Hinesville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

HAMPO TCC MINUTES: March 14, 2024

The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) on Transportation met in the multi-purpose room of the Historic Court House in person and via ZOOM at 100 N. Main Street in Hinesville at 9:00 AM on March 14, 2024.

1) **CALL TO ORDER**:
   - Joey Brown called the meeting to order and noted a quorum was present.

   INTRODUCTIONS: Introductions were made.

   Members Present: Joey Brown, Trent Long, Jeff Ricketson, Emma Frost, Ben Morrow, Arnold Jackson, Kenny Howard, Katie Proctor, Tina Eason, Louise Brown, Sarah Hayes, Jomar Pastorelle, Paul Simonton, Ryan Arnold.
   Members Absent: Larry Logan, Robert Parker, Ron Tolley, Clemontine Washington, James Willis
   Non-Voting Members Present: Phil Odom, Joe Longo
   Non-Voting Members Absent: Allen Burns, Robert Buckley, and John Lyles.
   Participating: Greg O'Donnell, Vince Edwards, Karl Riles
   Staff Present: Justin Dammons, Kelly Wiggins, Rachel Hatcher, Jamie Zerillo, Barry James.
   Public: None.

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

   - **Ben Morrow made the motion to approve the January 11, 2024 minutes, seconded by Paul Simonton and all voted in favor.**

3) **STATUS UPDATES**

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

      SR 38 Connector from SR/US 84 to SR 119: Moved to LET in June.

      CR 171/Lewis Frasier Rd at Peacock Creek bridge replacement project; anticipate FFPR in October, the ROW acquisition is currently at 75%.

      SR 38/US 84/Flowers Drive to Patriots Trail Median project. 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%. Retaining wall work should begin in February.

SR 119 at Taylors Creek-Bridge replacement. Ongoing.

Milling and resurfacing SR 119 from S of SR 144 N extending to Airport Road. At 73% and ongoing.

The Doctors Creek bridge in Long County has LET but we do not have an NTP yet.

Ryan Arnold asked Katie if the Highway 84 construction project is still planned for 2026. Katie stated that she has not gotten any change yet.

Rachel gave an update of the two local projects in Hinesville: Construction for a right turn lane installation on US 84 and General Screen Way; Veterans Pkwy and Walmart Drive signal and roadway improvements.

Joey Brown stated that the County just received 2.5 million earmarked funds for the relocation of utilities on the Fright Connector project. He stated that right now it is scheduled to LET in June.

Mayor Sarah Hayes asked how the City of Walthourville could get turning lanes at the intersection of Hardman Road and Airport Road. Joey stated that she could ask GDOT to look into that intersection. Katie took note of this item and said she would check into it. Arnold Jackson asked if there would be sidewalks included in the SS4A. The consultants with Atlas will give a presentation today on this item.

b. **Transit Update: Rachel Hatcher.** Rachel stated the third-party operator shifted to a new vendor in the fall. We will see new data coming in at the next meeting. The transit development plan is still underway, and completion is expected on June 30, 2024. The Hinesville City Council held a workshop on March 7, 2024 and draft scenarios and route recommendations were developed. Paratransit ridership is higher than previous year for December and January. January system-wide ridership grew by 5.5 % over last January's ridership. Route 3 has increased by 53%.

c. **Transportation Public Comment Log:** No new comments.

d. **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.

HAMPO SS4A Safety Action Plan: Vince Edwards and David O'Donnell with Atlas Consulting gave a presentation on the SS4A. The sub-committee will be meeting immediately after this meeting to discuss some of the issues they wish to address.

GDOT Carbon Reduction Strategy: Rachel gave an overview of the CRS. GDOT announced that FHWA has completed review of CRS. FHWA certified that CRS meets statutory requirements. Further information, including coordination with state MPO's, will be provided at a later date.

HAMPO FY 2024-27 TIP Amendment Modification #3, #4: Rachel stated that HAMPO has performed two administrative modifications to the FY 24-27- TIP. Admin Mod # 2 incorporated the 2024 Safety Performance Measures into the TIP and Safety Performance Report. Admin # 3 updated the CST phase cost for PI 522570-Sr 38 Bypass from Sr 28 to Sr 119. Cost increased by $3,774,320.55.

4) **NEW BUSINESS:**

a) **HAMPO FY 23025 UPWP-Action Item:** Rachel stated the MPO planning priorities and work efforts include planning activities, expected costs, and one-year timeframe. Must be compliant with federally prescribed activities with GDOT oversight and fiscally constrained by federal, state and local funding from July 1-June 30. It is also updated annually. She also went over the UPWP development schedule and stated the FY 2025 budgets have been released. The 30-day public comment period was completed in January and oversight agencies comments have been incorporated into the draft document.

A motion was made by Paul Simonton to recommend that the Policy Committee adopt the draft FY 2025 UPWP. Kenny Howard seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

b) **HAMPO FY 2024-2027 TIP Amendment # 2-Action Item:** Rachel stated on February 27, 2024 the GDOT Office of Planning requested an amendment to the FY 2024-2027 TIP document to update the construction phase for one project. The project is fiber optics along I-95.

A motion was made by Kenny Howard to recommend that the Policy Committee release the amended FY 24-27 for a 15-day public comment period. Jeff Ricketson seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

c) **UPDATED MPA Adoption-Action Item:** Rachel stated the Urbanized area was defined by the US Census as an area with 50,000+ population. The corrected boundary was prepared by MPO and GDOT to refine the UZA. MPA adjusted the planning area encompassing area anticipated to become urban within 20 years. HAMPO staff worked collaboratively with GDOT Office of Planning to establish the new urban area boundaries. She presented the MOU signed by the Governor of Georgia.

Kenny and Jeff discussed reaching out to Long County administration to have them attend the HAMPO meetings.

A motion was made by Kenny Howard to recommend the Policy Committee adopt the updated MPA in accordance with HAMPO Memorandum of Understanding. The motion was seconded by Paul Simonton, and all voted in favor.

5) **OTHER BUSINESS AND AGENCY UPDATES:** Jeff stated that the LCPC is working on the comprehensive plan update over the course of 2024. Joe Longo stated that the Federal Government

budget was approved by Congress. He stated that there was an announcement for the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods grant. The purpose is to reconnect neighborhoods that have been divided by infrastructure investments.

6) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

7) **SCHEDULE:** The next regularly scheduled TCC meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2024.

8) **ADJOURN: Motion by Jeff Ricketson to adjourn. Seconded by Paul Simonton. All voted in favor.**

APPROVED:

Joey Brown, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jeff Ricketson, Executive Director, LCPC