

## **Policy Committee**

**Commission Meeting Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hall County Government Center  
Minutes of November 14, 2023 Meeting**

### **Voting Members Present:**

Mayor Ed Asbridge, City of Flowery Branch, Chair  
Mayor Sam Couvillon, City of Gainesville  
Commissioner Jeff Stowe, Hall County  
Jomar Pastorelle for Megan Weiss, GDOT

### **Voting Members Absent:**

Mayor Lamar Scroggs, City of Oakwood  
Commissioner Kathy Cooper, Hall County  
Chairman Richard Higgins, Hall County  
Commissioner Jim Hix, Jackson County

### **Others Present:**

Corey Jones, City of Gainesville  
Chris Rotalsky, City of Gainesville  
Frank Miller, Hall County  
Jorge Gomez, Hall County  
Justin Lott, GDOT

Jared Lombard, FHWA  
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO  
Michael Haire, GHMPO  
Jeff Gill, Gainesville Times

### **1. Welcome – Mayor Ed Asbridge, Chair**

Mayor Asbridge opened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

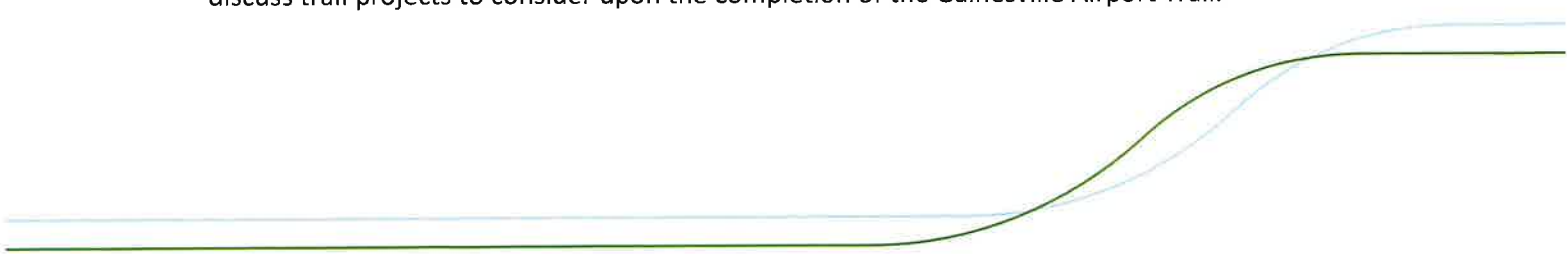
### **2. Approval of August 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Mayor Couvillon made a motion to approve of the August 8, 2023 meeting minutes, which received a second from Commissioner Stowe, 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 most recent Technical Coordinating Committee meeting, which took place on October 18, 2023. The TCC unanimously recommended approval of all agenda items.

Mr. Boyd also provided a brief update on the TCC Subcommittees. The TCC Trails Subcommittee has been working to expand the Highlands to Islands Trail, and plans to meet in early December to discuss trail projects to consider upon the completion of the Gainesville Airport Trail.



Additionally, the work of the McEver Road Subcommittee continues as Hall County is currently constructing a roundabout at McEver Road and Lights Ferry Road, which will be completed in 2024, and the City of Flowery Branch is currently designing a roundabout at McEver Road and Gaines Ferry Road.

#### **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 October 26, 2023. The CAC voted to approve all agenda items.

#### **5. Approval of Draft Amendment #1 to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Mr. Boyd introduced Amendment #1 to the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which adds two new projects to the TIP program years and adds retroactive funding to another project. The two new projects being added to the TIP are GH-038, which widens State Route 60 / Thompson Bridge Road from two to four lanes from State Route 136 / Price Road to Yellow Creek Road, and GH-130, which widens State Route 60 / Thompson Bridge Road from State Route 400 in Lumpkin County to Yellow Creek Road in Hall. Mr. Boyd explained to the committee that these are not new projects, but they previously did not have to be reflected in the TIP because they are funded by HB170 funds. As the MPO is now going to start showing all projects that receive state or federal funding, these projects will now be moved into the official TIP programming.

