



Hinesville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Chairman Donald Lovette, Policy Committee Chair

Jeff Ricketson, AICP, Director

HAMPO PC MINUTES: February 11, 2021

The Policy Committee (PC) on Transportation met in Room 2100 of the Historic Court House via phone/ZOOM at 100 N. Main Street in Hinesville at 9:00 AM on February 11, 2021.

1) CALL TO ORDER:

- Chairman Lovette called the meeting to order.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Voting Members Present

Mayor Allen Brown, Hinesville
Chairman Donald Lovette
Lynn Pace, Tim Byler proxy, LCPC Vice-Chair
Lily Baker, Chairman LCBOE
Melissa Carter Ray, LCDA
Mayor Paul Hawkins, Flemington
Radney Simpson, GDOT Planning
Vicky Nelson, City Council, Hinesville

Voting Members Absent

Mayor Pro Tem Washington, Midway
Mayor Joe Harris, Riceboro
Mayor Richard Strickland, Gum Branch
Mayor Thomas Hines, Allenhurst
Robert Parker, Long County BOC Chairman
Gary Gilliard, LCBOC
Mayor Larry Baker, Walthourville

Non-Voting Present

Jeff Ricketson, LCPC Director
Ann-Marie Day, FHWA
Joey Brown, LC Administrator
Kenny Howard, Hinesville
Mark Wilkes, CORE MPO

Non-Voting Absent

Mel Meleka, Fort Stewart
Phil Odom, CAC Chair

Participating

Rachel Hatcher, RS&H, LCPC
Justin Dammons, RS&H, LCPC
Kelly Wiggins, LCPC
Vivian Canizares-Delgadillo, GDOT
Troy Pittman, GDOT
Ned Green, GDOT
Patty Leon, Coastal Courier
Trent Long, T.R. Long Engineering
Marcus Sack, M.E. Sack Engineering
Trang Mai, GDOT
Christy Lovett, GDOT
Brent Blocker, GDOT
Tom Caiafa, GDOT
Ned Green
Ansley Grantham, GDOT

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Lily Baker made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2020 meeting seconded by Paul Hawkins and all voted in favor.

3) STATUS UPDATES

a. Project Status Update: Troy Pittman with GDOT

Troy informed the group that they have hired Katie Proctor to the GDOT staff, and she will be at our next Policy Committee meeting.

SR 38 Connector from SR/US 84 to SR 119 is under preliminary design and environmental work is ongoing. Environmental activities are at 67%. The preliminary plans are 100% complete. The public hearing is scheduled for March 4, 2021.

SR 38/US 84 at CR 73/Old Sunbury Road has environmental activities and preliminary plans at 100% complete. Final plans are 100% complete. ROW is certified and scheduled for LET on 2/19/2021.

SR 119 at Taylors Creek-Bridge replacement is 100% complete and they have finally received some feedback from the Pentagon referencing the utility issue.

CR 171/Lewis Frasier Rd @ Peacock Creek bridge replacement project is still in first stages of development, with survey complete and work beginning on the concept development.

Active Projects: both projects will be removed from the list by next meeting because they are completed.

1.686 miles of milling and resurfacing on SR 38 from SR 119 to E of US 84 is 100% complete.

12.55 miles of milling and resurfacing on SR 38 from E of OC Martin Drive to E of I-95 is 100% complete.

b. Transportation Update: Rachel Hatcher

Covid 19 sanitation and protections remain in effect. ADA infrastructure project bid documents are completed and submitted to GDOT for Concurrence. FY 2022 Grant Application submitted and includes funding to begin the Transit Development Plan and to replace remaining two original transit buses. Fleet replacement plan in effect with slight delivery delays occurring.

Paratransit ridership increased slightly in January and all three routes increased service in January.

c. Transportation Public Comment Log:

Deputies running radar with lights off from the decel lanes on Leroy Coffey Highway.

US 17 Pedestrian Crossing near the Midway Museum. Request was sent to GDTO to reinstall crosswalk at Martin Road to support safe crossing between Highway Historic sites. Staff has had ongoing coordination with GDOT District and members of the Midway Museum Administration.

New Comments: CAC member Phil Odom submitted a list of operational and maintenance issues that have been forwarded to GDOT and Local Jurisdictions for remediation. Any that are not able to be resolved will be brought to the TCC for review.

- d. **Administrative Updates:** Draft FY 2021-2022 UPWP was released for public comment and Draft FY 2021-2024 TIP was released for public comment.

4) **New Business:**

- a. **HAMPO Public Participation Plan (PPP) Amendment.** The preliminary draft has been presented to the CAC, TCC, and PC twice. CAC and TCC unanimously recommended approval.

