

BAY COUNTY CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)
EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL (Designated staff)
Bay County Transit Office
1010 Cone Ave, Panama City, FL 32401
May 27, 2026

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ali C. Frohlich, Chair
James Pretlow, Vice-Chair
Paul Bohac
Robert Wood

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Walter R. Akins
Marty Kirkland
Stanley Parron
Thomas Robinson, MD
Patty J. Strohmenger

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bryant Paulk	FDOT
Lamar Hobbs	BayWay
Sam Buccieri	PWD Mexico Beach
Carol Kent Smith	Gund Management Group
Mary Beth Washnock	Gund Management Group
Jason Alderman	Gund Management Group
Matt Devito	Panama City
<u>Virtual Attendance</u>	
Brian Graham	Kimley Horn
James McGill	Kimley Horn

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF:

Kandase Lee
Tiffany Bates
Leandra Meredith
Tammy Neal
Gabrielle McVoy
Virtual Attendance:
Rae Emary
Tammy Neal

CALL TO ORDER / INVOCATION / PLEDGE

Chair Frohlich called the meeting to order. Paul Bohac delivered the invocation, and members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Staff stated they had an additional agenda item regarding a proposed letter of support for the City of Panama City's Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant application and another letter of support for the U.S. 98/U.S. 231 Capacity Project. Staff explained that the letters were requested to support ongoing transportation improvements and infrastructure enhancement efforts within the region.

Paul Bohac moved to approve the agenda as amended. Robert Wood seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM

FDOT UPDATE

Bryant Paulk provided an update regarding transportation projects within Bay County, reporting that the final segment of the Panama City Beach Parkway (Back Beach Road) widening project between Richard Jackson Boulevard and the Hathaway Bridge had been awarded for construction. He advised that a notice to proceed is anticipated in mid-June and construction activities are expected to begin between August and September 2026. The project includes approximately \$60 million in construction and utility relocation improvements and is expected to have a contract duration of approximately 1,500 days.

Committee members discussed anticipated completion schedules for other segments of Panama City Beach Parkway. Bryant Paulk advised that the Richard Jackson Boulevard to Nautilus Street segment is expected to be completed during winter 2027, while the Nautilus Street to State Road 79 segment is anticipated to be completed by summer 2027. Members also discussed future concepts associated with the Gulf Coast Parkway extension and potential connections through the Panama City Beach area.

Bryant Paulk also provided an update on the DuPont Bridge replacement project, noting that the design-build contractor continues advancing final design efforts while preliminary construction activities are underway. He reported that completion is anticipated around early 2030.

PLANNING AND TRANSIT CONSENT AGENDA:

1. ALL COMMITTEES - Approval of February 2026 Meeting Minutes

Tiffany Bates noted that Chair Frohlich had been omitted from the attendance record in the February 2026 CAC meeting minutes. Ms. Bates advised that the minutes would be corrected to reflect his attendance.

2. ALL COMMITTEES - Consideration of Resolution Bay 26-11 Adopting the Fiscal

Year (FY) 2027 – FY 2028 Bay County Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Paul Bohac moved to approve the February CAC meeting minutes and recommend the TPO approve the remaining consent agenda with the amendment to the minutes. Robert Woodseconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

PLANNING ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. ENCLOSURE A– ALL COMMITTEES – ROLL CALL VOTE - Consideration of Resolution BAY 26-09 Adopting the Bay County TPO FY 2027-2031 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – *Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff***

Gary Kramer presented the Fiscal Year 2027–2031 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and explained that the TIP represents the culmination of the annual transportation planning process and includes projects programmed for funding within the next five years. He reviewed the public review process and noted that comments received during the review period would be incorporated into the final document.

