

BAY COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL (Designated staff)
Bay County Transit Office
1010 Cone Ave, Panama City, FL 32401
May 27, 2026

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Pamn Henderson, Chair	City of Callaway
Robert Carroll, Vice-Chair	Bay County Commission
Daniel Raffield	Bay County Commission
Erik Fosshage	City of Mexico Beach
Josh Street	City of Panama City
Mary Coburn	City of Panama City Beach
Jack Griffis	City of Springfield
David Griggs	City of Callaway
Sam Peebles	City of Lynn Haven
Pat Perno	City of Lynn Haven
Paul Casto	City of Panama City Beach

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Doug Crosby	Bay County Commission
Doug Moore	Bay County Commission
Clair Pease	Bay County Commission
Brian Grainger	City of Panama City
Janice Lucas	City of Panama City
Robbie Hughes	City of Panama City
Allan Branch	City of Panama City

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bryant Paulk	FDOT
Lamar Hobbs	BayWay
Vincent Spahr	Kimley Horn
Daniel Rosenheim	Burke Blue, P.A Law Firm
<i><u>Virtual Attendance</u></i>	
Brian Graham	Kimley Horn
James McGill	Kimley Horn
Allison Fluitt	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 Henderson called the meeting to order. Commissioner Carroll delivered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Pease.

Chair Henderson welcomed newly appointed Mexico Beach Council Member Erik Fosshage to the TPO Board and recognized his first meeting as a member.

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.

Commissioner Coburn moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Street seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM

FDOT UPDATE

Bryant Paulk, FDOT Urban Liaison, provided an update on transportation projects within Bay County, reporting that the final segment of the Panama City Beach Parkway (Back Beach Road) widening project from Richard Jackson Boulevard to the Hathaway Bridge was awarded for construction in March 2026. A Notice to Proceed is anticipated during the summer with construction expected to begin in August or September. The project includes approximately \$59 million in construction and utility relocation costs and is anticipated to have a contract duration of approximately 1,500 days.

Chair Henderson requested an update on improvements to State Road 22. Bryant Paulk explained that FDOT is pursuing a Military Access Facility designation modification that would shift the designation to include Star Avenue, State Road 22, and Tyndall Parkway. If approved, the corridor will become part of the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS), increasing eligibility for capacity funding. He indicated that additional information would likely be available during upcoming Work Program discussions.

Commissioner Fosshage ask about the relationship between State Road 22 improvements and the future Gulf Coast Parkway corridor. Bryant Paulk clarified that the current State Road

22 widening effort is separate from the Gulf Coast Parkway project, although the future Gulf Coast Parkway corridor is expected to intersect with State Road 22.

Council Member Coburn requested an update regarding ongoing construction activities near Nautilus Street and Philip Griffiths Sr. Parkway. Bryant Paulk stated that FDOT would coordinate with the project manager and provide an update regarding anticipated completion timelines.

Bryant Paulk also provided an update regarding the Pipeline Road railroad crossing improvement project. He explained that a change in railroad consultants resulted in permit approvals being misplaced, delaying the project. As a result, FDOT has temporarily suspended work while awaiting railroad approval. The intersection has been reopened to allow safe left-turn movements, but the delay may extend six to eight months while railroad approvals are obtained and necessary work is completed.

PLANNING AND TRANSIT CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. ALL COMMITTEES - Approval of February 2026 Meeting Minutes**
- 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)**

Council Member Coburn moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Griggs seconded 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.

Chair Henderson opened the required public hearing. No public comments were received.

Council Member Casto moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution Bay 26-09 adopting the Bay County TPO FY 2027-2031 TIP. Commissioner Raffield seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

Mayor Pamn Henderson	Yes
Commissioner Robert Carroll	Yes
Commissioner Daniel Raffield	Yes
Commissioner David Griggs	Yes
Mayor Pro Tem Sam Peebles	Yes
Commissioner Pat Perno	Yes
Commissioner Erik Fosshage	Yes
Commissioner Josh Street	Yes
Council Member Mary Coburn	Yes
Council Member Paul Casto	Yes
Commissioner Jack Griffis	Yes

The motion 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 the FY 2028–2032 Project Priorities. Gary Kramer reviewed the prioritization process and explained how projects are ranked within categories including capacity improvements, Transportation Systems Management projects, Transportation Alternatives projects, public transportation, aviation, and seaport improvements.

Leandra Meredith, ECRC Marketing staff, summarized the public involvement process, which included a 30-day public comment period, online virtual open house, interactive mapping tools, social media outreach, and a public workshop. Staff received 142 survey responses from throughout the TPO area. Survey results identified traffic congestion, roadway maintenance, safety improvements, intersection operations, and multimodal transportation improvements as the highest transportation priorities. Leandra Meredith reported that seasonal tourism, school traffic, roadway construction, and peak-hour congestion were identified as major contributors to traffic delays. Frequent comments focused on congestion and safety concerns along U.S. 231, State Road 79, State Road 22, and U.S. 98.

Gary Kramer reviewed recommended revisions to the priorities, including correcting a project description on Harrison Avenue and revising the ranking of a Transportation Systems Management project at 23rd Street and State Avenue.

