



Technical Coordinating Committee

**Banquet Hall, 4th Floor, Hall County Government Center
Minutes of July 19, 2023 Meeting**

Voting Members Present:

Adam Hazell, GMRC, Chair
Gina Roy, Jackson County, Vice-Chair
Corey Jones, City of Gainesville
Matt Tarver, City of Gainesville
Dan Branch, City of Buford
Dan Schultz, City of Oakwood
Jennifer Scott, Town of Braselton
Phillippa Lewis Moss, Hall Area Transit
Jomar Pastorelle, GDOT
Justin Lott, GDOT
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO

Voting Members Absent:

Srikanth Yamala, Hall County
Bill Nash, Hall County
Frank Miller, Hall County
Angela Sheppard, City of Gainesville
Rich Atkinson, City of Flowery Branch

Others Present:

Jared Lombard, FHWA
Mark Beatty, NEGRC
Shelly Ramey, GDOT

Elizabeth Johnson, GDOT
Michael Haire, GHMPO

1. Welcome – Adam Hazell, Chair

Mr. Hazell opened the meeting at 10:31 AM.

2. Election of TCC Chair and Vice Chair for FY 2024

MOTION: Ms. Moss made a motion to re-elect Mr. Hazell and Ms. Roy to the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair, with a second from Ms. Scott, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

3. Approval of April 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Ms. Scott made a motion to approve of the April 19, 2023 meeting minutes, which received a second from Mr. Branch, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Update on GHMPO's Designation as a Transportation Management Area (TMA)

Mr. Boyd provided a brief update on GHMPO's transition to a Transportation Management Area (TMA). In the previous round of GHMPO committee meetings, MPO and FHWA staff discussed GHMPO's designation as a TMA as the population crossed the 200,000 threshold as a result of the 2020 Census. As a TMA, GHMPO would be able to access increased funding and exercise more local control over the selection of transportation projects.

The 2020 Census revealed that the Gainesville Urbanized Area had expanded into Forsyth County, with a portion of the county moving over from the Atlanta Urbanized Area. The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) noticed potential errors in the Census Bureau's methodology, and requested an investigation from the Bureau.

Mr. Boyd explained that the Census Bureau has confirmed that there was indeed an error in methodology, and the Gainesville Urbanized Area will not be extending into Forsyth County. Additionally, the Bureau confirmed that there would not be additional growth in Hall or Jackson Counties. Therefore, the Gainesville Urbanized Area will have a total population of 164,365, and will no longer be transitioning into a TMA.

Mr. Boyd received questions from Ms. Moss and Ms. Roy asking about the positive and negative impacts of the TMA designation being rescinded. Mr. Boyd explained that GHMPO will maintain the current status quo and will not experience any impacts to current operations, although GHMPO will not be able to access the increased funding opportunities that would come with becoming a TMA.

5. Recommend Approval of Hall Area Transit's Zero Emission Vehicle Transition Plan

Ms. Moss introduced the Zero Emission Vehicle Transition Plan and provided an overview of the purpose, recommendations, and key findings made in the report. The Federal Transit Administration requires six key elements be included in a transition plan:

- Long-Term Fleet Management
- Address Current and Future Resources
- Consider Policy and Legislation
- Evaluate Existing and Future Facilities
- Explore Partnerships with Alternative Fuel Providers
- Examine the Impact on Existing Workforce

Ms. Moss briefly explained the key findings the consultant found for all six elements and explained that once the plan is adopted, Hall Area Transit plans to begin acquiring low/zero emission vehicles.

MOTION: Ms. Roy made a motion to approve of Hall Area Transit's Zero Emission Vehicle Transition Plan, which received a second from Mr. Branch, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

6. Recommend Approval of the Draft FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Haire discussed the newest draft of the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program, which includes feedback from local, state, and federal partners. Mr. Haire explained that this draft includes updated and corrected funding for Hall Area Transit for FY 2024-2027 in Appendix B of the document, as well as an updated System Performance Report in Appendix H of the document. Mr. Haire advised the committee that the funding amounts and timeline for the second phase of the widening of Spout Springs are not final and will likely be revised through an amendment after adoption. Additionally, the third phase of the State Route 211 widening (State Route 53 to Friendship Road) was removed from the plan due to the right-of-way phase being moved to 2028, which is outside of the TIP program years.

Mr. Haire discussed several of the project updates that are new with this draft of the document, and briefly discussed the timeline for the Green Street Corridor project with Mr. Boyd and Mr. Tarver.

MOTION: Ms. Scott made a motion to recommend approval of Draft FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program, which received a second from Mr. Tarver, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

7. Recommend Approval of Draft Amendment #2 to the FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Haire introduced Draft Amendment #2 to the FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Haire explained that the City of Flowery Branch recently approached GHMPO about the possibility of commissioning a Flowery Branch Downtown Parking and Mobility Study in order to respond to the growth that downtown Flowery Branch is experiencing. This amendment would update Sub-Element 4.5 – "MTP/Bike and Ped Plan Update/Special Transportation Studies" to include the intent to develop this plan. The plan would analyze optimal locations to install parking infrastructure, provide an implementation plan, and analyze alternatives for a road diet in order to better direct the growing downtown traffic. This is not expected to require any additional funds beyond what is already programmed for Sub-Element 4.5. Flowery Branch will be providing a 20% cash match.

MOTION: Mr. Branch made a motion to recommend approval of Draft Amendment #2 to the FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program, which received a second from Ms. Scott, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

8. Other

Mr. Boyd provided brief updates from the TCC Trails Subcommittee. Staff attended the grand opening of the Tumbling Creek Trail on Thursday, July 13th. The next trail under development is the

Gainesville Airport Connector Trail, which is currently under design. The town of Braselton is also finalizing design on an extension of the Braselton LifePath on Thompson Mill Road in Gwinnett County, and right-of-way acquisition is scheduled to begin in the next month. Mr. Boyd also provided brief updates from the TCC McEver Road Subcommittee. Hall County has put the roundabout project on McEver Road at Lights Ferry Road out for bid, and Flowery Branch is moving forward with design on a roundabout at McEver Road and Gaines Ferry. Additionally, a portion of McEver Road is included as a potential project if TSPLOST were to be approved at the November 2023 referendum.

Mr. Haire provided a status update on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan: 2025 Update and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update. GHMPO, alongside the Selection Committee, has selected RS&H for this project. The contract was approved by the Hall County Board of Commissioners on Thursday, July 13th, and GHMPO staff will meet with RS&H on Thursday, July 20th to kick-off the project.

9. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports

Representatives shared the status of projects being completed by their jurisdictions: Mr. Tarver for the City of Gainesville, Mr. Branch for the City of Buford, Ms. Scott for the Town of Braselton, Mr. Lombard for the Federal Highway Administration, Mr. Lott for the Georgia Department of Transportation, Ms. Moss for Hall Area Transit, Mr. Boyd for Hall County, and Ms. Roy for Jackson County.

10. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

11. Upcoming Meeting Date: October 18, 2023

Mr. Hazell reminded the committee of the upcoming TCC meeting on October 18, 2023.

12. Adjourn

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


Adam Hazell, Chair


Michael Haire, GHMPO