Additionally, retroactive funding is being added to GH-020A (State Route 11/Cleveland Highway Widening from Lakeview Street to South of Nopone Road – Phase I). This funding was already authorized but not reflected in MPO documents.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Stowe made a motion to approve of Draft Amendment #1 to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which received a second from Mayor Couvillon, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **6. Approval of Draft PM1 Safety Targets for 2024**

Mr. Haire gave a brief overview of PM1 (Safety), PM2 (Bridge and Pavement), and PM3 (National Highway System, Freight, and CMAQ). Mr. Haire explained that performance management targets are set by GDOT, and PM1 targets are the only targets adopted annually. PM1 (Safety) sets targets for the number of fatalities, number of serious injuries, fatality rate, serious injury rate, and total number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. The targets required for calendar year 2024 are actually identical to the targets adopted for 2023, so this resolution will be extending these adopted performance measures into 2024.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Stowe made a motion to approve of the Draft PM1 Safety Targets for 2024, which received a second from Mayor Couvillon, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

## **7. First Review of Draft FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Mr. Boyd introduced the first draft of the FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP is the annual budget document for the MPO that provides funding for planning activities over a single fiscal year, including any studies that local jurisdictions would like to conduct. Mr. Boyd briefly discussed the funding amounts listed, and explained that the amounts listed for the base PL grant are not final. Mr. Boyd stated he anticipates to have finalized funding amounts by the winter round of MPO meetings.

This draft document also includes the SR 60/US 129 Connectivity Study in the “Anticipated Unfunded Products in FY 2025” section, with an estimated cost of \$150,000, made up of \$120,000 in additional PL funds and \$30,000 in local cash match. Mr. Boyd stated that during the previous Citizens Advisory Committee meeting on October 26, 2023, members of the committee stated that they would prefer the MPO take a look at the entire area north of Gainesville and plan out a singular bypass route around the city that fully connects State Route 60 to State Route 365 so that new developments did not take up land that may be needed for a future roadway. Commissioner Stowe commented that while it is important to look at broad areas to plan for the future if a new roadway or route is installed, it is difficult for the Board of Commissioners to deny development plans for a potential roadway that could be decades in the future that has no funding attached to it. Commissioner Stowe finished by saying that he felt that the most reasonable action in the short term is to look at how to connect State Route 60 / Thompson Bridge Road to Cleveland Highway / US 129.

## **8. 2022 Crash Profiles for Hall and Jackson Counties**

Mr. Haire briefly discussed the 2022 Crash Profiles for Hall and Jackson Counties, which display all crashes, crashes with injuries, and crashes with fatalities throughout both Hall and Jackson Counties. Mr. Haire briefly discussed five-year trends, and discussed the analytical tools provided by the platform Numetric, which GHMPO was given access to by GDOT. The 2022 Crash Profiles include a section dedicated to each county, as well as a number of appendices that look more in depth at specific intersections and roadway segments. Mr. Haire recommended that members look through the full document at their convenience.

## **9. Other**

Mr. Haire provided a brief update on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan: 2025 Update and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update, recapping that a selection committee was formed consisting of local jurisdiction staff, and RS&H was selected as the consultant. GHMPO staff and RS&H are currently working to finalize Draft Future Year 2055 Socioeconomic (SE) Data to inform GDOT’s Travel Demand Model, and staff anticipate RS&H attending the February 13, 2024 Policy Committee meeting to present this data to Policy Committee members.

## 10. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports

Representatives shared the status of projects being completed by their jurisdictions: Mayor Asbridge for the City of Flowery Branch, Mr. Jones for the City of Gainesville, Mr. Lott for the Georgia Department of Transportation, and Mr. Miller for Hall County.

Mr. Jones also stated that the City of Gainesville would like to work with GHMPO to conduct a planning study utilizing additional Planning (PL) funds to look at congestion and alternative routes to I-985 including the SR 13/Atlanta Highway Corridor, State Route 60, Old Cornelia Highway, and others. GHMPO staff will work with the City of Gainesville on creating a PL Fund Application that will be presented to the Policy Committee for their approval at the February meeting.

Commissioner Stowe remarked on the postponing of the Dawsonville Highway resurfacing effort until after January 1, 2024 and thanked Mr. Lott for GDOT's flexibility.

Lastly, Commissioner Stowe asked Mr. Lott for an update on the scheduled improvements on State Route 60 / Candler Road at Calvary Church Road. Mr. Lott responded that a project was scheduled to add an additional through lane at the signal heading north into Gainesville along SR 60, but that it would not be occurring until after July 1, 2024.

Mr. Lott also updated the committee that the Dawsonville Highway project (GH-124) that will add an additional third through lane through the corridor has been postponed until July 1, 2024 as well.

## 11. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

## 12. Upcoming Meeting Date: February 13, 2024

Mayor Asbridge reminded the Committee of their next meeting date on February 13, 2023.

## 13. Adjourn

**MOTION:** Mayor Couvillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with a second from Commissioner Stowe, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.



Mayor Ed Asbridge, Chair



Michael Haire, GHMPO