Commissioner Street moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution Bay 26-08 adopting the Bay County FY 2028-2032 Project Priorities. Commissioner Raffield seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

Mayor Pamn Henderson	Yes
Commissioner Robert Carroll	Yes
Commissioner Daniel Raffield	Yes
Commissioner David Griggs	Yes
Mayor Pro Tem Sam Peebles	Yes
Commissioner Pat Perno	Yes
Commissioner Erik Fosshage	Yes
Commissioner Josh Street	Yes
Council Member Mary Coburn	Yes
Council Member Paul Casto	Yes
Commissioner Jack Griffis	Yes

The motion 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 TPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Cost Feasible Plan. Gary Kramer explained that the Cost Feasible Plan represents the final component of the LRTP update process and must be adopted by June 16, 2026, to satisfy federal requirements.

Brian Graham of Kimley-Horn reviewed the planning process, noting that the LRTP update began approximately eighteen months earlier with data collection, development of goals and objectives, congestion management analysis, and preparation of the Needs Plan. He explained that projects identified through the Congestion Management Process, previous LRTPs, and stakeholder input were evaluated and prioritized before being incorporated into the Cost Feasible Plan. Brian Graham also reviewed public outreach efforts, including the April 14, 2026 public workshop, and reported that no public comments were received on the proposed alternatives.

James McGill of Kimley-Horn presented the revenue forecasts, inflation assumptions, and project funding scenarios used to develop the Cost Feasible Plan. He reviewed existing and committed projects, Transportation Improvement Program projects, Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) projects, and locally funded projects included within the plan. James McGill explained that the recommended hybrid alternative incorporated project priorities, evaluation criteria, and multimodal considerations while remaining fiscally constrained through the year 2050. He also noted that the TCC recommended minor revisions to project descriptions involving turn lane

improvements on 23rd Street.

Gary Kramer thanked the LRTP Steering Committee members for their participation throughout the eighteen-month planning process and noted that both the Technical Coordinating Committee and Citizens' Advisory Committee recommended approval of the Cost Feasible Plan.

Chair Henderson opened the required public hearing. No public comments were received. Chair Henderson subsequently closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Street moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution Bay 26-10 adopting the 2050 Bay County TPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Cost Feasible Plan. Commissioner Raffield seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

Mayor Pamn Henderson	Yes
Commissioner Robert Carroll	Yes
Commissioner Daniel Raffield	Yes
Commissioner David Griggs	Yes
Mayor Pro Tem Sam Peebles	Yes
Commissioner Pat Perno	Yes
Commissioner Erik Fosshage	No
Commissioner Josh Street	Yes
Council Member Mary Coburn	Yes
Council Member Paul Casto	Yes
Commissioner Jack Griffis	Yes

The motion was approved with Commissioner Fosshage opposed.

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 (UPWP) and explained that the amendment would de-obligate and subsequently re-obligate remaining Planning (PL) funds from the current fiscal year into the next fiscal year. She noted that the action does not return funds to FDOT but instead carries the remaining balance forward to support future planning activities.

Commissioner Perno moved to 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. Commissioner Street 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 officer election provisions contained within the TPO Bylaws and noted that officers serve one-year terms with no term limits. The current slate of officers had served successfully and could be reappointed if desired by the Board.

Commissioner Carroll nominated Chair Pamn Henderson to continue serving as Chair and nominated Commissioner Robert Carroll to continue serving as Vice Chair for Fiscal Year 2027.

Commissioner Griggs moved to elect Mayor Pamn Henderson as the Bay TPO chair for FY 2027 and Commissioner Robert Carroll as the vice chair for FY 2027. Commissioner Griffis 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.

Discussion included the importance of improving safety, mobility, and freight movement through the corridor, as well as the potential regional benefits associated with the proposed projects and grant opportunities.

Commissioner Raffield moved to authorize the TPO chair sign the letter of support for the City of Panama City's Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant application and the letter of support for the U.S. 98/U.S. 231 capacity project. Commissioner Coburn 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 provided a transit update and advised the Board that Resolution Bay 26-13 regarding the 911 Cellphone Bank Participation Agreement had been withdrawn from consideration at this time. Lamar Hobbs explained that additional review of Florida statutory requirements indicated the program would require more administrative effort than originally anticipated, and staff wished to further evaluate the proposal before bringing it back to the Board.

TRANSIT UPDATE

Lamar Hobbs provided an update regarding operations at the Bayway bus wash facility. He reported that the City of Lynn Haven began utilizing the facility during May and had used the system approximately fifteen times since implementation. Lamar Hobbs noted that the program was operating successfully and that Bayway staff anticipated opening the facility to additional governmental agencies in the future.

Board members discussed transit funding challenges, including declining advertising revenues resulting from restrictions on advertisements placed on FDOT-funded vehicles. Lamar Hobbs reported that annual advertising revenues have decreased from approximately \$98,000 to approximately \$74,000 and may continue declining in future years. He also discussed efforts to reduce operating costs through partnerships with Uber and Lyft and expansion of microtransit services.

Board members expressed support for Bayway Transit and acknowledged the importance of identifying sustainable funding sources to offset declining revenues while maintaining transit services throughout Bay County.

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

None

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 TPO Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2026 (Page 9 of 9)

Bay County Transit Office, 1010 Cone Ave Panama City, FL 32401.

ADJOURNMENT