minutes of the March 8, 2022 Policy Committee meeting, with a second from Mayor Asbridge, and the motion passed unanimously.

**3. Update from the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)**

Mr. Boyd provided a brief recap of the recent Technical Coordinating Committee meeting, which took place on April 20, 2022. The TCC unanimously recommended approval of all agenda items.

**4. Update from the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)**

Mr. Boyd provided a brief recap of the recent Citizens Advisory Committee meeting, which took place on April 28, 2022. The CAC unanimously recommended approval of all agenda items. At the CAC's request, Jamie McCurry of the Georgia Ports Authority also provided the committee with a brief update of the coming Gainesville Inland Port.

**5. Approval of Draft Amendment #3 to the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Mr. Boyd provided a brief overview of proposed updates to the Transportation Improvement Program with Draft Amendment #3. Draft Amendment #3 to the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program adjusts funding amounts and phasing for GH-025 (State Route 211 Widening from State Route 53 to State Route 347), GH-056 (State Route 136/Price Road @ Chestatee River – Bridge Replacement), and GH-121 (State Route 11 Business/State Route 60 from CS 624/Academy Street to CS 548/Glenwood Dr.), as well as adds two new projects (GH-142 and GH-143 - US 129/Cleveland Highway widening phases II and III) with Scoping funding set for FY 2022.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cooper made a motion to adopt Amendment #3 to the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which was seconded by Commissioner Stowe, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**6. Approval of Draft Amendment #1 to the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Mr. Haire provided an overview of Draft Amendment #1 to the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program. In the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, funding was outlined for transitioning to zero emission vehicles for public transportation with the stipulation that agencies must first adopt a Zero Emission Transition Plan. GHMPO will conduct the study on behalf of Hall Area Transit, as they intend to transition to zero emission vehicles in the future and would like to utilize the newly available funds. The study requires a 10% cash match of approximately \$5,000 that will be split evenly amongst Hall County and the City of Gainesville (the two entities currently split operating costs for Hall Area Transit).

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cooper made a motion to adopt Amendment #1 to the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which was seconded by Mayor Asbridge, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

## **7. Update from GDOT on the State Route 365 Corridor Study and the State Route 53 Mobility Study**

Mr. Robinson shared an update on the State Route 365 Corridor Study and the State Route 53 Mobility Study.

The State Route 365 Corridor Study was requested by Hall County, and its stated purpose is to identify, evaluate, and provide recommendations for projects that improve safety, reduce congestion, and improve traffic operations and mobility throughout the corridor. Mr. Robinson also discussed level of service and crash data analysis. The proposed completion date for the study is summer 2024.

The State Route 53/State Route 60 Braselton Hoschton Mobility Study was initially requested by GHMPO as an MPO funded study, but the study area expanded in order to complete a more comprehensive analysis with GDOT completely covering the cost of the study. This study is expected to be completed in spring 2024.

Commissioner Stowe asked if the scope of the State Route 365 Study would strictly be in the 365 corridor or would also look at the connections down into Jackson County to I-85. Mr. Robinson responded that the main scope of the study would be focused just on the State Route 365 corridor, but that the study may warrant further exploration of connections from the 365 corridor south to I-85.

Commissioner Cooper asked Mr. Robinson if a scope for the State Route 365 Corridor Study had been considered that looked farther north to the interchange with US 441 in Habersham County. Mr. Robinson responded that a more northern terminus of the study up to US 441 was considered, but that due to time and budget constraints, the final scope ended at Belton Bridge Road. He added that as the study progressed, it may be discovered that another phase is needed that looks farther north along the corridor. He stated he would keep the Policy Committee updated on the studies as they progress, including if any scope changes are realized.

## **8. Update from Hall Area Transit Regarding WeGO Microtransit Service**

Ms. Moss provided an update on Hall Area Transit's microtransit service "WeGo," which launched in December 2020, and has since replaced Gainesville Connection and Dial-A-Ride across all of Hall County. Ms. Moss discussed ridership demographics, rider satisfaction rates, and data on WeGo rides over the past two years. Ms. Moss mentioned that Hall Area Transit was currently looking to purchase five additional vehicles in FY 2023, though those buses may take 12+ months to be delivered. Hall Area Transit is also expanding their service hours, which are currently 6 AM to 6 PM, to 6 AM to 10 PM beginning July 1, 2022.

The WeGo service received praise from Mayor Couvillon, who shared his own positive experiences using the service.

## **9. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports**

Representatives shared the status of transportation projects in their jurisdictions: Mr. Atkinson for the City of Flowery Branch, Mr. Tarver for the City of Gainesville, Mr. Schultz for the City of Oakwood, Mr. Mullins for the Georgia Department of Transportation, Ms. Moss for Hall Area Transit, Mr. Miller for Hall County, and Ms. Roy for Jackson County.

## **10. Other**

Mr. Boyd briefly discussed recent updates from the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Trails and McEver Road subcommittees. The Trails Subcommittee met recently to kick off the Highlands to Islands Design Guide with Alta Planning and Design, while the McEver Road Subcommittee met recently to discuss future plans for improvements along the corridor, which includes Hall County moving forward with their intention to build a roundabout at the intersection of McEver and Lights Ferry Road.

## **11. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

## **12. Upcoming Meeting Date: August 9, 2022**

Mayor Couvillon noted the next Policy Committee meeting would be on August 9, 2022.

## **13. Adjourn**

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

  
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Mayor Lamar Scroggs, Chair

  
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Joseph Boyd, Transportation Planning Director