



# Hinesville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Chairman Donald Lovette, Policy Committee Chair

Jeff Ricketson, AICP, Director

## HAMPO CAC MINUTES: May 13, 2021

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) on Transportation met in Room 2100 of the Historic Court House via phone/ZOOM at 100 N. Main Street in Hinesville at 5:30 PM on May 13, 2021.

### 1) CALL TO ORDER:

- Phil Odom called the meeting to order and noted a quorum was not present.

### INTRODUCTIONS:

#### PRESENT

Joe Kelly	Liberty County
Phil Odom, Chairman	Gum Branch
Ernest Brown	Liberty County
Curles Butler	Hinesville
Ron Collins	AASU

#### EXCUSED:

#### ABSENT:

Troy Cook	Liberty County
Marcello Page	Hinesville
Bob Dodd	Walthourville
Tim Byler	Flemington
Terry Fortson	Midway
Elaine Moore	Hinesville
Cassidy Collins	Hinesville

#### STAFF/GVT/Other:

Jeff Ricketson	HAMPO/LCPC
Rachel Hatcher	RS&H, LCPC
Justin Dammons	RS&H, LCPC
Mayor Larry Baker	Walthourville
Patty Leon	Coastal Courier

#### VACANT SEATS:

Vacant	Allenhurst
Vacant	Fort Stewart
Vacant	Hinesville
Vacant	Savannah Tech

## 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- There was no quorum present at this meeting, so the approval of the minutes will be deferred to the next CAC meeting in July.

## 3) STATUS UPDATES

### a. Project Update:

SR 38 Connector from SR/US 84 to SR 119 has environmental activities at 67%, with preliminary plans 100% complete. ROW funds are expected to be available in June, with ROW acquisition starting in July.

SR 119 at Taylors Creek-Bridge replacement is still working through environmental approvals with Fort Stewart and the Corps of Engineers.

CR 171/Lewis Frasier Rd @ Peacock Creek has concept development anticipated in May 2021.

SR38/US 84 at CR73/Old Sunbury Road let on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Anticipated completion by 11/2022.

Phil stated that there were GDOT survey crews were seen on site.

Jeff added that the City of Hinesville crew was working on relocating the water lines at this site.

US 84 improvement project from Patriots Trail to Flowers can anticipate work beginning this summer.

### b. Transit Update:

Rachel stated that the Covid-19 sanitization and protections remain in effect. Three new buses were delivered on March 31, 2021, with remaining bus being cleared for service by the end of the week. Construction underway on the ADA infrastructure improvement projects, including at Savannah Tech on Technology Drive and on General Stewart Way. New Liberty Transit vehicles are sized more appropriately to the system ridership and allows for drivers without CDL licenses to drive the buses. Year over year paratransit ridership was up in April, but down from March ridership. System ridership was up in April for fixed route service. Route 1 and 2 increased ridership, with Route 3 slightly decreasing ridership in April.

### c. Transportation Public Comment Log:

Ongoing: CAC member Phi Odom submitted a list of operational and maintenance issues that have been forwarded to GDOT and Local Jurisdictions for remediation.

**New Comments:** Resident on Charlotte Court off Veterans Parkway in Hinesville made a complaint that the resultant median after Veterans Parkway widening causes drivers to have to make a U-turn at Grove Point Drive. Crash data was pulled using GDOT Numetric Data and AADT sourced from

TADA. HAMPO staff coordinated with City of Hinesville and GDOT District 5 and provided agencies with a copy of the screening and a summary of findings. 25 total crashes occurred at this intersection between 2013-2019, with no injuries or fatalities from those crashes. Most of those crashes were rear end collisions and animal strike/not a collision with motor vehicle.

Phil noted that the planned infrastructure improvements on US 84 will be like the Veterans Parkway widening and will cause the same issue along that corridor as well.

Rachel stated that this improves safety for the public, and even with the few rear end collisions occurring, some collisions are to be expected. She added that HAMPO staff is also conducting a similar analysis at the Veterans Parkway at Walmart intersection.

d. Administrative Updates:

**GDOT Call for TAP Grant Applications.** GDOT recently released a FY 2022 Call for Projects for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). TAP projects are for pedestrian facilities, bicycle facilities, and pedestrian streetscaping projects. HAMPO is not an eligible project sponsor, and the Local Public Agency undertaking the project must be Local Administered Project (LAP) certified by GDOT. The City of Hinesville is the only LAP-certified agency in the MPO region. The project must have a 20% local match, and the minimum project cost is \$1,000,000.

**GAMPO Semi-Annual Meeting Updates.** GAMPO held their Spring 2021 meeting on March 29, 2021. Topics discussed during the meeting include a new organizational structure and funding sources for the GDOT Office of Planning, the Georgia Power Projection Platform Route Study, FTA updates, conceptual I-14 coordination, and GDOT Intermodal updates. The PL Funds Review Committee met at this meeting, and the HAMPO MTP was closed out, and the SR 119 study passed unanimously. Ned Green and Tom Caiafa are the GDOT planners associated with the HAMPO MPO. Tom McQueen is the head of the new GDOT Freight Planning Division.

**Georgia Power Project Platform Route Study.** This is a study that is being conducted with the Federals Lands Division of FHWA and the Department of Defense. Highways for National Defense (HND) has a mission to ensure that national defense is served by adequate, safe and efficient public highway systems. The STRAHNET system has three different levels of corridors in the HAMPO region, including SRs 119, 144, US 84, and I-95. FHWA is supporting the execution of 8 PPP route studies, with the Fort Stewart study being the first to begin. The draft report will be released to GDOT then HAMPO. Supporting projects designed to relieve pressure on the PPP/STRAHNET corridors may be considered.

**EG Miles Pkwy Special PL Study Update.** This study was successfully awarded by the Special PL committee at the Spring 2021 GAMPO meeting. The RFP draft is under development and will be published upon receipt of the funding contract from GDOT. The anticipated timeline tentatively calls

for the publication of the RFP in late June 2021, selection announcements in August, and contracting and negotiations in fall 2021. Anticipating less than a year for completion of the study project.

**HAMPO Certification Review.** MPOs are certified every four years to ensure that they are carrying out the metropolitan planning process in adherence with federal statutes and regulations. HAMPO's last self-certification review was in 2016. GDOT and HAMPO staff held a kick-off meeting on April 20, 2021 to initiate the self-certification process. The preparation of certification report is underway.

4) **New Business:**

No New Business.

5) **OTHER BUSINESS:**

There were no updates on this agenda item.

6) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**SCHEDULE:**

- The next regularly scheduled CAC meeting will be July 8, 2021.

7) **ADJOURN:**

- The meeting was adjourned with no quorum present.

APPROVED:

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Phil Odom, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Jeff Ricketson, Executive Director, LCPC