



Hinesville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Chairman Donald Lovette, Policy Committee Chair

Jeff Ricketson, AICP, Director

HAMPO CAC MINUTES: July 8, 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 July 8, 2021.

1) CALL TO ORDER:

- Phil Odom called the meeting to order and noted a quorum was present.

INTRODUCTIONS:

PRESENT

Joe Kelly	Liberty County
Phil Odom, Chairman	Gum Branch
Curles Butler	Hinesville
Elaine Moore	Hinesville
Marcello Page-Vice-Chair	Hinesville
Cassidy Collins	Hinesville
Bob Dodd	Walthourville

EXCUSED:

ABSENT:

Troy Cook	Liberty County
Ernest Brown	Liberty County
Ron Collins	AASU
Jimmy Shanken	Long County
Terry Sellers	Savannah Tech
Tim Byler	Flemington
Terry Fortson	Midway

Pearlie Axson	Riceboro
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STAFF/GVT/Other:

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

VACANT SEATS:

Vacant	Allenhurst
Vacant	Fort Stewart

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A motion was made by to approve the minutes from March 11, 2021, and the summary from the May 13, 2021, meeting by Marcello Page. The motion was seconded by Joe Kelly. The motion passed unanimously.

3) STATUS UPDATES

a. **Project Update:** Rachel.

SR 38 Connector from SR/US 84 to SR 119 has completed its LND advertisement yesterday and the next milestone is FFPR.

SR 119 at Taylors Creek-Bridge replacement is 100% complete with final plans and working through a utility issue with the base. Katie stated this project is the same status as last month.

CR 171/Lewis Frasier Rd @ Peacock Creek bridge replacement project has completed survey and started concept development. Katie stated this project is the same status as last month.

Sr 38/US 84/Flowers Drive to Patriots Trail Median project. A task order has been issued for concept.

Active:

SR38/US 84 at CR73/Old Sunbury Road let on February 19th. The contract has been awarded. Anticipated completion by 11/22. There was discussion about the utilities. A pre-con was held in May but there will be follow up meetings coming up soon.

b. **Transit Update:**

Rachel stated that the three new buses are currently in service. The preliminary design phase of the second infrastructure project is ongoing. Rachel included photos of the bus stops that have been completed and the stops that are ongoing. The deadline for completion was June 30, 2021. Rachel went over the list of the sites that were included in the improvement project. Since the first date of completion the CARES ACT Funds have been extended until December 2021. When these are complete, we will start a new list of projects. Joe Kelly asked the status of the old buses. Rachel stated that the old buses are being evaluated and put in surplus until a decision is made to sell them. Rachel stated that paratransit ridership decreased in June but increased ridership in May. Rt. 1 and Rt. 3 increased ridership in April but decreased in June. However, that is typical for the summer months. Total trips increased from May 2020 to May 2021 by 30 percent.

c. **Transportation Public Comment Log:**

New Comments: None.

d. **Administrative Updates:**

E.G. Miles Pkwy Special PL Study Update. The request for proposals draft has been completed and submitted to the sub-committee for concurrence. We are awaiting the funding contract from GDOT, and they gave us an update last week and stated it is in review. The original timeline called for us to release that RFP during the June-July timeframe. However, this will likely get pushed out to the September timeframe. And the work on this project will begin in the October timeframe.

FY 2022 UPWP TIP Administrative Modification # 1: On June 1, 2021, GDOT Office of Planning requested an administrative modification be made to the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program. The administrative modification revises the funding total of the Freight Planning task under the System Planning element for the FY 2022 UPWP Budget Summary table. The updated document has been posted to the MPO website.

GAMPO Special PL Funding Application: Next rounds of GAMPO Special PL funding applications are due in September 2021 and March 2022. Funding is planning only and cannot be used for PE, ROW, UTL or CST phases of projects. The Funding is 80% federal and 20% Local with no minimum or maximum award size. Projects must be reflected in the HAMPO UPWP. Proposed projects must go through two cycles of MPO meetings prior to submittal. Proposed projects must support the HAMPO MTP. Rachel stated that this is the time to start thinking of your ideas and needs for transportation study and analysis. Phil asked Rachel for an example of a safety project that she is referring to. She gave an example of one in Brunswick.

