



Hinesville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Chairman Donald Lovette, Policy Committee Chair

Jeff Ricketson, AICP, Director

HAMPO PC MINUTES: December 9, 2021

The Policy Committee (PC) on Transportation met via phone/ZOOM at 9:00 AM on August 12, 2021.

1) CALL TO ORDER:

- Chairman Lovette called the meeting to order.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Voting Members Present

Mayor Allen Brown, Hinesville
Chairman Donald Lovette, LCBOC Chairman
Lynn Pace, Tim Byler proxy, LCPC Vice-Chair
Mayor Paul Hawkins, Flemington
Gary Gilliard, LCBOC
Vicky Nelson, City Council, Hinesville
Mayor Larry Baker, Walthourville
Ned Green, GDOT Planning
Mayor Pro-Tem Axson, Riceboro
Melissa Carter Ray, LCDA
Mayor Pro-Tem Washington, Midway

Voting Members Absent

Lily Baker, Chairman LCBOE
Mayor Richard Strickland, Gum Branch
Mayor James Willis, Allenhurst
Robert Parker, Long County BOC Chairman
Mayor Pro Tem Washington, Midway

Non-Voting Present

Jeff Ricketson, LCPC Director
Ann-Marie Day, FHWA
Joey Brown, LC Administrator
Mark Wilkes, CORE MPO
Troy Pittman, GDOT
Ryan Arnold, Hinesville, Assistant City Manager
Tom Caiafa
Kenny Howard, Hinesville, City Manager

Non-Voting Absent

Participating

Rachel Hatcher, RS&H, LCPC
Justin Dammons, RS&H, LCPC
Kelly Wiggins, LCPC
Phil Odom, Chairman of CAC
Katie Proctor, GDOT
Karen Randolph, Liberty Transit
Ashley Finch,
Emma Frost
Trent Long, T.R. Long Engineering
Marcus Sack, M. E. Sack Engineering
Patty Leon, The Coastal Courier
Debra Attical, City of Riceboro
Melissa Phillips

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **Paul Hawkins made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2021, meeting, seconded by Gary Gilliard and all voted in favor.**

3) STATUS UPDATES

a. **Project Status Update: Katie Proctor with GDOT**

SR 38 Connector from SR/US 84 to SR 119; all ROW funding has been released and 14 of 57 have been acquired. Looking toward FFPR in April (Final Field Plan Review)

SR 119 at Taylors Creek-Bridge replacement; LET has been moved to January 2022

CR 171/Lewis Frasier Rd at Peacock Creek bridge replacement project; environmental is ongoing and beginning process of PIOH (Public Information Open House) and the next milestone is PFPR (Preliminary Field Plan Review) request. It is anticipated in October of 2022.

SR38/US84 From flowers Drive to Patriots Trail median project; still in early concept, currently gathering scope.

Active Projects: SR 38/US 84 at CR 73/Old Sunbury Road is under construction. The project was LET and was awarded and pulled. It will re-Let in January 2022.

Signing, Pavement marking upgrades, shoulder rehab on various roads was awarded in October and the list of roads was submitted today to the LCPC office.

Chairman Lovette asked about the Hwy 38 US 119 project. Katie stated that 14 of 57 properties have been acquired. Chairman Lovette asked when the ROW acquisition will wrap up. Troy Pittman stated that there is usually 18 to 24 months to acquire the properties. Chairman Lovette asked how far along we are at this time. Katie stated she will get that information to us. Chairman Lovette asked for the overview of Old Sunbury Road again. Katie stated that the project was awarded but pulled back due to an error. The contract stated for work to be done during the AM time frame and GDOT had asked for the work to be completed during the PM time frame. It will re-LET in January 2022. She was told to expect the notice to proceed in April 2022. Troy stated that they attempted to make a change order with the awarded contractor and could not come to agreement, so they were forced to pull the contract and make corrections and re-award.

b. **Transportation Update: Rachel Hatcher**

Rachel stated that the sidewalk construction phase 1 has been completed. Bids for Phase 2 was due back on November 30. We are anticipating that work on phase 2 will begin in January of 2022 and be complete by June 2022. Liberty Transit is waiting on the purchase order for the three new buses, but

due to cost increase, we may only get one new vehicle at this time. She will have more information on that at our February meeting. Paratransit ridership has increased year over year. Systemwide trips per revenue service hours ratio was higher than previous years performance in August, September, and October. Routes 2 and 3 increased in ridership in October. However, Route 1 decreased. Total trips from October 2020 to October 2021 increased by 9 percent.

c. **Transportation Public Comment Log:** No comments received.

d. **HAMPO Administrative Updates:**

Upcoming Election of Officers: Rachel asked Chairman Lovette to form a three-person election committee to nominate a member for Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Approval will take place at the February meeting.

E.G. Miles Pkwy Special PL Study Update. 4 proposals were received and evaluated by the selection committee. Atlas Consulting was selected and is under contract. There was a project meeting on December 1, 2021, and the traffic counts will be collected in December 2021.

Power Projection Platform (PPP) Route Study. The Power Projections Platform Route Study for Ft. Stewart was finalized in August 2021. This was prepared for the Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division of FHWA. This includes and analysis of the STRAHNET corridors that connect fort Stewart and the Port of Savannah.

Chairman Lovette asked if there was a portion of Highway 84 included in this. Rachel stated that we lobbied hard for that, but we didn't really have a seat at the table during the development of this report. It was evaluated but this is the route that was selected.

