Hinesville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

HAMPO PC MINUTES: December 12, 2024

The Policy Committee (PC) on Transportation met in person and via ZOOM at 9:00 AM on December 12, 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
Jomar Pastorelle, GDOT, Katie Proctor had proxy
Donald Lovette, LCBOC Chairman
Mayor Tina Eason, Gum Branch
Mayor James Willis, Allenhurst
Vicky Nelson, Hinesville, Kenny had proxy
Gary Gilliard, LCBOC
Phil Odom, LCPC PC

Non-Voting Present
Jeff Ricketson, LCPC Director

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

Voting Members Absent
James Craft, Long County BOC Chairman
Verdell Jones, LCBOE
Melissa Ray, LCDA
Louise Brown, Riceboro
Clemontine Washington, Vice-Chair
Lynn Pace, LCPC PC
Mayor Sarah B. Hayes, Walthourville
Mayor Karl Riles, Hinesville

Participating
Rachel Hatcher, RS&H, LCPC
Justin Dammons, RS&H
Joe Longo FHWA
Todd Kennedy, LCPC Staff
Kelly Wiggins, LCPC Staff

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

   - **Paul Hawkins made a motion to approve October 10, 2024 minutes. The motion was seconded by Gary Gilliard. All voted in favor.**

3) **STATUS UPDATES**

   a. **Project Status Update:** Katie Proctor presented the project update.
   CR 171/Lewis Frasier Rd at Peacock Creek bridge replacement project; next milestone is CFFPR; PE and ROW authorized.

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

Active: SR 38/US 84 at CR 73/Old Sunbury Road is under construction at 83%.

SR 119 at Taylors Creek Bridge replacement. Working on corrections. 85% complete.

The Doctors Creek bridge replacement in Long County Project is at 21% with anticipated completion Winter of 2025.

Milling and overlaying for Hwy 84 from the Long County line to Flemington was LET September of 2024.

Bypass on SR 38/US84 to Sr 119 LET date was 10-18-2024. Has been awarded.
SR 38 Connector from SR/US 84 to SR 119: LET in October.

b. **Liberty Transit Update:** Rachel stated the TSC approved to extend fare free pilot program through September 2025. The program has been very successful and resulted in strong ridership. Liberty Transit will begin to operate as a department in house with the City of Hinesville on December 30, 2024. Donna Dale was hired as the Transit Director. The Transit Development Plan was adopted by Hinesville City Council in June 2024. There has also been discussion of changing times and dates of routes. Ryan Arnold stated that the city is in the procurement process for maintenance of the buses and has received one bid. The company that bid is the same company that provides maintenance on the City vehicles as of present.

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

d. **Administrative Updates: Election of Officers.** Rachel stated that in January a Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be elected. The committee nominated Gary Gilliard, Paul Hawkins, and Clemontine Washington as a sub-committee to nominate the officers. Those names will be brought back to the PC meeting in February 2025.

HAMPO FY 2024-2027 TIP Administrative Modification # 5. GDOT Office of Planning requested this modification on September 11, 2024. Updates to the CST costs for the I-95 Florida state line to the Soth Carolina state line. The cost increase is two funding types or $2,475,000 and $3,283,025.31.

e. **HAMPO 2050 MTP Update:** Wade Carrol with Pond and Company gave an update on the status of the MTP.

SS4A: Jeff Ricketson stated that Atlas sent the final draft out this week and he will review it and send it out to the committee in advance of their final presentation at the January meeting.

4) **NEW BUSINESS:**

a) **Carbon Reduction Program Call for Projects (Action Item):** Rachel stated that HAMPO has CRP funds programmed in current HAMPO FY 2024-27 TIP. Funds have potential to lapse if not obligated/spent by end of fiscal year. The types of projects eligible for funding are transit, transportation demand management, retrofit with light-emitting diode (LED) lighting, alternative fuel, vehicles, capital improvements to intelligent transportation systems, development of carbon reduction strategy. The sole project submitted is Liberty Transit ADA Accessibility Project to complete sidewalk infrastructure upgrades at locations throughout Hinesville. We are seeking funding amount of $435,031.50. The local match is $87,007.87. Rachel stated it has been confirmed that the local match is available.

