**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 12, 2026

The Policy Committee (PC) on Transportation met in person and via TEAMS at 9:00 AM on February 12, 2026.

## 1) CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chairman Lovette. Introductions were made.

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

**Voting Members Present**
Mayor Tina Eason, Gum Branch
Mayor Sarah B. Hayes, Walthourville
Louise Brown, Mayor Pro-Tem, Riceboro
Jomar Pastorelle (Virtual)
Malcolm Williams, Mayor, Midway
Verdell Jones, LCBOE
Phil Odom, LCPC PC
Commissioner Timmy Blount, LCBOC
William Harrell, Mayor Pro Tem, Allenhurst
Donald Lovette, LCBOC Chairman
Tim Byler, Mayor Flemington
Pedro Ortiz, (Virtual)

**Non-Voting Present**
Jeff Ricketson, LCPC Director
Ryan Arnold, City Manager

**Non-Voting Absent**

**Voting Members Absent**
James Craft, Long County BOC Chairman
Mayor Karl Riles, Hinesville
Mayor ProTem Vicky Nelson, Hinesville

**Participating**
Vishanya Forbes, RS&H, LCPC
Justin Dammons, RS&H. LCPC
Rosario Sonto, RS&H, LCPC

## 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Lovette asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

- **Tina Eason made a motion to approve the December 11, 2026 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Sarah Hayes. All voted in favor.**

## 3) STATUS UPDATES

a. **Project Status Reports: Katie Proctor:**

**Preconstruction and Active Projects:** Katie was not present but submitted a written status report on active and preconstruction projects. Jeff stated that he has spoken with GDOT about street name signs that are worn or cracking, and they stated they will be coming to replace them.

b. **Transit Updates:** Vishanya stated that Liberty Transit vanpool program implementation planning is underway. She also stated that the system has zero accidents in 2025. There was a 30.6% increase in transit ridership and a 44% increase in paratransit ridership for the month of January. The fare free program is still in effect.

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

d. **HAMPO Administrative Updates:** Vishanya stated we are currently developing our HAMPO FY 2027-2030 TIP. This is the short-range work program for projects over the next four years. Projects must be in the TIP to receive federal and state and highway funding. Phil Odom asked where this list is located. It will be located on the LCPC website when the list is updated. The current one is on the website as well.

4) **NEW BUSINESS:**

a) **Election of Officer: (Action Item):** Vishanya stated that the nominating committee has recommendations. Louise Brown reported that they selected Chairman Lovette as the Chairman and Phil Odom was selected as the Vice Chairman. They spoke to Mayor Riles and he asked not to be considered.

**A motion was made by Tim Byler to elect Chairman Lovette as the Chairman of the HAMPO Policy Committee and Phil Odom as the Vice-Chairman. Th motion was seconded by Verdell Jones and all voted in favor.**

5) **OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Agency Updates:** Jeff Ricketson stated that he has been working with RS&H to set up a training session for all new members. Ryan mentioned a ride share subscriber fee program that may be coming soon. Verdell mentioned the need for another elementary school in Liberty County and highlighted that things will need to shift to meet the future needs and requirements due to the growth within Liberty County. A total reorganization is needed for the future. Jeff reminded the members of the County Wide Mid-Year Workshop.

6) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Chairman Lovette stated that he received a phone call from a citizen that witnessed a citizen driving straight across Highway 84 from Leroy Coffer. Jeff reached out to GDOT, and they placed a barrier there. He also mentioned that he has been told that the Yield sign at Tradeport East needs to be changed to a stop sign.

7) **SCHEDULE:** Next regularly scheduled PC meeting will be April 9, 2026.

8) **ADJOURN: MOTION: Tim Byler**
**SECOND: Phil Odom**
**VOTE: All in favor.**

APPROVED:

Donald Lovette, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Jeff Ricketson