Hinesville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

100 Main Street, Suite 7520 Hinesville, Georgia 31313
Phone: 912-408-2030

Chairman Donald Lovette, Policy Committee Chair Jeff Ricketson, AICP, Director

HAMPO PC MINUTES: August 8, 2024

The Policy Committee (PC) on Transportation met in person and via ZOOM at 9:00 AM on August 8, 2024.

1) **CALL TO ORDER**:
   - The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lovette. Introductions were made.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Voting Members Present
Mayor Paul Hawkins, Flemington
Clemontine Washington, Vice-Chair
Lynn Pace, LCPC PC
Jomar Pastorelle, GDOT
Donald Lovette, LCBOC Chairman
Mayor Sarah Hayes, Walthourville
Mayor Tina Eason, Gum Branch
Mayor James Willis, Allenhurst
Louise Brown, Riceboro

Voting Members Absent
Robert Parker, Long County BOC Chairman
Mayor Karl Riles, Hinesville
Gary Gilliard, LCBOC
Verdell Jones, LCBOE
Melissa Ray, LCDA
Vicky Nelson, Hinesville City Council

Non-Voting Present
Jeff Ricketson, LCPC Director
Kenny Howard, City Manager

Non-Voting Absent
Joey Brown, County Administrator
Emma Frost, Ft Stewart

Participating
Rachel Hatcher, RS&H, LCPC
Katie Proctor, GDOT
Justin Dammons, RS&H
Joe Longo, FHWA
Wade Carroll, Pond and Company
Trent Long, T.R. Long Engineering
Dionne Lovett, CRC
Barry James, CRC
Shannon Johnson

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- **Paul Hawkins made a motion to approve the June 13, 2024 minutes. The motion was seconded by Clemontine Washington. All voted in favor.**

3) **STATUS UPDATES**

a. **Project Status Update:** Katie Proctor presented the project update.

SR 38 Connector from SR/US 84 to SR 119: Waiting on construction authorization.

CR 171/Lewis Frasier Rd at Peacock Creek bridge replacement project; FFPR was scheduled for yesterday. Final plans are on track for September/October.

SR 38/US 84/Flowers Drive to Patriots Trail Median project. Next milestone PPR. Ongoing.

Active: SR 38/US 84 at CR 73/Old Sunbury Road is under construction at 57%. The traffic signal will be turned on August 13th.

SR 119 at Taylors Creek-Bridge replacement. Reporting 79% complete.

The Doctors Creek bridge replacement in Long County is at 12%.

Trent Long with T.R. Long Engineering and the County Engineer gave an update on the Islands Highway Improvements starting at I-95 and tapering back to two lanes just past Brigdon Road. The second update was for the improvements at Highway 17 and Barrington Ferry Road Roundabout. He also provided a printout of each design for the members.

b. **Liberty Transit Update:** Rachel Hatcher presented Transit system highlights for the second quarter of 2024. The fare-free service option has been available for the summer. She stated that we are up 25.5% in ridership on fixed routes and there has been a 30% ridership increase in paratransit. The Transit Development Plan was adopted on June 20th. The fare-free trial option has provided us with information about our community and is being used as a pilot system to make citizens aware of using the system without the barrier of cost.
Kenny Howard gave a brief overview stating that the City of Hinesville is continuing to access this system, and this allows the City to see what changes need to be made.

c. **Transportation Public Comment Log**: None.

d. **HAMPO Administrative Updates:**

Fall 2024 GAMPO Special PL Funds Committee Meeting: Rachel gave an overview for this upcoming meeting. The meeting will be held in September. HAMPO will present 2050 MTP status update. No HAMPO Special PL Funding application for this cycle. Applications for the next cycle are due in March 2025. The funds are only for planning projects. This does not include PW, ROW, UTL or CST phases.

Rachel stated that we received a list of potential projects that are currently in the TIP. There was a TCC discussion regarding priorities and the importance of the projects. The feedback provided by them is that the Bypass is a critical priority and moving that out of priority category would be a significant deficit to the community. Bridge projects are critical as well. The Hwy 17 and Barrington Ferry project was listed as important to the Bypass. And the ITS is very important, but not as high as a priority as the others and it does not represent significant safety concerns. Also discussed were several projects that are not on this list and need to be. One of them is E.G. Miles safety and traffic improvements and the Barrington Ferry Crossroads roundabout. The information was shared with our State partners.

HAMPO 2050 MTP Update: Wade Carroll with Pond and Company gave an update of the MTP. In summary, they are waiting on GDOT to finish the modeling.

4) **NEW BUSINESS:**

a) **HAMPO FY 2024- 2027 TIP Amendment #3: (Action Item).** Rachel stated that the GDOT Office of Planning requested an amendment to the FY 2024-20-27 TIP document to update the utilities and construction phases for one project: The SR 38 Bypass from SR 38/US 84 to Sr 119, Hinesville Bypass.

A motion was made by Tina Eason to adopt the amended HAMPO FY 2024 TIP. The motion was seconded by Paul Hawkins, and all voted in favor.

b) **HAMPO FY 2026 5303 Grant Application: (Action Item).** Rachel stated each year we have to apply for our formula funds. She provided a list of the FTA 5303 estimates for FY 2026.

A motion was made by Clemontine Washington to authorize the HAMPO Director to fully execute the grant funding application. The motion was seconded by Sarah Hayes, and all voted unanimously.

Rachel gave an update of the FY 2024 Highlights as follows: We began work on 2050 MTP update, began work on SS4A Safety Action Plan, completed update of UAB and MPA and maintained compliance with all federal and state requirements. The FY 2025 UPWP priorities include the following: completing and adopting HAMPO 2050 MTP, completing SS4A Safety action plan and managing MPO compliance. Rachel stated they are working to put together a comment log for committee members to provide feedback. A draft report will come out for the members to see. Chairman Lovette stated that the County Wide Workshop would be a great place to mention this.

5) **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Agency Updates: Mayor Hayes asked if electrical car charging stations are included, and expressed concern about the cost and availability for the batteries for these cars. Also, disposing of the batteries is a concern. Rachel stated that the State of Georgia has placed funding for charging stations in the TIP.

6) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

7) **SCHEDULE:** Next regularly scheduled PC meeting will be October 10, 2024.

8) **ADJOURN: MOTION: Clemontine Washington**
SECOND: Paul Hawkins
VOTE: All in favor.

APPROVED:

Donald Lovette, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Jeff Ricketson