Meeting Format Assessment and Strategies: HAMPO staff is assessing how member organizations are currently meeting and if revised meeting structure plans are in place. Meeting strategies will be established and presented to the Policy Committee at their August meeting. Jeff stated that he would like to advocate for a combined meeting of virtual and in person. The thoughts were that we would like to go back to in person meetings. GDOT stated that they would like a process and statement indicating why we are returning to in person meetings. Data will be gathered via a survey. Joe Kelly asked if the City of Hinesville and the Commissioners were meeting in person. Jeff stated that all our local governments have returned to in person meetings. Patty Leon stated that the County and City are back to in person but also provide live stream for the public also. Rachel stated that it is pertinent that the public and the voting members have access to the meetings.

4) **New Business:**

- a) **FY 2023 UPWP – Call for Areas of Emphasis:** Rachel stated that July is the time that we start planning for development of the UPWP. Call for areas of emphasis. We ask for items from within the framework of the MPO. What we are obliged to do and where we can really focus our efforts for the next fiscal year. In July we seek area MPO feedback on annual goals and areas of emphasis. We analyze and include in report in September and then release for public comment. Rachel went over the FY 2021 highlights and the FY 2022 Areas of Emphasis. Rachel stated that the FY 2023 Areas of Emphasis is for dialog purposes. We will take comments via email and will be sending out emails for comment. The areas within our work program are considered in the following phases: Administration, Public Involvement, Data Collection, System Planning, Transit Planning and Unfunded Special Studies (GAMPO candidates). Rachel reminded the committee of the HAMPO certification review that is required every four years. 2021 will be conducted virtually. A few ideas introduced today by the TCC were ensuring that we are maximizing our efforts to draw down new

opportunities for freight funding. Safety was another item such as the median plan along Highway 84. Jeff and Rachel discussed funding for the bypass.

Marcello Page asked if we are allowed to do any beautification projects along the roads? Rachel stated in a limited capacity but there are requirements. Marcello stated that he would like to see more beautification. Rachel stated that the local government entity must be LAP certified and they must be able to match the funds. Joe Kelly stated that he thought that South Main and Ralph Quarterman and Eunice is a highly congested area and would like something done about it. Jeff stated that he knows that the City of Hinesville is considering a traffic circle at Ralph Quarterman. Rachel stated that there are plans for the circle already. Curles Butler asked when the committee needed to return their ideas to her. Rachel stated that they have until the end of August.

5) **OTHER BUSINESS AND AGENCY UPDATES:** None.

6) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Someone stated that Hwy 196 between Highway 17 and Highway 84 is starting to come apart more and more. There are holes starting to form from the trucks. Phil stated that at the May meeting he made a report of the potholes in the area. The sand is building up at Pate Rogers Road. Rachel stated that all we can do is report it to the government authority or the property owners. Phil asked about the driveway between Isaac Stevens Road cul de sac and Highway 84. Jeff stated he sent it and he has not gotten anything back. Jeff stated that he will follow up with this complaint. The commercial signs on the public rights-of-way were part of the discussion. Jeff stated that the LCPC calls GDOT, and they have been picking them up. Joe Kelly asked when school is in session are the crossing guards paid. Joe stated that the traffic signals would be better to have there. Rachel stated that the traffic signals are extremely expensive and paying the traffic guards is more economical. Marcello Page asked if we could have traffic cameras installed. Rachel stated that is outside the scope of the MPO.

SCHEDULE:

- The next regularly scheduled TCC meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2021. County wide retreat is scheduled on the same date so the members will be polled for another date.

7) **ADJOURN:**

A motion was made by Curles Butler and seconded by Joe Kelly. Meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

Phil Odom, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jeff Ricketson, Executive Director, LCPC