GAINESVILLE-HALL
Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Policy Committee

Commission Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Hall County Government Center
Minutes of May 12, 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 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:
Mayor Debbie Martin, *City of Hoschton*
Chris Rotalsky, *City of Gainesville*
Corey Jones, *City of Gainesville*
Dan Schultz, *City of Oakwood*
John Nagy, *City of Flowery Branch*
Dani Nash, *City of Flowery Branch*
John Gentry, *Hall County*
Casey Ramsey, *Hall County*
Jorge Gomez, *Hall County*
Jamie Dove, *Jackson County*
Justin Lott, *GDOT*
Clay Smith, *Keck & Wood*
Joseph Boyd, *GHMPO*

1. Welcome

Chairman Gibbs opened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

2. Approval of February 10, 2026 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Stowe made a motion to approve the February 10, 2026 meeting minutes, which received a second from Mayor Thompson, 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 Amendment #7 to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) / Amendment #1 to the 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Mr. Boyd introduced Draft Amendment #7 to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Draft Amendment #1 to the 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). This update includes the addition of the following project:

- New Project: GH-157 / PI 0021600: Flowery Branch Trail Phase II: Spring Street to Phil Niekro Blvd
    - Pre-Engineering (PE) funding added for FY 2026 in the amount of $500,000.

MOTION: Mayor McClellan made a motion to adopt Amendment #7 to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Amendment #1 to the 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), which received a second from Commissioner Stowe, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

5. Approval of the Highlands to Islands Trail Study: UNG to McEver Road

Mr. Boyd presented the final draft of the Highlands to Islands Trail Study: UNG to McEver Road, which explored all possible routes for expanding the Highlands to Islands Trail from its current terminus on the campus of UNG to downtown Flowery Branch. Mr. Boyd briefly mentioned the project background and presented the three preferred routing alignments for the trail expansion. Mr. Boyd mentioned that SPLOST IX will have approximately $14 million in funding for assisting with this connection.

MOTION: Mayor Thompson made a motion to adopt the Highlands to Islands Trail Study: UNG to McEver Road, which received a second from Mayor McClellan, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

6. Approval of the Hoschton Master Transportation Plan

Mr. Smith of Keck & Wood presented the final draft of the Hoschton Master Transportation Plan, a first for the City of Hoschton. This plan provides the City with both potential short and long-term transportation solutions to locally maintained roadways that could help increase safety and provide more connections for residents to access retail centers and downtown.

Mayor Martin added that the City was excited to have this Study in place for future TSPLOST and grant opportunities. She thanked the project team at Keck & Wood and GHMPO for their partnership and encouraged other jurisdictions to explore funding similar studies through the MPO.

MOTION: Chairman Clark made a motion to adopt the Hoschton Master Transportation Plan, which received a second from Commissioner Stowe, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

7. Other

There were no other items brought up for discussion.

8. 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, Mr. Schultz for the City of Oakwood, Mayor Martin for the City of Hoschton, Mr. Lott for the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), Mr. Gomez for Hall County, and Ms. Dove for Jackson County.

9. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

10. Upcoming Meeting Date: August 11, 2026

Chairman Gibbs reminded the Policy Committee that their next meeting would be on August 11, 2026. Mr. Boyd stated this meeting would be the first in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027, meaning the following rotation would occur, per the Policy Committee bylaws:

- **Chair**: City of Gainesville - Mayor Thompson
- **Vice-Chair**: City of Oakwood - Mayor Scroggs

11. Adjourn

There being no other items of business, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.

Mayor Zack Thompson, Chair

Joseph Boyd, GHMPO