

## **Citizens Advisory Committee**

**HR Training Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hall County Government Center**  
**Draft Minutes of October 30, 2025 Meeting**

### **Voting Members Present:**

Renee Gerrell, *Hall County* – **Chair**  
Sammy Smith, *City of Gainesville* – **Vice Chair**  
Tony Millwood, *City of Oakwood*  
Pat Jones, *City of Oakwood*  
John Rudio, *City of Flowery Branch*  
Rick Marzano, *City of Flowery Branch*  
Billy Edwards, *Town of Braselton*  
Brent Hoffman, *Hall County*  
Adrienne Rice, *Hall County*  
Bob Norton, *Hall County*  
Jesse Patton, *Hall County*  
Randy Wright, *Hall County*

### **Voting Members Absent:**

Jason Cox, *City of Gainesville*  
Beverly Nordholz, *City of Gainesville*  
Patrick O'Rourke, *Hall County*  
Kim Jackson, *Hall County*  
Jim Southard, *Jackson County*

### **Others Present:**

Joseph Boyd, *GHMPO*

## **1. Welcome**

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

## **2. Election of CAC Chair and Vice Chair for FY 2026**

**MOTION:** Mr. Smith made a motion to reappoint Renee Gerrell as Chair of the CAC for FY 2026, which received a second from Mr. Hoffman, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**MOTION:** Mr. Hoffman made a motion to appoint Sammy Smith as Vice Chair of the CAC for FY 2026, which received a second from Mr. Edwards, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

## **3. Approval of April 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the April 24, 2025 meeting minutes, which received a second from Ms. Jones, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### 4. Recommend Approval of the 2026 Safety Performance Measures (PM1)

Mr. Boyd provided an overview of the draft 2026 Safety Performance Measures (PM1). In coordination with the Georgia Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Planning Organizations statewide must maintain Performance Management Targets, which set standards for system performance over a set period. PM2 (Bridge and Pavement) and PM3 (National Highway System, Freight, and CMAQ) targets are set every 2- to 4-years, while PM1 (Safety) targets are set annually. MPOs may either support the statewide targets or adopt their own. GHMPO staff recommend adopting the following 2026 PM 1 statewide targets:

- Number of Fatalities: **1,574**
- Rate of Fatalities per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled: **1.245**
- Number of Serious Injuries: **8,103**
- Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled: **6.408**
- Number of Combined Non-Motorized Fatalities and Non-Motorized Serious Injuries: **1,312**

**MOTION:** Mr. Smith made a motion to recommend approval of the 2026 Safety Performance Measures (PM 1), which received a second from Mr. Edwards, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### 5. Recommend Approval of the Jackson County Transportation Plan: 2025 Update

Mr. Boyd provided a brief summary on the background and findings of the Jackson County Transportation Plan, which is a partial update of the plan that was adopted in 2019. Jackson County chose to do a partial update in conjunction with their latest Comprehensive Plan update. This update also incorporated the latest travel demand model results from GHMPO's 2055 MTP. This study provides the County with a list of short and long-term projects for future SPLOST and TSPLOST considerations.

Mr. Edwards asked if the number of crashes reported in 2022 on ramps in Table 13 on Page 35 was correct since it showed a nearly 100% increase from previous years. Mr. Boyd responded that he would reach out to Jackson County and the project team at RS&H to see if they could double check that number.

**MOTION:** Mr. Smith made a motion to recommend approval of the Jackson County Transportation Plan: 2025 Update, which received a second from Mr. Rudio, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### 6. Review of the Draft FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Boyd presented the first draft of the FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program, which is the annual operating budget for the MPO, funding all planning activities and any additional studies GHMPO plans to undertake. This document will cover all MPO activities between July 1, 2026 and June 30, 2027. Mr. Boyd relayed to the committee that MPO staff will meet one-on-one with each jurisdiction in January to discuss the draft document and to gather any anticipated planning needs that will need to be inserted into the FY 2027 UPWP. The final draft of the FY 2027 UPWP will be a voting item at the next TCC meeting on January 28, 2026.

Mr. Boyd noted that the MPO has plans to do an update to the GHMPO Freight Plan in light of the coming Inland Port, and that Hall County has also expressed interest in doing a safety study along the Skelton Road corridor in Gainesville. Mr. Smith asked if the Freight Plan update could also look at railroad crossings, to which Mr. Boyd responded that yes, it could consider upgrades needed at railroad crossings across the region as part of that plan.

## 7. Other

Various comments and discussions were had by committee members regarding the following items:

- **Development:** multiple committee members voiced concerns about continuing development across the region and the concern that development was occurring before infrastructure was upgraded to accommodate the increase in volume of cars. Ms. Rice asked what coordination was occurring between various jurisdictions when new developments were being considered. Mr. Boyd responded that jurisdictions do coordinate when it comes to providing opportunities to comment on coming developments, but that ultimately each jurisdiction was only responsible for approving their own planning items. Mr. Boyd encouraged the committee to continue to engage with their local planning commissions and city and council elected boards as development decisions are being made at those meetings.
- **White Sulphur Road:** Ms. Rice expressed concern about coming developments along White Sulphur Road, especially on the southern end of the corridor.
- **Hog Mountain Road at Black Jack Road:** Mr. Rudio asked that Hall County and the City of Flowery Branch continue to look at possible upgrades to improve safety at this intersection.
- **Railroad Crossing along Athens Street:** Mr. Smith asked if anything was being done to help alleviate the railroad blocking the crossing along Athens Street in Gainesville, to which Mr. Boyd responded that the City had been in conversations with Hall County and the Railroad about possible fixes to this issue.
- **Impact Fees:** multiple committee members asked about impact fees and expressed concern that large developments were not providing enough financial assistance to the roads and infrastructure that they would be impacting. Mr. Boyd responded that several local jurisdictions do have impact fees in place and others are looking to update theirs in the near future (Hall and Jackson counties).

Mr. Boyd also provided updates on the following items:

- **Hoschton Transportation Plan:** The plan is ongoing with two recent public open house meetings being held in September. An online survey was also recently completed with over 300 responses. The plan is scheduled to be completed by February 2026.
- **Highlands to Islands Trail Study – UNG to McEver Road:** This study is ongoing. The project team recently presented the first draft of possible trail alignments to Gainesville, Oakwood, Flowery Branch, Hall County, and UNG. Next steps are meeting with Norfolk Southern to

discuss routing and then provide the MPO with a final preferred alignment and projected costs. This study is scheduled to be completed by December 2025.

- **HERO Update:** The Highway Emergency Response Operator (HERO) service provided by GDOT has returned to 24 hour service. HERO is available to assist any motorist traveling along I-985 or I-85.

## **8. TCC Agency Reports**

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

## **9. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

## **10. Upcoming Meeting Date: January 29, 2026**

Ms. Gerrell reminded the CAC that their next meeting would be on January 29, 2026.

## **11. Adjourn**

There being no other items of business, the meeting adjourned at 4:56 PM.

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Renee Gerrell, Chair

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Joseph Boyd, GHMPO