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: February 9, 2024

The Policy Committee (PC) on Transportation met in person and via ZOOM at 9:00 AM on February 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
Mayor Karl Riles, Hinesville
Mayor James Willis, Allenhurst
Verdell Jones, LCBOE
Melissa Ray, LCDA
Jomar Pastorelle, GDOT
Donald Lovette, LCBOC
Vicky Nelson, Hinesville City Council
Mayor Sarah Hayes, Walthourville
Mayor Tina Eason, Gum Branch

Voting Members Absent

Robert Parker, Long County BOC Chairman
Gary Gilliard, LCBOC

Non-Voting Present

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

Non-Voting Absent

Participating

Rachel Hatcher, RS&H, LCPC
Katie Proctor, GDOT
Justin Dammons, RS&H
Joe Longo, FHWA

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- **Vice-Chairperson Washington made a motion to approve the December 14, 2023 minutes. The motion was seconded by Sarah Hayes. 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: LET has moved to June.

CR 171/Lewis Frasier Rd at Peacock Creek bridge replacement project; FFPR. The ROW is currently at 50%.

SR 38/US 84/Flowers Drive to Patriots Trail Median project. In preliminary design and next milestone PFPR and it is anticipated September 2024.

Active: SR 38/US 84 at CR 73/Old Sunbury Road is under construction at 36%. Anticipated completion is summer of 2024.

SR 119 at Taylors Creek-Bridge replacement. Reporting 55% complete.

Milling and resurfacing SR 119 from S of SR 144 N extending to Airport Road. Complete.

The Doctors Creek bridge in Long County LET in October and awaiting NTP.

Chairman Lovette asked if GDOT could provide a chart that shows stages of the projects. Joey stated to Rachel the best way would to be just list the GDOT side of it without Federal involvement because that pushes thing out for another two years. Rachel stated that they have a great flow chart that would be helpful for this. Joey stated that the wetlands have been acquired for the Freight Connector. Senate and House subcommittees have recommended approval for the project utility relocation assistance funds.

Rachel reported that there are two local projects in the works now. Right turn lane installation at US84 and General Screven Way and signal and roadway improvements at Veterans pkwy and Walmart Driveway.

b. **Liberty Transit Update:** Rachel Hatcher stated Vanessa Richards is the new GM for Liberty Transit. TPD activities for first quarter of 2024 are a second stakeholders meeting and an official workshop for new Mayor and Commissioners to attend. Paratransit ridership is higher than previous year for December and January. January system-wide ridership grew by 5.3% over last year's ridership. Route 3 grew by 53%.

c. **Transportation Public Comment Log**: No new comments received. Chairman Lovette stated that he is concerned about the children crossing the Highway 84 in Midway at the Community Complex. He asked if a pedestrian bridge could be installed at this site. Joey stated to Rachel that they could discuss this.

d. **HAMPO Administrative Updates:**

GAMPO Spring 2024 Conference: Rachel stated that the HAMPO staff will be attending the Spring 2024 conference in March. The MPO will not apply for special PL funds this cycle. Updates and information from meeting will be shared with committee members at a later date.

4) **NEW BUSINESS:**

a) **Election of Officers**. Mayro pro Tem Clemontine Washington presented the slate of officers as Chairman, a Donald Lovette to remain as Chairman and Mayor Pro Tem Clementine Washington to remain as Vice-Chairperson of the HAMPO Policy Committee.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Clemontine Washington for Chairman Donald Lovette to serve as the Chairman and for Mayor Pro Tem Clemontine Washington to serve as Vice-Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Mayor Paul Hawkins, and all voted in favor.

b) **HAMPO FY 2024-2027 TIP Amendment #1: (Action Item.)** On November 8, 2023 the GDOT Office of Planning requested an amendment to the FY 2024-2027 TIP document to update construction phases for two projects. The SR 38 Bypass and the I-95 ITS. Previous action was a 15-day public comment period, and no public comments were received.

A motion was made by Verdell Jones and seconded by Mayor Hawkins to approve the amended HAMPO FY 2024-2027 TIP, and all voted in favor.

c) **Calendar Year 2024 GDOT Safety Performance Measures: (Action Item.)** Rachel stated that each year we are required to adopt the latest GDOT safety performance targets. A list of targets was provided for the committee.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Clemontine Washington to adopt, by resolution, the calendar year 2024 Safety Performance Management Targets as approved by GDOT and seconded by Mayor Sarah Hayes, and all voted in favor.

d) **Greenhouse Final Rule: (Information Item).** On November 22, 2023 FHWA released its Greenhouse Gas Performance Measure final rule. State DOTs and MPOs must measure and report GHG emissions associated with transportation. Targets must be set for reducing CO2 emissions. State DOTs will be responsible for setting initial targets, due Feb. 2024. MPOs have 180 days after state targets are set to adopt targets. Starting in 2026, 2-year and 4-year targets will be established.

5) **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Agency Updates: Jeff announced that the LCPC will be hosting the first of twelve Community Planning meetings starting February 26 at the Performing Arts Center. Jeff also asked the committee to participate in the survey on our website. Chairman Lovette asked Jeff to present this to the LCSS. Joey stated that SPLOST is right on target. T-SPLOST will be voted on in May or 2025. Jeff reminded everyone that the Mid-Year Review will be March 27, 2024.

6) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Mayor Pro-Tem Washington requested Jeff provide a training meeting for the new members of HAMPO to better understand what HAMPO does.

7) **SCHEDULE:** Next regularly scheduled PC meeting will be April 11, 2024.

8) **ADJOURN:** A motion was made by Paul Hawkins and seconded by Sarah Hayes, and all voted in favor.

APPROVED:

Donald Lovette, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Jeff Ricketson