

Policy Committee

**Commission Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Hall County Government Center
Minutes of May 9, 2023 Meeting**

Voting Members Present:

Mayor Ed Asbridge, City of Flowery Branch, Chair
B.R. White for Mayor Lamar Scroggs, City of Oakwood
Chairman Richard Higgins, Hall County
Commissioner Jeff Stowe, Hall County
Commissioner Jim Hix, Jackson County
Kathy Zahul, GDOT

Voting Members Absent:

Mayor Sam Couvillon, City of Gainesville
Commission Kathy Cooper, Hall County

Others Present:

Chris Rotalsky, City of Gainesville
Tonya Parish, City of Flowery Branch
Zach Propes, Hall County
Katie Crumley, Hall County
Casey Ramsey, Hall County
Sarah Crowe, Hall County
Frank Miller, Hall County

Gina Roy, Jackson County
Dan Branch, City of Buford
Dennis Bergin, City of Lula
Shelly Ramey, GDOT
Justin Lott, GDOT
Jomar Pastorelle, GDOT
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO
Michael Haire, GHMPO

1. Welcome – Mayor Ed Asbridge, Chair

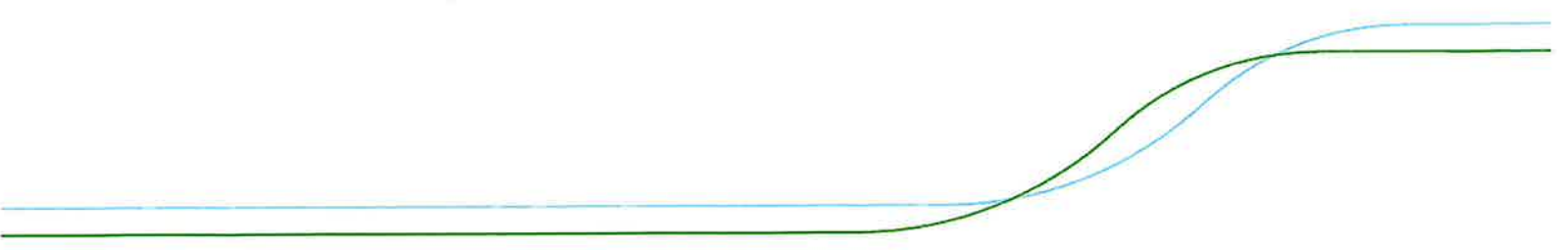
Mayor Asbridge opened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

2. Approval of February 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Stowe made a motion to approve the February 21, 2023 meeting minutes, which received a second from Chairman Higgins, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

3. Update from the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)

Mr. Boyd provided the committee with a brief recap of the recent Technical Coordinating Committee meeting, which took place on April 19, 2023.



Mr. Boyd also briefly discussed updates on the TCC subcommittees. The current priorities for the Trails Subcommittee are the Tumbling Creek Trail, which is nearing completion, and the Gainesville Airport Connector Trail. The Gainesville Airport Connector Trail is currently under design with an estimated construction completion range of 2024-2025. The McEver Road Subcommittee has been working to improve safety and mobility along the McEver Road corridor, and roundabouts at Lights Ferry Road and Gaines Ferry Road are currently underway.

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 February 16, 2023. The CAC recommended approval of all agenda items. Mr. Boyd stated that the CAC requested that information related to several rough at-grade railroad crossings be passed along to Norfolk Southern. MPO staff are working to find the appropriate contact to pass this information along to.

5. Approval of Draft Amendment #1 to the FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Haire introduced Draft Amendment #1 to the FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program. This Amendment was requested by Hall Area Transit and the Georgia Department of Transportation, and adds language to two sections of the document. The first is in Sub-Element 5.1 – Program Support & Administration – and states that GHMPO will work alongside Hall Area Transit (HAT) to develop an indirect-cost analysis to enable HAT to claim indirect cost reimbursements in the future. The second update is in Sub-Element 5.2 – Long Range Transportation Planning – and states the intent of GHMPO to provide support to Hall County in managing the Safe Streets For All Grant (SS4A) to whatever extent is needed. Mr. Haire received a question from Commissioner Stowe regarding whether or not the Safe Streets For All Grant could be used for construction, to which Mr. Haire clarified that Hall County was awarded the grant to develop an Action Plan, which would then enable them to apply for implementation grants in the future that would fund construction of identified safety projects.

MOTION: Commissioner Stowe made a motion to recommend approval of Draft Amendment #1 to the FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), with a second from Chairman Higgins, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

6. First Review of Draft FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Haire introduced the first draft of the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which is scheduled for adoption at the August 8, 2023 Policy Committee meeting. This new Transportation Improvement Program includes all federal and state funded projects in the GHMPO planning area scheduled between fiscal years 2024 and 2027. Included in the new TIP is the new GHMPO System Performance Report, which has been published on the GHMPO website, as well as the new PM1, PM2, and PM3 performance measures that were adopted in February 2023. GHMPO is currently working with Hall Area Transit to collect new funding amounts for the new TIP's program years in order to finalize Appendix B.

Mr. Haire briefly discussed all transportation projects that are included within the TIP program years. Mr. Haire received a comment from Commissioner Stowe suggesting that the MPO double check the construction date on GH-016, the Sardis Road Connector project, as well as another comment from Mayor Asbridge suggesting that the MPO update the “open to traffic” date on GH-023B, Phase II of the Spout Springs Road widening project.

This is the first round of review for the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program. The public comment period runs from June 14 through July 13, 2023, with scheduled adoption by the GHMPO Policy Committee on August 8, 2023.

7. Other

Mr. Boyd briefly discussed the intersection of Tumbling Creek Road and State Route 13/Atlanta Highway, where MPO and local jurisdiction staff have been exploring opportunities for improvements. The Georgia Department of Transportation is currently assisting with developing traffic counts that could be used to justify an intersection improvement project. Mr. Boyd stated that they would have more information regarding this effort at the next Policy Committee meeting.

Additionally, Mr. Boyd mentioned that the MPO would kick off the transition to a Transportation Management Area (TMA) with the Georgia Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration in June and that MPO staff would provide more information on the transition in the near future.

8. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports

Representatives shared the status of projects being completed by their jurisdictions: Mayor Asbridge for the City of Flowery Branch, Mr. Rotalsky for the City of Gainesville, Mr. White for the City of Oakwood, Mr. Branch for the City of Buford, Ms. Zahul and Mr. Lott for the Georgia Department of Transportation, Mr. Miller for Hall County, and Ms. Roy for Jackson County.

9. Public Comment

There were no public comments, but Mr. Boyd did take the opportunity to discuss some recent citizen concerns regarding safety and congestion on State Route 60/Candler Road, and discussed a few of the improvements planned along the corridor. Mr. Lott stated that the District 1 office was working on a few projects within the corridor and that he would provide more information on these at the next Policy Committee.

10. Upcoming Meeting Date: August 8, 2023

Mayor Asbridge reminded the committee of the upcoming meeting date on August 8, 2023.

11. Adjourn

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward R. Asbridge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Mayor Ed Asbridge, Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Haire". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Michael Haire, GHMPO