



Hinesville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Chairman Donald Lovette, Policy Committee Chair

Jeff Ricketson, AICP, Director

HAMPO PC MINUTES: May 26, 2022

The Policy Committee (PC) on Transportation met via phone/ZOOM at 9:00 AM on May 26, 2022.

1) CALL TO ORDER:

- Chairman Lovette called the meeting to order.
- Jeff Ricketson named each member that was present.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Voting Members Present

Chairman Donald Lovette, LCBOC
Mayor Allen Brown, Hinesville
Lynn Pace, Phil Odom proxy, LCPC Vice-Chair
Mayor Paul Hawkins, Flemington
Gary Gilliard, LCBOC
Radney Simpson, GDOT Planning
Lily Baker, LCBOE
Larry Baker, Walthourville
Vicky Nelson, Hinesville City Council
Melissa Ray, LCDA

Non-Voting Present

Jeff Ricketson, LCPC Director
Joey Brown, LC Administrator
Kenny Howard, Hinesville, City Manager
Emma Frost, Ft. Stewart

Non-Voting Absent

Voting Members Absent

Mayor Richard Strickland, Gum Branch
Mayor James Willis, Allenhurst
Robert Parker, Long County BOC Chairman
Chairman Lovette, LCBOC
Mayor Pro Tem Washington, Midway
Mayor Pro Tem Axson, Riceboro

Participating

Rachel Hatcher, RS&H, LCPC
Justin Dammons, RS&H, LCPC
Trent Long, County Engineer
Ann-Marie Day, FHWA

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **Chairman Lovette asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 14, 2022 meeting. Paul Hawkins made a motion. The motion was seconded by Gary Gilliard. The motion passed unanimously.**

3) STATUS UPDATES

a. Project Status Update: Rachel Hatcher.

SR 38 Connector from SR/US 84 to SR 119; in in FFPR.

CR 171/Lewis Frasier Rd at Peacock Creek bridge replacement project; PFPR requested.

SR9838/US84 from Flowers Drive to Patriots Trail median project; in concept.

Active Projects: SR 38/US 84 at CR 73/Old Sunbury Road; anticipated completion date is now summer of 2023.

Signing, Pavement marking upgrades, shoulder rehab on various roads was awarded in October. Expected completion fall of 2022.

SR 119 at Taylors Creek-Bridge replacement. Do not have an anticipated completion date at this time.

b. **Liberty Transit Update: Rachel Hatcher**

Rachel with RS&H stated that there have been no accidents or employee injuries during the previous quarter. There have been no injuries since November 2020. Still in process of purchasing new vehicles and may be limited to only one due to costs and lack of inventory. Ridership updates are up since July 2021. The systemwide trips have rebounded over previous levels for the past two months. Total trips decreased by only four.

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. Rachel went over the project schedule. Currently we are in the stakeholder/public involvement phase. A second public meeting was held on May 12th. The traffic analysis is still ongoing. The next steps will be complete traffic analysis, continue stakeholder and public involvement and develop recommendations and cost estimates. Jeff stated there will be a formal presentation of this project at the August meeting from our consultants.

Safe Streets and Roads for all (SS4A) Grant Opportunity. Rachel stated that the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) will provide \$5-6 Billion in grants over the next five years. This funding can be used to support regional, local, and tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. Rachel provided an overview of eligibility requirements. Expected release of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in May 2022 for Round One of funding. Applicants will need to obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through GSA to apply for grant opportunities in grants.gov. Applications covering several agencies are strongly encouraged. MPO can create single Action Plan for all or some member jurisdictions. MPO or transit agency applying for and distributing funds and/or assistance to members for individual plans. State DOTs are not eligible recipients. Kenny asked what we need to do to get in line for the action plan. Rachel stated that we are actively applying for a grant for the MPO. She is preparing the application for submittal in September. Chairman

Lovette asked if T-SPLOST projects would qualify for this for funding. Rachel stated yes. Joey Brown stated that he thinks the development proposed for Exit 76 would qualify but would have to address safety and he can look into that. Rachel stated they are currently collecting templates from other MPO's at the national level to share with PC. Ann Marie Day stated this grant will be a direct recipient. Federal Highway Administration will be the overseer. She stated this body needs to be up to speed to provide oversight of the grant. This grant will not go through GDOT. The City of Hinesville is LAP certified. We can run this through them. Ann Marie Day stated that there is a part of the grant that can go toward your action plan. Radney Simpson stated that he wanted to emphasize that the department is not going to require LAP certification. It is encouraged but not mandatory. He requests that MPO's staff partners look at the application and coordinate with DOT.

4) **NEW BUSINESS:**

a. **FY 2023 UPWP Amendment #1 (Action)**

Rachel stated that the UPWP is updated annually and informed the committee of our progress schedule. Jeff explained the previous actions. This amendment introduces a new UPWP task line item, 4.14 Complete Streets Program. **Motion was made by Lily Baker to adopt the amended FY 2023 UPWP as presented. The motion was seconded by Paul Hawkins. The motion passed unanimously.**

b. **FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment #1 (Action)**

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 Radney Simpson to adopt the amended FY 2021-2024 TIP as presented. Seconded by Lily Baker. The motion passed unanimously.

c. **HAMPO Public Participation Plan Amendment (Action)**

Rachel stated that HAMPO has updated the PPP on guidance received from GDOT during the HAMPO certification report process. The public comment period for the TIP was adjusted from 30 days to 15 days. **A motion was made by Gary Gilliard to adopt the amended HAMPO Public Participation Plan. The motion was seconded by Larry Baker. The motion passed unanimously.**

5) **OTHER BUSINESS:**

a. **Agency Updates:** Lily Baker stated that they have closed another successful school year. They will be having summer school on different campuses. Ann Marie Day stated we need to think about what the 2024 UPWP will look like and to add housing. The MPO's have to start looking at housing and decide who would be best suited to join council board or TCC from the Housing Authority.

b. **CORE MPO Update:** None.

- 4) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Mayor Baker stated that he is having a meeting next week with GDOT to discuss the intersection of Airport Road and Hardman Road.
- 5) **SCHEDULE:** Next regularly scheduled PC meeting will be August 11, 2022.
- 6) **ADJOURN:** Unanimously voted to adjourn.

APPROVED:

Donald Lovette, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jeff Ricketson