

Policy Committee

**Commission Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Hall County Government Center
Draft Minutes of February 10, 2026 Meeting**

Voting Members Present:

Chairman David Gibbs, *Hall County - Chair*
Mayor Zack Thompson, *City of Gainesville – Vice Chair*
Mayor Oliver McClellan, *City of Flowery Branch*
Commissioner Kathy Cooper, *Hall County*
Commissioner Jeff Stowe, *Hall County*
Chairman Marty Clark, *Jackson County*
Megan Weiss, *GDOT*

Voting Members Absent:

Mayor Lamar Scroggs, *City of Oakwood*

Others Present:

Bryan Lackey, *City of Gainesville*
Chris Rotalsky, *City of Gainesville*
Matt Tarver, *City of Gainesville*
Corey Jones, *City of Gainesville*
Casey Ramsey, *Hall County*
Jorge Gomez, *Hall County*
Brent Cook, *Hall County*
Jason Skarda, *Hall County*
Jordan Wallace, *Hall County*

Vamsee Polamarasetty, *Hall County*
Jamie Dove, *Jackson County*
Jennifer Kidd-Harrison, *City of Hoschton*
Dani Nash, *City of Flowery Branch*
John Nagy, *City of Flowery Branch*
Phillippa Lewis Moss, *Hall Area Transit*
Justin Lott, *GDOT*
Elizabeth Johnson, *GDOT*
Joseph Boyd, *GHMPO*

1. Welcome

Chairman Gibbs opened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

2. Approval of November 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Stowe made a motion to approve the November 12, 2025 meeting minutes, which received a second from Chairman Clark, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

3. Update from the TCC and CAC

Mr. Boyd provided a brief recap of the most recent Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings.

4. 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 in January 2026 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.

MOTION: Chairman Clark made a motion to adopt the FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program, which received a second from Commissioner Stowe, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

5. 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, MPO staff will present the application in March 2026 for approval by the PL Funds Review Committee.

MOTION: Chairman Clark made a motion to approve the PL Application for the State Route 124 Corridor Study: SR 332 to Creek Nation Road, which received a second from Mayor McClellan, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

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

Mr. Boyd relayed to 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) with a deadline for projects to be inserted by 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 will be finalized with the project list until the TIP itself is adopted in November 2026. Mr. Boyd then ran through the list of expected projects.

Mr. Boyd also highlighted GH-046/PI 0013574/Widening of State Route 323/Gillsville Highway as a project that GDOT was showing in their system needing to be included in the TIP. However, the Policy Committee requested this project be shelved as part of the 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update, which was adopted in May 2025. Ms. Weiss responded that GDOT Planning is

continuing to work through this update in their system and she would update MPO staff whenever any changes are made to the schedule of this project.

7. 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 a final draft should be ready for review by each jurisdiction in March 2026, with the final document up for adoption at the next Policy Committee meeting on May 12, 2026.

8. Other

There were no other items brought up for discussion.

9. Jurisdiction and Agency Reports

Representatives shared the status of projects being completed by their jurisdictions and agencies: Mr. Nagy for the City of Flowery Branch, Mr. Jones for the City of Gainesville, Ms. Kidd-Harrison for the City of Hoschton, Mr. Lott for the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), Ms. Moss for Hall Area Transit, Mr. Cook for Hall County, and Ms. Dove for Jackson County.

10. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

11. Upcoming Meeting Date: May 12, 2026

Chairman Gibbs reminded the Policy Committee that their next meeting would be on May 12, 2026.

12. Adjourn

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

Chairman David Gibbs, Chair

Joseph Boyd, GHMPO