



Citizens Advisory Committee

HR Training Room, 2nd Floor, Hall County Government Center
Minutes of April 24, 2025 Meeting

Voting Members Present:

Renee Gerrell, *Hall County – Chair*
Patrick O'Rourke, *Hall County – Vice-Chair*
Berlinda Lipscomb, *City of Gainesville*
Sammy Smith, *City of Gainesville*
Tony Millwood, *City of Oakwood*
Pat Jones, *City of Oakwood*
John Rudio, *City of Flowery Branch*
Rick Marzano, *City of Flowery Branch*
Brent Hoffman, *Hall County*
Adrienne Rice, *Hall County*
Billy Edwards, *Town of Braselton*

Voting Members Absent:

Jason Cox, *City of Gainesville*
Beverly Nordholz, *City of Gainesville*
Bob Norton, *Hall County*
Nick Haynes, *Hall County*
Kim Jackson, *Hall County*
Jesse Patton, *Hall County*
Jim Southard, *Jackson County*

Others Present:

Beth Garmon, *Hall County*
Jason Skarda, *Hall County*
Joseph Boyd, *GHMPO*

1. Welcome – Adam Hazell, Chair

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

2. Approval of January 30, 2025 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Smith made a motion to approve of the January 30, 2025 meeting minutes, which received a second from Mr. O'Rourke, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

3. Recommend Approval of the Draft 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Mr. Boyd provided an overview of the draft 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan document, which is the long-range transportation plan for the MPO. The MTP update kicked off in July 2023 and is scheduled for adoption by the GHMPO Policy Committee on May 6, 2025. No major changes

were made to the project list since the February 2025 adoption. A 30 day public comment period was observed and no major comments were received.

MOTION: Mr. Smith made a motion to recommend approval of the Draft 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, which received a second from Mr. Rudio, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

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

Mr. Boyd introduced Draft Amendment #6 to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which contains all projects receiving funding between the fiscal years of 2024-2027. This update includes the addition of the following project:

- New Project: GH-018 / PI 0013626: Widening of State Route 369/Browns Bridge Road from State Route 53/McEver Road to Lake Lanier/Forsyth County Line
 - Scoping (SCP) funding added for FY 2025 in the amount of \$1,500,000.00.

This item is planned for adoption at the Policy Committee meeting on May 6, 2025.

MOTION: Mr. Smith made a motion to recommend approval of Draft Amendment #6 to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which received a second from Mr. Hoffman, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

5. Recommend Approval of the Draft GHMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan: 2025 Update

Mr. Boyd discussed the final draft of the GHMPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan, which outlines projects and priorities across the entire MPO boundary that will lead to better connectivity and safety for pedestrians across all modes of travel. The draft plan is scheduled for adoption at the Policy Committee meeting on May 6, 2025.

MOTION: Ms. Smith made a motion to recommend approval of the Draft GHMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan: 2025 Update, which received a second from Mr. Marzano, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

6. Recommend Approval of Draft State Route 13/Atlanta Highway Corridor Study

Mr. Boyd discussed the final draft of the State Route 13/Atlanta Highway Corridor Study, which was an effort between Gainesville, Hall County, and GDOT District 1 to look at short and long term traffic improvements along this heavily traveled corridor between Jesse Jewell Parkway and Tumbling Creek Road. Each intersection that was identified was provided with at least two possible improvements, along with corridor-wide improvements such as the addition of turn lanes or a possible widening. With this being a state route, the majority of these upgrades will be up to the GDOT.

MOTION: Mr. Smith made a motion to recommend approval of the Draft State Route 13/Atlanta Highway Corridor Study, which received a second from Mr. Marzano, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

7. Update on the Hall County Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan

Mr. Boyd provided an update on the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan, which is in its final draft stage. This was a Hall County grant in partnership with the cities of Gainesville, Oakwood, and Flowery Branch. This document analyzed traffic crash data and created High Injury Networks (HIN) across the county, which identified certain intersections or corridors that need safety improvements. A list of potential projects is included in the study, and Mr. Boyd encouraged all agencies who were interested in applying for additional SS4A implementation funding to please adopt the document with their local boards. The next round of SS4A grant funding applications are due June 26, 2025.

8. Land Use & Transportation Discussion

Ms. Garmon, who is the Director of Planning and Zoning for Hall County, gave a brief overview of the Planning department and the various roles and responsibilities that her staff have regarding development in unincorporated Hall County. Mr. Skarda, who is the Deputy Director of Hall County Public Works, also gave a brief overview of the relationship between Public Works, Planning, and development.

Ms. Rice and Ms. Gerrell expressed concerns regarding rapid growth and the amount of developments that are being approved along roadways that they felt were not at high enough standards to support growth, increased traffic, and an increase in pedestrians, particularly in areas along White Sulphur Road, near the new Inland Port, and off State Route 365. Ms. Garmon and Mr. Skarda walked through the responsibilities that they had at the staff level, and discussed how even though staff provide recommendations regarding new development, ultimately that decision is up to the Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners regarding what is approved and with what variances or stipulations.

Ms. Garmon encouraged anyone who was interested to attend future Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners meetings and to provide public comment on future developments being considered. Mr. Boyd stated that citizens could sign up on Hall County's website to be notified when new planning items are posted for future meetings.

9. TCC Agency Reports

Mr. Boyd briefly discussed some of the notable project updates from the TCC Agency Report.

10. Public Comment

Ms. Rice asked for more information regarding the truck route signage that has appeared along State Route 365 north of Lula. Mr. Boyd responded that he would reach out to GDOT to ask for more information.

Mr. Edwards asked if the LifePath could look at installing a tunnel across State Route 211 just below Friendship Road. Mr. Boyd stated he would pass that along to Braselton and GDOT.

Mr. Rudio asked if there were any updates on any possible plans to upgrade the intersection of Hog Mountain Road with Black Jack Road. Mr. Boyd responded that there were no plans that he knew of, but that he would follow up with Hall County.

11. Upcoming Meeting Date: July 31, 2025

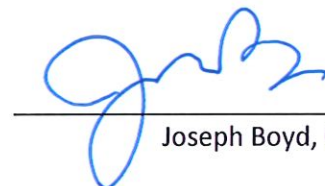
Ms. Gerrell reminded the Committee of their upcoming meeting on July 31, 2025.

12. Adjourn

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



Renee Gerrell, Chair



Joseph Boyd, GHMPO