



Citizens Advisory Committee

**HR Training Room, 2nd Floor, Hall County Government Center
Minutes of February 16, 2023 Meeting**

Voting Members Present:

Renee Gerrell, Chair
Pat Jones, City of Oakwood
Tony Millwood, City of Oakwood
Rick Marzano, City of Flowery Branch
Beverly Nordholz, City of Gainesville
Sammy Smith, City of Gainesville
Patrick O'Rourke, Hall County

Voting Members Absent:

Toni Buffington, Hall County
Nick Haynes, Hall County
Brent Hoffman, Hall County
Joe Kennedy, Hall County
Greg Simpson, Hall County
Michele Price, Jackson County
William Bush, City of Gainesville
Berlinda Lipscomb, City of Gainesville
Chip McCallum, City of Flowery Branch
Sloan Spivey, City of Oakwood

Others Present:

Joseph Boyd, GHMPO
Michael Haire, GHMPO

1. Welcome – Renee Gerrell, Chair

Ms. Gerrell opened the meeting at 4:00 PM.

2. Approval of November 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Due to the lack of a quorum, the Citizens Advisory Committee was unable to vote on this agenda item.

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: Due to the lack of a quorum, the Citizens Advisory Committee was unable to vote on this agenda item.

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 additional PL (Planning) 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.

Mr. Haire received a question from Mr. Millwood about the allocation of these funds to trail projects, to which Mr. Haire clarified that the funds in the UPWP are specifically for funding the operating costs of the MPO, which includes employee salaries, planning activities, equipment, and planning studies.

MOTION: Due to the lack of a quorum, the Citizens Advisory Committee was unable to vote on this agenda item.

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: Due to the lack of a quorum, the Citizens Advisory Committee was unable to vote on this agenda item.

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. Millwood regarding if the safety targets were increasing or decreasing, to which Mr. Boyd responded that the purpose is to decrease the amount of injuries and fatalities. The performance targets are used to determine if state and local spending needs to be increased on safety and roadway operations.

Mr. Haire and Mr. Boyd received a question about whether or not GHMPO could set their own performance targets as opposed to adopting GDOT's, to which Mr. Boyd responded that they technically could but would have to do all of their own traffic analysis and data collection work, which would be costly to the MPO. GHMPO is following suit with all other Georgia MPO's (outside of Atlanta) in adopting the statewide targets.

MOTION: Due to the lack of a quorum, the Citizens Advisory Committee was unable to vote on this agenda item.

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 several questions from Ms. Gerrell and Mr. Millwood regarding the inclusion of trail segments within the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan. Mr. Boyd explained that part of the purpose of the plan would be to identify areas where a trail would be beneficial, and which future roadway projects would be able to accommodate the inclusion of sidewalks, bike lanes, or a multiuse path alongside it.

MOTION: Due to the lack of a quorum, the Citizens Advisory Committee was unable to vote on this agenda item.

8. Jurisdiction and Agency Updates

Mr. Boyd provided brief updates on local jurisdiction activities, as detailed in the TCC Agency Report.

9. 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 open later this spring, if weather permits. Mr. Boyd received a question from Mr. Millwood about whether or not golf carts or motorized bicycles would be allowed, to which he responded that golf carts are currently not permitted on trail segments managed by Gainesville and Hall County. Mr. Boyd also received several questions about safety and routing, specifically about where the trail approaches Gainesville Square.

Mr. Boyd also provided updates on the McEver Road Subcommittee, which is currently exploring options for improving McEver Road south of Mundy Mill Road. Hall County is moving forward with a roundabout at Lights Ferry and McEver, and Flowery Branch is moving forward with a roundabout at Gaines Ferry and McEver. Mr. Boyd received a question from Ms. Jones regarding whether or not these planned roundabouts would include a traffic signal, to which Mr. Boyd responded that they would be typical roundabouts and would not include traffic signals.

Lastly, Mr. Boyd discussed the results of the 2020 Census, and provided a brief overview of the updated Gainesville Urbanized Area and the process of becoming a Transportation Management Area (TMA). MPO staff will be sharing more on this process later in 2023.

10. Public Comment

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Boyd if he knew which agency would be the lead in handling rail and freight issues, to which Mr. Boyd responded that freight is relatively isolated and he would have to research who a lead contact would be regarding freight issues.

Additionally, Mr. Smith asked who maintained railroad crossings, to which Mr. Boyd responded that he would have to get back to Mr. Smith regarding this question.

Lastly, Mr. Smith asked if there would be interest in the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting at the Georgia Department of Transportation's Gainesville office, to which Mr. Boyd responded that he would reach out to GDOT and see if their meeting facility would be available.

11. Upcoming Meeting Date: April 27, 2023


Ms. Gerrell reminded the Committee of the upcoming meeting date on April 27, 2023.

12. Adjourn

There being no other items of business, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.



Renee Gerrell, Chair



Michael Haire, GHMPO