Robert Wood moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution Bay 26-09 adopting the Bay County TPO FY 2027-2031 TIP. Paul Bohac seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

- 2. ENCLOSURE B– ALL COMMITTEES – ROLL CALL VOTE - Consideration of Resolution BAY 26-08 Adopting the Bay County FY 2028-2032 Project Priorities – *Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff***

Gary Kramer presented Resolution Bay 26-08 adopting the FY 2028–2032 Project Priorities and reviewed the prioritization process. explaining that completed projects are removed from the list, fully funded projects are moved to the fully funded list, and new projects are added to the priority rankings as appropriate. He reviewed the project categories, including roadway capacity projects, Transportation Systems Management projects, Transportation Alternatives projects, public transportation, aviation, and seaport projects.

Leandra Meredith, ECRC Marketing staff, summarized the public involvement effort conducted during development of the priorities. She reported that the Bay County TPO conducted a 30-day public survey and comment period, maintained an online virtual open house and interactive map, and hosted a public workshop. The survey received 142 responses from throughout the TPO area and resulted in 43 new email subscribers.

Survey results indicated that traffic congestion, roadway maintenance, safety improvements, and intersection operations remain the public's highest transportation priorities. Respondents identified seasonal tourism, school traffic, construction activity, and peak-hour traffic as major contributors to congestion. Comments frequently referenced concerns regarding U.S. 231, State Road 79, State Road 22, and U.S. 98.

Gary Kramer reviewed recommended revisions to the project priorities, including correcting the Harrison Avenue project description and modifying the Transportation Systems Management project at State Avenue and 23rd Street. He advised that the Technical Coordinating Committee recommended approval of the priorities with the proposed revisions.

James Pretlow moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution Bay 26-08 adopting the Bay County FY 2028-2032 Project Priorities with the TCC additional recommendation. Paul Bohac seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

3. ENCLOSURE C – ALL COMMITTEES – ROLL CALL VOTE - Consideration of Resolution Bay 26-10 Adopting the 2050 Bay County TPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Cost Feasible Plan – *Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff*

Gary Kramer presented Resolution Bay 26-10 adopting the 2050 Bay County Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Cost Feasible Plan.

Gary Kramer explained that federal regulations require adoption of an updated Long Range Transportation Plan every five years and that the 2050 LRTP must be adopted by June 16, 2026. He noted that the Cost Feasible Plan represents the final remaining component of the LRTP update process.

Brian Graham of Kimley-Horn reviewed the LRTP development process, including project initiation, data collection, goal development, congestion management analysis, project prioritization, and development of the Cost Feasible Plan. He noted that five of the six major plan components had already been adopted and that the Cost Feasible Plan represented the final step in completing the LRTP update.

James McGill reviewed the revenue forecasts and financial assumptions used to develop the plan, including federal and state transportation revenues, Strategic Intermodal System funding, project inflation factors, existing and committed projects, Transportation Improvement Program projects, and locally funded projects. He explained that the hybrid alternative incorporated project priorities, evaluation criteria, and multimodal considerations while remaining fiscally constrained through

the year 2050.

Committee members discussed several projects included in the Cost Feasible Plan, including West Bay Parkway, State Road 22 improvements, and intersection improvements at State Avenue and 23rd Street and Lisenby Avenue and 23rd Street. Staff advised that the Technical Coordinating Committee recommended revisions to clarify project descriptions associated with those intersection improvements.

Paul Bohac expressed appreciation for the significant amount of work completed by ECRC staff and the LRTP Steering Committee throughout the eighteen-month planning process. Gary Kramer acknowledged the contributions of Steering Committee members and thanked them for their participation.

Paul Bohac moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution Bay 26-10 adopting the 2050 Bay County TPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Cost Feasible Plan. Robert Wood seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

4. ENCLOSURE D – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution Bay 26-12 Amending the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 – FY 2026 Bay Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to De-obligate PL Funds – *Kandase Lee, ECRC CEO*

Kandase Lee presented Resolution Bay 26-12 amending the Fiscal Year 2025–Fiscal Year 2026 Unified Planning Work Program and explained that the amendment would de-obligate remaining Planning (PL) funds from the current fiscal year and re-obligate those funds into the following fiscal year. She noted that the action is a routine administrative process necessary to carry forward unexpended planning funds and does not return any funds to FDOT.

