GAINESVILLE-HALL
Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Citizens Advisory Committee

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

Voting Members Present:
Renee Gerrell, *Hall County* – **Chair**
Sammy Smith, *City of Gainesville* – **Vice Chair**
Oliver Ladd, *City of Gainesville*
Ricky Rich, *City of Gainesville*
Tony Millwood, *City of Oakwood*
John Rudio, *City of Flowery Branch*
Aubrey Duke, *City of Flowery Branch*
John Geyer, *Hall County*
Brent Hoffman, *Hall County*
Adrienne Rice, *Hall County*
Randy Wright, *Hall County*
Will Wright, *Hall County*
Jim Southard, *Jackson County*

Voting Members Absent:
Pat Jones, *City of Oakwood*
Beverly Nordholz, *City of Gainesville*
Carter Cagle, *Hall County*
Jesse Patton, *Hall County*
Billy Edwards, *Town of Braselton*

Others Present:
Joseph Boyd, *GHMPO*

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1. Welcome

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

2. Approval of July 30, 2026 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the July 30, 2026 meeting minutes, which received a second from Mr. Hoffman, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

3. Recommend Approval of the Draft FY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Boyd presented the final draft of the FY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This is the short-range implementation plan for the 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and covers fiscal years 2027-2030. Mr. Boyd highlighted the overall fiscal constraint and walked the Committee through the listed projects. Additional projects utilizing state and local funding sources

are also expected to be added in once the TIP is formally approved by the Federal Highway Administration. The TIP observed a thirty-day public comment period ending on October 29, 2026, with the official adoption by the Policy Committee slated for November 9, 2026.

MOTION: Mr. Smith made a motion to recommend approval of the Draft FY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program, which received a second from Mr. Rudio, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Ongoing Planning Studies Update

Mr. Boyd provided updates on the State Route 124 Planning Study in western Jackson County, which kicked off on October 19, 2026, and the Hall County Master Transportation Plan, which is scheduled to kick off in January 2027.

Ms. Gerrell asked if the Hall County Master Transportation Plan would look at a possible north Hall bypass, to which Mr. Boyd responded that yes, all possible projects and improvements would be analyzed as part of this Plan. Ms. Gerrell also asked if another look could be taken at a possible turn lane upgrade project at McEver Road and Dawsonville Highway, to which Mr. Boyd responded that yes, he would reach out to GDOT and take a look. Mr. Rudio asked if intersection improvements, such as at the intersection of Hog Mountain Road and Blackjack Road, would be part of this project, to which Mr. Boyd responded yes, it would be considered.

5. Other

Ms. Gerrell asked if there were any updates on possible upgrades at Beverly Road and Limestone Parkway. Mr. Boyd responded that he would reach out to Gainesville and ask for an update.

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Boyd to print out the TSPLOST list from the failed 2024 referendum in Hall County and asked if the Committee could be provided with information on what happened to the various projects after the referendum failed. Mr. Boyd responded that he would take the list and provide a table to the CAC which states whether the project was funded through another source, paused, or fully cancelled after the referendum failed.

Mr. Smith also let the Committee know that the City of Gainesville was hosting a survey on the future of Atlanta Highway/State Route 13. Mr. Boyd stated that he would share the link to the survey with the CAC when he sends out the meeting minutes.

6. TCC Jurisdiction and Agency Reports

Mr. Boyd briefly discussed some of the notable project updates from the TCC agency reports.

Mr. Smith asked about the area of cleared out trees across from the Gainesville Airport and if that was connected to the Highlands to Islands Airport Trail Project. Mr. Boyd responded that it was and that Gainesville was installing a new park at that location. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Boyd to reach out to Gainesville to request any renderings or other information he could share with the Committee.

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Mr. Millwood provided comments regarding recent roundabout construction across the area and stated that he hoped that the design of coming roundabouts would allow for easier access from cars on sideroads into the roundabout. He also expressed concern about pedestrian safety at crosswalks installed at the new roundabouts.

Mr. Millwood also asked for more information on how local communities are conducting roadway repairs. Specifically, he feels that there appears to be more filling of potholes and less actual substantial patching work being done. Mr. Boyd responded that he would reach out to Hall County Public Works to see how they assess damaged roadways and what gets a minor fill versus a major patch. Mr. Boyd stated he would follow up with the Committee.

7. Public Comment

Ms. Gerrell passed along a comment from the public that she received which asked if a traffic signal could be installed at Gaines Mill Road and US 129 east of Gainesville. Mr. Boyd responded that GDOT has done a few signal warrant analyses over the past decade and that the traffic volumes did not meet the warrant for a signal. He stated that he would reach out to GDOT to ask when the last time this analysis was conducted and whether it was appropriate to conduct a new one later this year or in early 2027.

8. Upcoming Meeting Date: January 28, 2027

Ms. Gerrell reminded the CAC that their next meeting would be on January 28, 2027.

9. Adjourn

There being no other items of business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.

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Renee Gerrell, Chair

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Joseph Boyd, GHMPO