



## **Policy Committee**

### **Municipal Courtroom, Gainesville Public Safety Building Minutes of May 6, 2025 Meeting**

#### **Voting Members Present:**

Chairman Marty Clark, *Jackson County - Chair*  
Commissioner Kathy Cooper, *Hall County*  
Commissioner Jeff Stowe, *Hall County*  
Mayor Sam Couvillon, *City of Gainesville*  
Mayor Ed Asbridge, *City of Flowery Branch*  
Megan Weiss, *GDOT*

#### **Voting Members Absent:**

Chairman David Gibbs, *Hall County*  
Mayor Lamar Scroggs, *City of Oakwood*

#### **Others Present:**

Angela Sheppard, *City of Gainesville*  
Chris Rotalsky, *City of Gainesville*  
Corey Jones, *City of Gainesville*  
Casey Ramsey, *Hall County*  
Brent Cook, *Hall County*  
Gina Roy, *Jackson County*  
Barbara Adams, *Jackson County*  
Dan Schultz, *City of Oakwood*

Chris McCrary, *City of Flowery Branch*  
Dani Nash, *City of Flowery Branch*  
Justin Lott, *GDOT*  
Steve Cote, *RS&H*  
Eric Scott, *Alta*  
Clay Smith, *Keck & Wood*  
Jeff Gill, *Gainesville Times*  
Joseph Boyd, *GHMPO*

#### **1. Welcome – Chairman Marty Clark, Chair**

Chairman Clark opened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

#### **2. Approval of February 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Mayor Couvillon made a motion to approve the February 11, 2025 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 April 23, 2025. The TCC unanimously recommended approval of all agenda items.

#### **4. Update from the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)**

Mr. Boyd provided a brief recap of the most recent Citizens Advisory Committee meeting, which took place on April 24, 2025. The CAC unanimously recommended approval of all agenda items.

#### **5. Approval of the Draft 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)**

Mr. Cote provided an overview of the final 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) document, which is the long-range transportation plan for the MPO. The MTP update kicked off in July 2023 and is federally required to be adopted by no later than May 11, 2025. The MTP highlights all major projects between 2025 and 2055 that will use state or federal funding, along with multimodal recommendations across the region. No major changes were made to the fiscally-constrained project list since the February 2025 adoption. A 30 day public comment period was observed and no major comments were received.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Stowe made a motion to approve the 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), which received a second from Mayor Asbridge, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **6. 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 fiscal years 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.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Stowe made a motion to approve Amendment #6 to the FY24-27 TIP, which received a second from Mayor Asbridge, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **7. Approval of the Draft GHMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan: 2025 Update**

Mr. Cote presented the final draft of the GHMPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan: 2025 Update, which outlines recommended projects and priorities across the entire MPO boundary that will lead to better connectivity and safety for pedestrians across all modes of travel. This plan is a full update to the original GHMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, which was adopted in 2014. This Plan heavily incorporates both citizen and stakeholder feedback, and provides a large project list for short, medium, and long-term pedestrian improvements across the region.

**MOTION:** Mayor Couvillon made a motion to approve the GHMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan: 2025 Update, which received a second from Commissioner Cooper, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

## **8. Approval of the Draft State Route 13/Atlanta Highway Corridor Study**

Mr. Smith presented the final draft of the State Route 13/Atlanta Highway Corridor Study, which was an effort between Gainesville, Hall County, and GDOT District 1 in order 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 improvement options, along with listed corridor-wide improvements such as the addition of turn lanes or a possible widening. With this being a state route, the majority of these upgrade decisions will be up to GDOT.

Commissioner Stowe asked about the threshold for the Quick Response Program, which Mr. Smith and Mr. Lott responded that it was recently raised to \$500,000. Mr. Lott added that Quick Response projects cannot include any right-of-way acquisition or utility relocations. Commissioner Stowe stated that he would direct Hall County Public Works to review the project list and if there were any projects that could meet the Quick Response cost threshold but did indeed have right-of-way or utility limitations, Hall County would explore if they would be able to assist on those phases in order to get a project moving.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Stowe made a motion to approve the State Route 13/Atlanta Highway Corridor Study, which received a second from Commissioner Cooper, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

## **9. Approval of the Hall County Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan**

Mr. Scott presented the final draft of the Hall County Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan. This was funded by a federal grant awarded to Hall County 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. Scott encouraged all agencies who were interested in applying for additional SS4A implementation funding to please adopt the document with their local elected boards, which would require the adoption of a resolution declaring a goal of zero serious injuries and fatalities by 2050. The next round of SS4A grant funding applications are due June 26, 2025. Mr. Boyd stated that the plan is being presented for adoption by the Policy Committee as well since MPOs are also eligible to apply for implementation funding in the future.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cooper made a motion to adopt the Hall County Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan, which received a second from Commissioner Stowe, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

## 10. Other

Mr. Boyd stated that the MPO would be conducting a small trail study beginning on July 1 (the start of FY 2026), which would look at possible connections and costs associated with extending the Highlands to Islands Trail from its current terminus on the campus of UNG in Oakwood to downtown Flowery Branch and McEver Road. A 20% local match would be required, which is being split by Hall County, Oakwood, and Flowery Branch, with the remaining budget coming from the approved FY 2026 UPWP PL grant.

## 11. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports

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

## 12. Public Comment

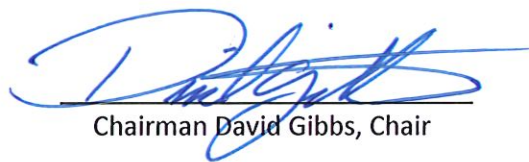
There were no public comments.

## 13. Upcoming Meeting Date

Chairman Clark reminded the Policy Committee of their next meeting date on August 12, 2025.

## 14. Adjourn

There being no other items of business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.



Chairman David Gibbs, Chair



Joseph Boyd, GHMPO