September GAMPO Special PL Funds Review Committee. On September 27, 2021, the Georgia Association of MPOs held their fall 2021 meeting. Highlights from the meeting include the Georgia Freight and Logistics Plan Update. They have completed that study and are looking at the industry to see what the needs are today and what are expectations are for growth. Rachel stated that Georgia manufacturing exports grew by 30 percent in the past 10 years. In 2020, Georgia ranked as the top U. S. port for the first time. One of the major changes reported was that there are inland ports that are in progress being built and there are additional inland ports proposed for the future. Rachel presenting some graphs and maps that compare tonnage by mode. They will also be conducting an air cargo study. Rachel also presented the Policy Committee with the September GAMPO Special PL Funds Review Committee Update. This contains the active GAMPO projects across the State. The next GAMPO meeting will be held in March 2022. We will be preparing the MPO update. We have about one year before we have to start the procurement process and then we will be in our 2050 Long Range Plan Update process. Every 5 years it must be adopted to remain in compliance.

Chairman Lovette stated that at last months Commissioner meeting, Islands Highway came up as a safety issue and needing repairs. He asked to please keep this in mind. Chairman Lovette also mentioned the amount of traffic in the Griffin Park area. He sees this as areas of concern. Rachel asked Joey Brown to set up a separate meeting to discuss the areas of interest for the County. Joey

stated that he will contact Rachel. Mayor Allen Brown stated that the Liberty County Industrial Authority is working with more industry than he has seen in his 28 years on the Board.

New GDOT and FHWA Leadership. Rachel stated that Phillip Peevy is the new GDOT Intermodal contact. Ann-Marie Day is the new Planning Team Leader for the Georgia Division of FHWA. Olivia Lewis is the new Division Office Planner.

Chairman Lovette stated that the smaller cities want to know how to get in line for the Build Back Better funds. He states that the smaller cities are thinking and talking about it. Rachel stated that it is very important to do research and read as much as you can about grants.

4) **NEW BUSINESS:**

a. **Draft FY 2023 UPWP (Action).** This action is to release for 30-day comment period. We have to adopt this plan prior to June 2022. The UPWP is updated annually. The FY 2023 budgets have been released. The total budget for FY 2023 is \$181,809.00 and includes Federal, State and Local match. The area of emphasis should be freight planning, community outreach, multi-year planning schedule and equity analysis. We build our FY 2023 budget on FY 2022 values. Equity planning will be incorporated into the Bike/Ped plan. Rachel presented the UPWP schedule. Staff solicited feedback from the committee members regarding areas of emphasis for the FY 2023 UPWP.

MOTION: A motion to release the Draft FY 2023 UPWP for a 30-day Public Comment period was made by Gary Gilliard. The motion was seconded by Larry Baker. The motion passed unanimously.

b. **FY 2023 FTA 5303 Grant Application (Action).** This is the accompanying application for the work program funds. In the UPWP you approved two years of 5303 funds because their application cycle is a little ahead. This would be the 2023 application that needs to be submitted this month for funds that begin July 2022.

Motion was made to approve the FY 2023 5303 application resolution and authorize Policy Committee Chair to fully execute the grant funding application by Mayor Paul Hawkins and seconded by Gary Gilliard. The motion was unanimously approved.

c. **Performance Measurements Compliance.** GDOT's Safety Performance Targets are used to help improve data, foster transparency and accountability, and allow safety progress to be tracked at the national and state level.

Motion to adopt by resolution the calendar year 2022 Safety performance Management Targets as approved by GDOT was made by Mayor Larry Baker. The motion was seconded by Gary Gilliard. The motion was unanimously approved.

d. **HAMPO 2022 Committee Meeting Calendar (Action).**
A motion was made by Mayor Paul Hawkins to adopt the 2022 schedule and the motion was seconded by Mayor Larry Baker. The motion was unanimously approved.

5) **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- a. **Agency Updates:** Chairman Lovette asked Jeff if everyone was in good standing on attendance on this committee. Jeff stated yes with the exception of Long County. Jeff stated he has tried many times to reach out to Long County and has not been successful. He stated that Long County may need to be reached by a higher level above staff.

Debra Attical with Riceboro stated that Weyerhaeuser is opening a site in Riceboro and there are concerns with traffic. They requested assistance with a decel lane. Rachel stated that the MPO staff will pull the Long-Range Plan and the 2040 volumes and check to see what was slated for those parcels. The GDOT partners are already on board and looking at this. Rachel stated that they have been performing our end of year review of Citizens Advisory Committee representation at meetings regarding attendance. We will be presenting you a report on that, and will could be asking you for a new assignment if you have an underperforming representative. Rachel also stated that we completed our certification review with GDOT, and Federal Highway Administration and we received an excellent report. 5 items were recommended to us, and one item was to reduce the number of days for TIP public comment. The report will be made available once it is signed.

Jeff Ricketson stated that the LCPC Governing Board is looking into appealing the census numbers. He states that Liberty County has built 1,800 new single-family houses and the census bureau shows us losing 160 units.

Chairman Lovette appointed Gary Gilliard, Paul Hawkins and Clemontine Washington to the selection of officers committee.

- b. **CORE MPO Update:** No update.

- 6) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Commissioner Gary Gilliard stated that he has concerns about the area of E.G. Miles Parkway and Deal Street. He suggested a right turn only out of Deal Street onto E.G Miles Parkway. There will be increased traffic with the new nursing home and apartments being built there. Rachel stated that this will be included in priority one of the traffic study. She also stated that there will be opportunities for stakeholders and property owners to speak. Chairman Lovette asked the for the committee and GDOT to keep phase two of the connector on their radar.

- 7) **SCHEDULE:** The next regularly scheduled PC meeting will be February 10, 2022.

8) **ADJOURN:**

- Gary Gillard made a motion to adjourn. Larry Baker seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED:

Donald Lovette, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jeff Ricketson