



Policy Committee

Commission Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Hall County Government Center
Minutes of November 12, 2025 Meeting

Voting Members Present:

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

Voting Members Absent:

Commissioner Kathy Cooper, *Hall County*
Mayor Lamar Scroggs, *City of Oakwood*

Others Present:

Chris Rotalsky, *City of Gainesville*
Corey Jones, *City of Gainesville*
Casey Ramsey, *Hall County*
Jorge Gomez, *Hall County*
Brent Cook, *Hall County*
Jason Skarda, *Hall County*
Beth Garmon, *Hall County*
Jamie Dove, *Jackson County*

Dan Schultz, *City of Oakwood*
Oliver McClellan, *City of Flowery Branch*
Dani Nash, *City of Flowery Branch*
John Nagy, *City of Flowery Branch*
Phillippa Lewis Moss, *Hall Area Transit*
Elizabeth Johnson, *GDOT*
Jeff Gill, *Gainesville Times*
Joseph Boyd, *GHMPO*

1. Welcome – Chairman David Gibbs, Chair

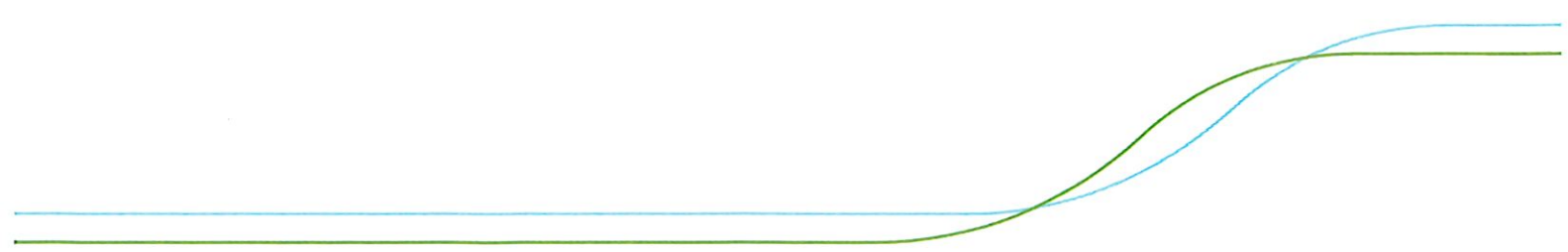
Chairman Gibbs opened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

2. Approval of May 6, 2025 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Mayor Couvillon made a motion to adopt the May 6, 2025 meeting minutes, which received a second from Mayor Asbridge, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

3. Update from the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Mr. Boyd provided the committee with a brief recap of the most recent Technical Coordinating



Committee (TCC) meeting, which took place on October 29, 2025, and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting, which took place on October 30, 2025. Both the TCC and CAC unanimously recommended approval of all voting items.

4. Approval of the 2026 Safety Performance Measures (PM 1)

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: Commissioner Stowe made a motion to adopt the 2026 Safety Performance Measures (PM 1), which received a second from Mayor Couvillon, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

5. 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 to 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 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). This study provides the County with a list of short and long-term projects for future SPLOST and TSPLOST considerations.

MOTION: Mayor Couvillon made a motion to adopt the Jackson County Transportation Plan: 2025 Update, which received a second from Commissioner Stowe, 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 up for adoption at the next Policy Committee meeting on February 10, 2026.

Mr. Boyd informed the committee that Hall County Public Works expressed interest in having a planning study conducted along Skelton Road in Gainesville to look at what safety improvements can be made. Commissioner Stowe asked Mr. Boyd to meet with Hall County Public Works and Administration to discuss improvements that have already been discussed in years past along the Skelton Road corridor before the MPO proceeds with a study.

7. Update on the Highlands to Islands Trail Study (UNG to McEver Road)

Mr. Boyd provided an update on the Highlands to Islands Trail Study (UNG to McEver Road), which is ongoing. The consulting 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 or January 2026. Staff will present the final draft for adoption at the next Policy Committee meeting on February 10, 2026.

Discussion was had on the preferred routing. Mr. Boyd stated that the overall consensus seemed to be to try to pull it off the side of major roadways as much as possible – preferably close to the railroad right-of-way. Mayor Asbridge commented on Flowery Branch’s recent success with getting approval to build a trail in railroad right-of-way near their downtown.

8. Other

Mr. Boyd provided a brief update on the Hoschton Transportation Plan. This project 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 Hoschton Transportation Plan is currently scheduled to be completed by January 2026, with the final Hoschton Transportation Plan document up for adoption at the next Policy Committee meeting on February 10, 2026.

9. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports

Representatives shared the status of projects being completed by their jurisdictions: Mr. Nagy for the City of Flowery Branch, Mr. Jones for the City of Gainesville, Ms. Johnson for the Georgia Department of Transportation, Mr. Cook for Hall County, and Ms. Dove for Jackson County.

10. Public Comment


There were no public comments.


11. Upcoming Meeting Date

Chairman Gibbs reminded the Policy Committee of their next meeting date on February 10, 2026.

12. Adjourn

There being no other items of business, the meeting adjourned at 10:29 AM.


Chairman David Gibbs, Chair


Joseph Boyd, GHMPO