

Technical Coordinating Committee

**Banquet Hall, 4th Floor, Hall County Government Center
Minutes of February 15, 2023 Meeting**

Voting Members Present:

Adam Hazell, GMRC, Chair
Matt Tarver, City of Gainesville
Corey Jones, City of Gainesville
Rich Atkinson, City of Flowery Branch
Dan Branch, City of Buford
Jennifer Scott, Town of Braselton
Ellis Still, Hall County
Gina Roy, Jackson County
Phillippa Lewis Moss, Hall Area Transit
Megan Weiss, GDOT
Jomar Pastorelle, GDOT
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO

Others Present:

Habte Kassa, GDOT
Julia Billings, Modern Mobility Partners

Voting Members Absent:

Randi Doveton, GHMPO
Srikanth Yamala, Hall County
Frank Miller, Hall County
Bill Nash, Hall County
Tonya Parish, City of Flowery Branch
B.R. White, City of Oakwood
Dan Schultz, City of Oakwood
Angela Sheppard, City of Gainesville


Ann-Marie Day, FHWA
Jared Lombard, FHWA
Michael Haire, GHMPO

1. Welcome – Adam Hazell, Chair

Mr. Hazell opened the meeting at 10:32 AM.

2. Approval of October 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Ms. Roy made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2022 meeting, with a second from Ms. Moss, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.



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

Mr. Haire introduced Draft Amendment #5 to the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program. This Amendment was requested by Hall Area Transit and the Georgia Department of Transportation, and adds two updated tables and a new project factsheet. The first table is an updated Fleet Inventory and Replacement Schedule for Hall Area Transit, which can be found on page 2 of Appendix B. The second table is a new FY 2021-2024 Capital Purchases table, which allocates Hall Area Transit's previously authorized funding to specific capital projects.

Lastly, a new project factsheet has been added to Appendix A, which enables Hall Area Transit to utilize FY 2023's available Carbon Reduction (Y606) funding, which will be flexed to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Mr. Haire reiterated that more Carbon Reduction Program funding will be available when FY 2024 begins in July, and local jurisdictions should consider potential uses.

MOTION: Mr. Branch made a motion to recommend approval of Draft Amendment #5 to the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program, with a second from Ms. Roy, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Recommend Approval of Draft Amendment #2 to the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Haire introduced Amendment #2 to the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program, which was requested by the Georgia Department of Transportation and adds language specifying GHMPO's intent to apply for PL funds at the March PL Funds Review Committee meeting to conduct the Metropolitan Transportation Plan: 2025 Update concurrently with a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update. Specific language expressing this intent has been added to pages 21, 23, 26, and 30 of the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program.

MOTION: Ms. Moss made a motion to approve Draft Amendment #2 to the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program, with a second from Ms. Scott, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

5. Recommend Approval of Draft FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Haire introduced the Draft FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). This document serves as the MPO's annual operating budget, and provides funding for various planning activities and studies. This is the second and final review of this document before it is scheduled for adoption by the Policy Committee on February 21, 2023. Mr. Haire explained that this draft has finalized funding amounts for both the PL and 5303 grants, and also includes the recently added Flowery Branch Downtown Plan to the "Upcoming Unfunded Products" section. Additionally, local match is no longer required for Carbon Reduction (Y410) funds.

MOTION: Ms. Scott made a motion to approve of the Draft FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program, with a second from Ms. Roy, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

6. Recommend Approval of Draft Performance Measures

Mr. Haire introduced new Draft Performance Measures, which are targets set by the Georgia Department of Transportation and adopted by GHMPO. Mr. Haire explained that PM 1 (Safety) performance measures set targets for roadway safety in calendar year 2023, PM 2 (Bridge and Pavement) performance measures set 2- and 4-year targets for the condition of bridges and paved surfaces connected to the National Highway System, and PM 3 (National Highway System, Freight, and CMAQ) performance measures set 2- and 4-year targets for reliable NHS miles, congestion, and emissions.

Mr. Haire received a question from Mr. Hazell about where these Performance Measures are set, to which Mr. Haire, with clarification from Mr. Lombard, stated that they are established by the Georgia Department of Transportation and are statewide.