Donald Lovette asked once this is adopted how long will it be in effect. Rachel stated that it will permanently be a part of the plan but does not supersede normal procedures.

Allen Brown made a motion to release the HAMPO Public Participation Plan Amendment for 45-day public comment period. Lily Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. **HAMPO Bylaws Amendment.** Draft Article 8 meeting remotely and virtually. Rachel stated that this article has been added to our bylaws and explains what to do when we must meet virtually. The preliminary draft was presented to CAC, TCC and PC. CAC and TCC unanimously recommended approval. Motion was made by Paul Hawkins to approve the HAMPO Bylaws Amendment. The motion was seconded by Lily Baker. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. **Election of Officers.** The selection committee included Melissa Carter Ray, Clemontine Washington and Lily Baker. Chairman was Donald Lovette and Vice-Chairman was Clemontine Washington. Lily Baker made a motion to elect the same Chairman and Vice-Chairman from the previous year. The motion was seconded by Melissa Carter Ray. The vote was unanimous in favor of Donald Lovette for Chairman and Clemontine Washington as Vice-Chairman for 2021.
- d. **SR 119/E. G. Miles Pkwy Special PL Funding Application.** This item was discussed at the previous two meetings. Federal Planning formula funds not utilized by Georgia MPOs aggregated into a discretionary account administered by GDOT. GAMPO is comprised of 16 Georgia MPOs serve as decision-making board for the dispersal of these funds. GAMPO issues two submittal opportunities each year in September and March. Funding is available for transportation planning projects and cannot be applied to PE, ROW, UTL or CST. Eligibility requirements are CAC-TCC and PC approval to submit, PC signed Resolution, Local 20% match funding commitment and updated UPWP incorporating the project. Previous action: City of Hinesville rezoning with traffic impact analysis conditions, and GDOT District Signal Warrants Analysis results presented to TCC and PC. GDOT District pursuing a safety audit for SR 196 from General Screven to Veterans Parkway. HAMPO staff and TCC officers recommended that the PC consider an application for funding. The Policy Committee directed staff to prepare a GAMPO Special PL funding grant application along with draft scope and fee for review; develop authorizing resolution for HAMPO

PC and 20% funding commitment resolution for local government(s); and to develop 2021 UPWP Amendment to include this project description and funding and add to FY 2022 UPWP.

Chairman Lovette asked if this funding is for the study only. Rachel stated that is correct. Chairman Lovette asked if the project will take 18 months. Rachel stated that she does not believe it will take that long but must include that timeline in the contract. We will be looking to GDOT for their safety audit.

Chairman Lovette asked who is responsible for the 20% match. Rachel deferred to Joey Brown for the answer. Joey stated that the proposed match will come from T-SPLOST funds.

- e. A motion was made by Allen Brown to approve the SR 119 Special PL Funding application for submittal to GAMPO and that the 2021 UPWP amendment be completed concurrently. The motion was seconded by Vicky Nelson and the motion passed unanimously.

MSA Call for Comments response. Rachel explained that on January 19th the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) posted in the federal register a notice for comment on the recommendations it has received from the Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Standards Review Committee for changes to its standards. Comments are due 60 days from when the notice was published. The Review Committee made several recommendations, including that the minimum urban area population to qualify as a metropolitan statistical area should be increased from 50,000 to 100,000. We encourage you to review the notice and consider submitting comments. AMPO is currently reviewing the notice and supplemental materials and working with members to develop comments. Jeff has coordinated with GAMPO membership and developed a draft letter for review and comment. Other Georgia MPOs are drafting similar letters for submittal.

Chairman Lovette asked if GMA had weighed in on this. Jeff stated he did not know but that we should encourage them to help.

A motion was made by Allen Brown to authorize HAMPO Chairman and Executive Director to sign and submit letter contesting the proposed change to the MSA threshold for MPOs. The motion was seconded by Paul Hawkins. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Lovette requested that we check with GMA and ACCG.

6. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Mark Wilkes with CORE MPO stated that they have been undergoing their certification review. It started with an audit of their files and documents and concluded with a site visit. Their site visit consisted of a day and a half day. They received 16 recommendations and no corrective actions. One item was that they felt that their meetings were too long. CORE MPO will attempt to shorten the meetings. They are awaiting the final report.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- There were no public comments presented at the meeting.

8. **SCHEDULE:**

- The next regularly scheduled PC meeting will be April 8, 2021.

9. **ADJOURN:**

- Mayor Allen Brown made a motion to adjourn. Lily Baker seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED:

Donald Lovette, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jeff Ricketson