

Citizens Advisory Committee

**HR Training Room, 2nd Floor, Hall County Government Center
Draft Minutes of January 29, 2026 Meeting**

Voting Members Present:

Sammy Smith, *City of Gainesville – Vice Chair*
Beverly Nordholz, *City of Gainesville*
Tony Millwood, *City of Oakwood*
Pat Jones, *City of Oakwood*
John Rudio, *City of Flowery Branch*
Aubrey Duke, *City of Flowery Branch*
Billy Edwards, *Town of Braselton*
Brent Hoffman, *Hall County*
Adrienne Rice, *Hall County*
Bob Norton, *Hall County*
Randy Wright, *Hall County*

Voting Members Absent:

Renee Gerrell, *Hall County – Chair*
Jesse Patton, *Hall County*
Jason Cox, *City of Gainesville*
Patrick O'Rouke, *Hall County*
Kim Jackson, *Hall County*
Jim Southard, *Jackson County*

Others Present:

Joseph Boyd, *GHMPO*

1. Welcome

Mr. Smith opened the meeting at 4:00 PM.

2. Approval of October 30, 2025 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Rudio made a motion to approve the October 30, 2025 meeting minutes, which received a second from Ms. Nordholz, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

3. Recommend Approval of the Draft FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Boyd presented the final 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 discussed how MPO staff met one-on-one with each jurisdiction earlier 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. Out of those discussions, the UPWP highlights an update to

the GHMPO Freight Plan, a Skelton Road Corridor Study, and a State Route 124 Corridor Study as possible planning projects in FY 2027. The final draft of the FY 2027 UPWP will be up for approval at the next Policy Committee meeting on February 10, 2026.

Mr. Smith asked if railroad crossing upgrades could be looked at using these funds. Mr. Boyd responded that they potentially could, but all railroad crossing upgrades had to be handled by the railroad company themselves, but that this could potentially be a part of the Freight Study update in FY 2027.

MOTION: Ms. Millwood made a motion to recommend approval of Draft FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program, which received a second from Mr. Rudio, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Recommend Approval of the Draft PL Application for the State Route 124 Corridor Study: State Route 332 to Creek Nation Road

Mr. Boyd presented the draft application for additional PL (Planning) funds in order to conduct a State Route 124 Corridor Study: State Route 332 to Creek Nation Road in western Jackson County. This corridor study would pick up where the GH-152 widening project currently terminates at State Route 332 and continue on to the MPO planning boundary at Creek Nation Road. This is a rapidly growing corridor that Jackson County would like explored for possible short and long-term upgrades and safety improvements. If approved by the MPO committees, MPO staff will present the application in March 2026 for approval by the PL funds review committee.

MOTION: Mr. Norton made a motion to recommend approval of the PL Application for the State Route 124 Corridor Study: SR 332 to Creek Nation Road, which received a second from Mr. Millwood, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

5. Review of the Anticipated Project List for the FY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Boyd updated the committee that GHMPO is required to adopt a new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which is the short-term transportation plan for the region, by November 2026. As part of the TIP, projects must be modeled to show air quality impacts. This model is ran by the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), and their deadline for projects to be inserted into the model is April 2026. In light of this deadline, GHMPO staff presented a draft list of anticipated projects to be inserted into the model. GDOT Planning will send their final list of projects by March 2026. Mr. Boyd noted that nothing was finalized with the project list until the TIP itself was adopted in November 2026. Mr. Boyd then ran through the list of expected projects.

Mr. Norton asked why the Green Street Median Project (GH-121/PI 0017392) was being conducted when it did not add to the capacity of Green Street. Mr. Boyd responded that this project was primarily focused on rebuilding utility infrastructure in the area and relocating them to a center median. This center median would also serve to keep the left lane traffic moving and not allow left turns except for at key intersections, which would now include turn lanes. Mr. Norton responded that this was an expensive project to be doing that would not actually help improve capacity. He also stated concern over the impacts that this project would have on the historic nature of the corridor, including the trees. Mr. Boyd responded that he could ask the City of Gainesville and GDOT

to come to the next CAC meeting in April to give a more in-depth overview of the project and its expected impacts. Though Green Street improvements were a priority for the City of Gainesville, ultimately all upgrades to the corridor had to come from GDOT since this is a state route.

Mr. Norton also asked if there were any plans to convert parallel roadways to one-way traffic patterns to help improve flow on Green Street, to which Mr. Boyd responded that no, there were no plans to do that at this time to his knowledge. Mr. Norton asked if the MPO could do a study to look at how to pull cars off of Green Street and create other corridors of travel through this area of the city. Mr. Boyd responded that it was possible but he would need to speak with the City of Gainesville and GDOT on that matter as some of these may have been discussed in the past already.

6. Update on the Highlands to Islands Trail Study: UNG to McEver Road

Mr. Boyd provided a brief update on the Highlands to Islands Trail Study. He added that the final draft should be ready for review by March 2026, with the final document up for adoption at the spring round of MPO committee meetings. He also added that Flowery Branch recently received right-of-way approval to run a trail from their downtown to Radford Road, which will be reflected in the final study.

7. Other

Mr. Smith stated that he had made a request for GDOT to provide the committee with the 2026 list of Quick Response Projects. Mr. Boyd stated that he was still awaiting the list from GDOT but would send it out to the committee as soon as he received it. Ms. Rice asked if traffic signals could be a part of the Quick Response Program, to which Mr. Boyd responded no, typically they were not. Typical projects would include extending turn lanes, restriping roadways, adding sidewalks, etc. The committee discussed recent projects that were conducted based on requests from the CAC, including a sidewalk project over Tumbling Creek along Atlanta Highway in Gainesville and a turn lane extension project near the Walmart on Mundy Mill Road in Oakwood.

Ms. Rice updated the committee that GDOT would soon be installing a dedicated left turn arrow off of Limestone Parkway onto Beverly Road in Gainesville.

Mr. Norton stated that he had recently taken a tour of the coming Inland Port in Gainesville and asked the committee if they would be interested in a tour as well. The committee agreed and Mr. Norton stated that he would work with Mr. Boyd to get that scheduled soon for the group.

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: April 30, 2026

Mr. Smith reminded the CAC that their next meeting would be on April 30, 2026.

11. Adjourn

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

Renee Gerrell, Chair

Joseph Boyd, GHMPO

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