MOTION: Ms. Moss made a motion to approve of the Draft Performance Measures, with a second from Ms. Roy, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

7. Recommend Approval of Draft Application for Concurrent Regional Transportation Plan / Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Mr. Boyd provided an overview of the Draft PL Funds Application for the concurrent Metropolitan Transportation Plan / Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Mr. Boyd explained that GHMPO can apply for funds at the PL Funds Review Committee in March or September, so GHMPO would like to apply in March in order to get the process started later this spring. Mr. Boyd further discussed the transition to an application that will fund both the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, explaining that it is expected to save time and money by consolidating public participation and project websites.

Mr. Boyd received a question from Ms. Day regarding how much of the cost would be split between the two projects, to which Mr. Boyd responded that they could update the application to show the cost split more clearly in the Scope of Work section. Ms. Day also expressed hesitancy towards the listed cost estimate, and suggested that staff consider looking at other local MPOs to determine if the final price estimate should be increased. Mr. Boyd responded that they would inform the TCC if the application cost needed to be raised ahead of the Policy Committee meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Roy made a motion to approve of the Draft PL Application, with a second from Mr. Branch, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

8. Discussion on Carbon Reduction Strategies

Mr. Kassa introduced Ms. Billings from Modern Mobility Partners, who is assisting the Georgia Department of Transportation with the development of the statewide Carbon Reduction Strategy. Ms. Billings discussed the development of the strategy and their intent to tailor it using feedback from local partners and MPOs. The Carbon Reduction Strategy is a state-level plan developed as a part of the federal Carbon Reduction Program, and will outline carbon reduction efforts and funding allocation throughout the state. This plan will be evaluated and updated every four years in coordination with the MPOs.

Ms. Billings then listed several project types that this funding could be used for, including transportation demand management, intelligent transportation system capital improvements, or the development of the carbon reduction strategy itself. Lastly, Ms. Billings explained the process and timeline for the development of the plan, which should be complete by September, and provided contact information for questions or comments.

9. Discussion on Transportation Management Areas (TMAs)

Mr. Lombard discussed the results of the 2020 Census, which concluded that the Gainesville urbanized area has surpassed a population of 200,000 and is designated to become a Transportation Management Area (TMA). The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) will publish a Federal Register notice designating new TMAs in Spring/Summer of 2023, which will establish a timeline and process for becoming a TMA.

Mr. Lombard further explained that this will come with enhanced responsibilities, including the expansion of the UPWP to include information on transportation planning related activities from non-federal sources, the selection of federally funded projects for implementation, and new required documents addressing housing and the congestion management process. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will continue coordinating with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), GDOT, and MPO staff to coordinate on upcoming deadlines and prepare for this change.

Mr. Boyd noted that Ms. Moss would be joining the Policy Committee as the Hall Area Transit representative, and asked if the Policy Committee should also include a Jackson County Transit representative, to which Mr. Lombard and Mr. Boyd agreed that it should. Additionally, Mr. Boyd was invited by Ms. Day to sit in during the Atlanta Regional Commission's recertification as a TMA in order to better understand the process.

10. Jurisdiction and Agency Updates

Representatives shared the status of projects being completed by their jurisdictions: Mr. Jones for the City of Gainesville, Mr. Ellis and Mr. Boyd for Hall County, Mr. Atkinson for Flowery Branch, Ms. Moss for Hall Area Transit, and Mr. Pastorelle for the Georgia Department of Transportation.

11. Other

Mr. Boyd provided updates on the Highlands to Islands Subcommittee, which is expected to meet again in March. The first half of the Tumbling Creek / UNG Connector Trail is complete, and the second half will hopefully be done later this spring, if weather permits.

Mr. Boyd also provided updates on the McEver Road Subcommittee, which works to explore options for improving McEver Road south of Mundy Mill Road. Hall County is moving forward with a roundabout at Gaines Ferry and McEver, and Flowery Branch is moving forward with a roundabout at Lights Ferry and McEver.

12. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

13. Upcoming Meeting Date: April 19, 2023

Ms. Roy reminded the Committee of the upcoming meeting date on April 19, 2023.

14. Adjourn

There being no other items of business, the meeting adjourned.



Gina Roy, Vice Chair



Michael Haire, GHMPO