Robert Wood moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution Bay 26-12 amending the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 – FY 2026 Bay Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to de-obligate PL funds. Paul Bohac seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

5. ENCLOSURE E – ALL COMMITTEES – Nomination and Election of TPO Board, TCC, and CAC Chair and Vice Chair for FY 2027 - *Kandase Lee, ECRC CEO*

Kandase Lee reviewed the annual officer election requirements and advised that officers serve one-year terms and may serve multiple terms.

Paul Bohac moved to elect Ali Frohlich to serve as CAC chair for FY 2027. Robert

Wood seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Paul Bohac moved to elect James Pretlow as CAC vice chair for FY 2027. Robert Wood seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

6. ADD ON ITEM – ALL COMMITTEES - Letter of Support for The City of Panama City's Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Application and Letter of Support for the U.S. 98/U.S. 231 Capacity Project

Kandase Lee presented an additional agenda item regarding a proposed letter of support for the City of Panama City's Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant application and a letter of support for the U.S. 98/U.S. 231 capacity project. Kandase Lee explained that the letters were being requested to support ongoing transportation improvements and infrastructure enhancement efforts within the region.

Paul Bohac moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign the letter of support for the City of Panama City's Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant application and letter of support for the U.S. 98/U.S. 231 capacity project. Robert Wood seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

PLANNING INFORMATION ITEMS (no presentation necessary):

1. TCC and CAC February 2026 Meeting Minutes
2. Amendment to the FY2026-2030 TIP Letters
3. FDOT MPO Joint Certification
4. 2026 Bay TPO Meeting Schedule

TRANSIT AGENDA

TRANSIT ACTION ITEMS:

1. ENCLOSURE G – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution Bay 26-13 Approving the 911 Cellphone Bank Participation Agreement- Lamar Hobbs, Bay County Transit

Lamar Hobbs presented Resolution Bay 26-13 approving participation in the 911 Cell Phone Bank Program and explained that the program allows Bayway Transit to donate unclaimed cell phones and electronic devices collected through the transit system's lost and found process. The devices would be repurposed and provided to domestic violence shelters, human service organizations, and law enforcement agencies to assist individuals in need of emergency communications.

Lamar Hobbs advised that the program had been reviewed by legal counsel and that Bayway Transit would comply with state requirements regarding retention periods and reasonable efforts to identify owners before surplus disposal.

Robert Wood moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair sign Resolution Bay 26-13 approving the 911 Cellphone Bank Participation Agreement. James Pretlow seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

TRANSIT UPDATE

Lamar Hobbs provided a comprehensive overview of Bayway Transit services, ridership trends, and funding sources.

Lamar Hobbs reviewed Bayway's four primary service modes, including fixed-route service, microtransit, demand response transportation, and the agency's Uber partnership program. He explained that microtransit services have experienced significant growth since implementation and noted that the Uber partnership has provided a cost-effective method for expanding transportation options for eligible riders.

Lamar Hobbs also reviewed systemwide ridership trends, funding sources, operating expenses, and capital investments. He reported that fixed-route service remains the agency's most heavily utilized mode while microtransit continues to experience substantial growth.

Committee members discussed transportation disadvantaged services, funding challenges, advertising revenue limitations, and opportunities to leverage additional federal and state funding sources. Committee members expressed appreciation for the detailed presentation and commended Bayway Transit staff for the quality of service provided throughout the community.

LEGAL UPDATE – *Burke, Blue, Hutchison, Walters & Smith, P.A.*

OTHER BUSINESS – The next Bay TPO meeting will be held on August 26, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. The TCC will meet at 11:00 a.m. and the CAC at 1:30 p.m. All meetings will take place at the Bay County Transit Office, 1010 Cone Ave Panama City, FL 32401.

ADJOURNMENT