A motion was made by Kenny Howard to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the proposed Liberty Transit ADA Accessibility Project for available HAMPO Fy24-27 CRP funds. Paul Hawkins seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

b) **HAMPO FY 2024-27 TIP Admin Modification #4 (Action):** Rachel stated the GDOT Office of Planning requested a new project in FY24-27 TIP. The EV charging station at 1 location between Liberty and McIntosh County. This project is part of the NEVI formula program. Funding is provided by Liberty and Long County and the non-federal match can be fulfilled by public or private funds. There was no public comment received during the 15-day comment period. The TIP amendment will be incorporated into the 2045 MTP.

Paul Hawkins made a motion to recommend the Policy Committee approve the amended HAMPO FY 2024-2027 TIP. Tina Eason seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

c) **HAMPO FY 2024-27 TIP Amendment #5 (Action):** On October 11, 2024 GDOT Office of Planning updated project funding in FY 24-27 TIP. A change in the total resulted in an increase of $15,900.00 in funding and approval for the 15-day comment period. Including additional components: Title 23 discretional grant matrix, must be in TIP before funds can be obligated and for NEPA to proceed, GDOT made updates to the Georgia Statewide Metropolitan Administrative Modification and Amendment Process.

Gary Gilliard made a motion to recommend the Policy Committee release the draft amended TIP for a 15-day comment period. Kenny Howard seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

d) **HAMPO 2045 MTP Amendment #4 (Action):** Rachel stated that HAMPO is required to maintain a fiscally constrained project list. Several TIP amendments have been approved since the last MTP amendment. 2045 MTP Amendment #4 combines these TIP amendments to ensure MTP stays fiscally balanced. Rachel went over the TIP amendment summary.

Gary Gilliard made a motion to recommend the Policy Committee release the amended MTP for a 30-day public comment period. Kenny Howard seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

e) **Draft HAMPO FY 2026 UPWP (Action):** Rachel went over the MPO planning priorities and work efforts along with the schedule. She stated that staff has solicited feedback from committee members.

Phil Odom made a motion to recommend the Policy Committee release the Draft FY 2026 UPWP for 30-day public comment period. Paul Hawkins seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

f) **HAMPO 2025 Committee Meeting Calendar:** Rachel presented the calendar for 2025. Phil Odom stated at the CAC meeting that it has changed its meeting time to 4 o'clock and the schedule reflected the old meeting time of 5:30 PM. Rachel stated that this is the corrected schedule.

Gary Gilliard made a motion to recommend the Policy Committee approve the 2025 HAMPO Committee calendar. Kenny Howard seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

g) **GDOT 2025 PM1 Performance Measures (Action):** Rachel presented the 2025 GDOT PM1 Performance Measures that are required to be adopted by the Policy Committee each year as part of the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). MPO's can create their own HSIP-compliant safety performance measures or adopt the published GDOT statewide safety performance measures. Rachel answered general questions from the committee members about the program.

Gary Gilliard made a motion to adopt by resolution the 2025 Safety Performance Management targets as approved by GDOT. Kenny Howard seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

h) **HAMPO 2050 MTP SE Model Data (Action):** GDOT presented the 2050 "Do-Nothing" Travel Demand Model for the MTP. This model shows projected levels of service on the HAMPO Highway network if no new projects are built during the planning period.

Kenny Howard made a motion to recommend the policy committee accepts the MTP Base Year and 2050 "Do-Nothing" Traffic demand Models as presented by GDOT. Phil Odom seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

5) **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Agency Updates: Jeff reminded the committee of the 4 PM CRC stakeholders meeting today and the Comprehensive Planning meeting tonight at City Hall at 6 PM. Gary stated that he has noticed an issue with the traffic signal at McLarry's Curve. The turn signal stays yellow too long and sometimes skips green altogether. Kenny suggested that the officials get together and discuss T-Splost.

6) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

7) **SCHEDULE:** Next regularly scheduled PC meeting will be February 13, 2025.

8) **ADJOURN: MOTION: Phil Odom**
SECOND: Paul Hawkins
VOTE: All in favor.

APPROVED:

Donald Lovette, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Jeff Ricketson