

## **Technical Coordinating Committee**

**HR Training Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hall County Government Center  
Draft Minutes of January 24, 2024 Meeting**

### **Voting Members Present:**

Adam Hazell, GMRC, Chair  
Jamie Dove, Jackson County,  
Matt Tarver, City of Gainesville  
Anna Peng, City of Flowery Branch  
Dan Schultz, City of Oakwood  
Dan Branch, City of Buford  
Jennifer Scott, Town of Braselton  
Frank Miller, Hall County  
Jorge Gomez, Hall County  
Phillippa Lewis Moss, Hall Area Transit  
Jomar Pastorelle, GDOT  
Justin Lott, GDOT  
Joseph Boyd, GHMPO

### **Others Present:**

Carol Flaute, NEGRC  
Shelly Ramey, GDOT  
Jared Lombard, FHWA

### **Voting Members Absent:**

Srikanth Yamala, Hall County


Steve Cote, RS&H  
Jeff Gill, Gainesville Times  
Michael Haire, GHMPO

### **1. Welcome – Adam Hazell, Chair**

Mr. Hazell opened the meeting at 10:30 AM.

### **2. Approval of October 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Ms. Moss made a motion to approve of the October 18, 2023 meeting minutes, which received a second from Ms. Scott, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.



### **3. Recommend Approval of Draft FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Mr. Haire introduced the FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which serves as the MPO's annual budget for planning activities from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. This is the second and final round of review for this document, with Policy Committee anticipated to adopt the UPWP at their February 13, 2024 meeting. Mr. Haire discussed that the only funding in the document that is not final is the base PL grant, and it is anticipated that state partners will provide these funding amounts in the near future. MPO staff anticipates that the funding will be final prior to Policy Committee adoption.

The primary update in this draft of the FY 2025 UPWP is the inclusion of two new studies: a partial update to the Jackson County Transportation Plan, and the State Route 13 / Atlanta Highway Corridor Improvement Study. These have been added to Work Element 4.5 – "Special Transportation Studies."

**MOTION:** Ms. Moss made a motion to approve of the Draft FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which received a second from Mr. Branch, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **4. Recommend Approval of Draft PL Fund Application for State Route 13 / Atlanta Highway Corridor Study**

Mr. Boyd discussed the draft State Route 13 / Atlanta Highway Corridor Study PL application, which is being conducted by the MPO in coordination with the City of Gainesville and Hall County. This study will seek to identify short and long-range transportation improvements to help alleviate congestion and lower crash rates. Specifically, this study will focus on State Route 13 from Jesse Jewell Parkway south to Thurmon Tanner Parkway. The total cost of the study will be \$150,000.00, made up of \$120,000.00 in additional PL funds and \$30,000.00 in local cash match, which will be split by the City of Gainesville and Hall County. If approved by the GHMPO Policy Committee, MPO staff will apply for funds at the March 25, 2024 PL Review Committee meeting.

**MOTION:** Mr. Tarver made a motion to approve of the Draft PL Fund Application for State Route 13 / Atlanta Highway Corridor Study, which received a second from Ms. Scott, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **5. First Review of Draft 2024 GHMPO Participation Plan**

Mr. Haire introduced the Draft 2024 GHMPO Participation Plan. While the last Participation Plan, adopted in 2021, was included as an appendix to the Title VI Plan, updates to these documents are now being created separately. While it was initially anticipated that this document would be adopted in May after a second round of committee review, it may be adopted later in the year while GDOT considers updates to best practices.

The primary purpose of the Participation Plan is to provide for the public an explanation of what each major planning document is, the procedures for amending these documents, the strategies of

public outreach that the MPO will engage in, and opportunities for public engagement on the part of the citizen.

MPO staff received a question from Ms. Moss, who asked if there was anything in the plan pertaining to social media engagement, to which MPO staff responded that there was nothing specific about social media because GHMPO does not currently have a social media presence, but that it could be worth exploring in the future.

## **6. First Review of Draft 2024 Title VI Plan and Environmental Justice Analysis**

Mr. Haire introduced the Draft 2024 Title VI Plan and Environmental Justice Analysis. This document is currently anticipated to be adopted in May as scheduled by the Policy Committee.

The purpose of the Title VI Plan and Environmental Justice Analysis is to ensure that no members of the public are discriminated against in the public participation process or through any other programs or planning activities undertaken by the MPO. The Title VI Plan includes a Title VI form that citizens can use to formally file a complaint, as well as a record of all past complaints, lawsuits, and investigations, of which there are none. Lastly, the Title VI plan contains demographic maps that can be used to determine where targeted outreach may need to occur, or where translation services may be required.

## **7. Presentation on Future Year 2055 SE Data for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP): 2025 Update**

Mr. Cote of RS&H provided a presentation on the Future Year 2055 Socioeconomic (SE) Data for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP): 2025 Update. This update provided a recap of how the SE data provides inputs for the Travel Demand Model, which forecasts future travel demand and congestion through 2055. SE data includes estimated counts for population, households, employment, student enrollment, and university enrollment. Mr. Cote provided an overview of the 2020 Base Year SE Data, as well as the 2055 Future Year SE Data, which is a 35-year projection from the 2020 base year. Lastly, Mr. Cote discussed the MTP schedule for the remainder of the contract period.

## **8. Other**

Mr. Boyd briefly discussed updates to the Highlands to Islands Trail. Mr. Tarver discussed the Gainesville Airport Trail, which recently finished design and is anticipated to begin construction in 2024.

## **9. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports**

Representatives shared the status of projects being completed by their jurisdictions: Mr. Tarver for the City of Gainesville, Ms. Peng for the City of Flowery Branch, Mr. Shultz for the City of Oakwood, 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. Flaute for the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, Ms. Moss for Hall Area Transit, Ms. Dove for Jackson County, and Mr. Miller for Hall County.

## **10. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

## **11. Upcoming Meeting Date: April 24, 2024**

Mr. Hazell reminded the committee of the upcoming meeting on April 24, 2024.

## **12. Adjourn**

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

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Adam Hazell, Chair

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Michael Haire, GHMPO