



Hinesville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Chairman Donald Lovette, Policy Committee Chair

Jeff Ricketson, AICP, Director

HAMPO PC MINUTES: April 14, 2022

The Policy Committee (PC) on Transportation met via phone/ZOOM at 9:00 AM on April 14, 2022.

1) CALL TO ORDER:

- Vice-Chair Washington called the meeting to order.
- Jeff Ricketson named each member that was present.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Voting Members Present

Mayor Allen Brown, Hinesville
Lynn Pace, Tim Byler proxy, LCPC Vice-Chair
Mayor Paul Hawkins, Flemington
Gary Gilliard, LCBOC
Radney Simpson, GDOT Planning
Debra Attical, Riceboro
Lily Baker
Larry Baker, Walthourville
Mayor Pro-Tem Washington, Midway
Melissa Ray, LCDA

Voting Members Absent

Mayor Richard Strickland, Gum Branch
Mayor James Willis, Allenhurst
Robert Parker, Long County BOC Chairman
Chairman Lovette, LCBOC
Vicky Nelson, Hinesville City Council

Non-Voting Present

Jeff Ricketson, LCPC Director
Joey Brown, LC Administrator
Ryan Arnold, Hinesville, City Assistant Manager
Emma Frost, Ft. Stewart

Non-Voting Absent

Participating

Rachel Hatcher, RS&H, LCPC
Justin Dammons, RS&H, LCPC
Katie Proctor, GDOT
Trent Long, County Engineer
Phil Odom, LCPC
Tom Caiafa
Robby Caudill
Phillip Peevy

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **Vice-Chairman Washington asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the February 10, 2022 meeting. None mentioned. Minutes passed.**

3) STATUS UPDATES

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

SR 38 Connector from SR/US 84 to SR 119; 30 of 64 properties have been acquired. Next milestone is FFPR and that is anticipated for November.

CR 171/Lewis Frasier Rd at Peacock Creek bridge replacement project; anticipated POH to be late April or early May. PRPR is in October.

SR9838/US84 from Flowers Drive to Patriots Trail median project; still in concept and should be submitted late April.

Active Projects: SR 38/US 84 at CR 73/Old Sunbury Road LET in January and still waiting on NTP.

Signing, Pavement marking upgrades, shoulder rehab on various roads was awarded in October. GDOT is waiting on the contractor to begin.

SR 119 at Taylors Creek-Bridge replacement is to re-LET this month.

b. Transportation Update: Rachel Hatcher

Rachel stated that the sidewalk construction on Busbee Road in Walthourville is ongoing. Still waiting to purchase another transit bus. The initial company that submitted bids went out of business and cannot fill the order. Engineering and design specifications are expected by the end of March for eight bus shelters, with anticipated completion date of August 2022. Ryan Arnold stated that he presented bid to the Hinesville City Council for the bus, and they are rebidding due to cost increase. The bus shelters have been inspected. Jeff asked what the new price is for the bus and Ryan stated \$140,000.00. The last buses bought in 2019 were \$90,000.00.

Paratransit ridership has increased year over year. Systemwide trips per revenue service hours ratio was lower than the previous year's ratio for the first time since August 2021. Total trips decreased from February 2021 to February 2022 by 2 percent.

c. Transportation Public Comment Log: No comments received.

d. HAMPO Administrative Updates:

E.G. Miles Pkwy Special PL Study Update. Rachel stated we will give an update on this study at each of the HAMPO meetings to share how we are progressing through this. Our area of emphasis for April is stakeholder and public involvement. For traffic analysis the consultant has pulled historic traffic volumes and calculated growth rates, pulled population growth data to compare with calculated traffic growth rates to determine proposed growth rate to be used in the study, and they are working on traffic analysis of future conditions. For stakeholder and public involvement, they have conducted four focus group meetings and are preparing for the first public meeting on April 14th. The next steps include completing traffic analysis, continued stakeholder and public involvement and developing recommendations and cost estimates. Completion date of June 2022.

GAMPO Spring 2022 Meeting Update. Rachel gave this update and stated that on March 28, 2022 the Georgia Association of MPOs held their Spring 2022 meeting. The topics included were US 2021-billion-dollar weather and climate disasters, safety performance targets, US Census data, UZA updates, MPO plan, travel demand modeling schedule, joint agency data acquisition and management program, climate and transportation resilience, infrastructure investments and jobs act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and carbon reduction program. There was also a PL Funds review committee meeting and an update on the E.G. Miles Study.

Jeff asked Rachel if the electric vehicle charging stations would cause the government to be in the fuel business. Rachel stated they have seen a lot of different approaches, but this is so new at this time. Rachel then presented the GDOT slides for the Georgia portion in the carbon reduction program (FHWA).

HAMPO Participation Plan Update. Rachel stated that the 45-day public comment period from February 10, 2022 to March 28, 2022 concluded. No comments were received. The draft changes to the PPP include reducing the public comment period for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) from 30 days to 15 days per guidance from GDOT following HAMPO Certification in 2021. Action will take place at next Policy meeting following the recommendations from TCC and CAC.

4) NEW BUSINESS:

a. FY 2023 UPWP Amendment #1 (Action: Release for 30-day comment period.)

Rachel stated that Complete Streets is the new funding item that has been added. The new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requires each MPO to use at least 2 to 5% of its PL funds on specified planning activities to increase safe and accessible options for multiple travel modes for people of all ages and abilities. TCC and CAC unanimously recommended release for 30-day comment period.

Motion was made by Lily Baker to release the FY 2023 Amendment #1 for a 30-day public comment period. The motion was seconded by Radney Simpson. The motion passed unanimously.

b. FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment #1 (Action: Release for 30-day comment period.)

Rachel stated that two changes have been drafted to the FY 2021-2024 TIP per request of Liberty Transit: the TIP has been amended to reflect funding updates and per request of GDOT; and the TIP has been amended to include new funding from the IIHA/BIL for a carbon reduction program. On March 31, 2022 the GDOT Office of Planning made a request to include new funding in the FY 2021-24 TIP. This new funding source is for carbon reduction policies and programming. The amount is subject to change.

Motion was made by Paul Hawkins to release FY2021-2024 TIP for a 30-day comment period, with additional funding information from GDOT incorporated. Seconded by Lily Baker. The motion was unanimously approved.

5) OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Agency Updates: None.

b. **CORE MPO Update:** Jeff stated that Mark Wilkes with Savannah MPO has retired.

- 6) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Debra Attical with City of Riceboro asked that we look into expanded transportation to the Head Start Center. Jeff stated that we will look into it and may have to work with CRC for this and will report back.
- 7) **SCHEDULE:** Next Proposed special called meeting will be May 26 2022.
Next regularly scheduled PC meeting will be June 9, 2022.
- 8) **ADJOURN: Unanimously voted to adjourn.**

APPROVED:

Donald Lovette, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jeff Ricketson