

2050 BAY COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Long Range Transportation Plan Update - Summary Report

Adopted May 27, 2026
(Published August 2026)

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

This report was financed in part by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, the Florida Department of Transportation and local participating governments, in partial fulfillment of Task C.2 of the FY 2025-2026. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). This document does not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Bay County Transportation Planning Organization

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District Three

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INTRODUCTION

The Bay County 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) establishes a coordinated, multimodal transportation vision for the region through 2050. Updated every five years, the LRTP evaluates how growth, travel patterns, safety needs, economic activity, changing technology, and available revenues will shape the transportation system. It identifies the improvements needed to serve people and goods, then narrows those needs to a fiscally constrained program of projects and strategies that can be advanced with reasonably anticipated funding.

The Bay County Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) approved the 2050 LRTP Scope of Services on April 24, 2024. The update included public participation, a Congestion Management Process update, goals and objectives, evaluation criteria, a financial resources analysis, a transportation needs assessment, development of the Cost Feasible Plan, and final and summary reports. Each task informed the next, creating a clear connection between community priorities, technical analysis, project evaluation, funding, and implementation.

Goals & Objectives	Evaluation Criteria & Financial Resources	Congestion Management Process	Needs Plan	Cost Feasible Plan
February 5, 2025	*August 27, 2025*	*August 27, 2025*	*February 25, 2026*	*May 27, 2026*

The Bay County TPO is the local intergovernmental transportation policy board for the metropolitan planning area, which includes all of Bay County and its municipalities. The TPO provides a forum for local governments and transportation partners to coordinate regional priorities and direct federal and state transportation investments. The Emerald Coast Regional Council serves as staff to the Bay County TPO.

FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS

Federal law requires TPO long range transportation plans to address ten planning factors:

- Economic Vitality
- Safety
- Security
- Accessibility and Mobility
- Environmental Protection and Quality of Life
- Multimodal Connectivity
- Efficient System Management and Operation
- System Preservation
- Resilience and Reliability
- Travel and Tourism



AREA PROFILE

Bay County's transportation needs are shaped by steady population growth, strong employment growth, military activity, tourism, freight movement, and seasonal travel. The county had 180,076 residents in 2020 and is projected to reach approximately 219,400 residents by 2050.

Employment is projected to increase from approximately 82,380 jobs in 2020 to nearly 150,000 jobs in 2050. Military and defense activity remains a major part of the regional economy, supporting an estimated 33,000 jobs and approximately $4.3 billion in economic impact. Tourism also creates significant seasonal demand with bed-tax collections more than doubling between 2014 and 2024, and passenger activity at Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport exceeded 1.6 million travelers in 2023.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public and partner participation was incorporated throughout the 2050 LRTP update. A Steering Committee helped to guide technical work and to review the Goals & Objectives, Evaluation Criteria, Congestion Management Process, Financial Revenues, Needs Plan, and Cost Feasible Plan. The Bay County TPO Technical Coordinating Committee, and Citizens' Advisory Committee reviewed major plan products at key milestones.

Public workshops were held for the Goals & Objectives, on February 5, 2025, the Needs Plan, on January 14, 2026, and the Cost Feasible Plan on April 14, 2026. An online survey was also made available for residents and stakeholders to provide feedback on the Needs Plan and Cost Feasible Plan.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Vision

Our vision is to provide a safe and efficient multi-modal transportation system that supports the economic vitality of the area, protects the environment, promotes efficient system management and operation, and emphasizes modernization of the Bay County TPO area transportation system.

Mission

To guide safe and socially responsible transportation decision-making for the modernization of the Bay County TPO area's transportation system while balancing the needs of Bay County residents and transient populations for the economic development of the region.



Goals

1. A multi-modal transportation system that is safe
2. A multi-modal network of integrated transportation systems for the movement of people and goods
3. A multi-modal transportation system that is operated and maintained efficiently
4. A multi-modal transportation system that protects, preserves, and enhances a high quality of life
5. A multi-modal transportation system that includes consistent, continuing, cooperative and comprehensive planning processes
6. A multi-modal transportation system that supports economic vitality
7. A multi-modal transportation system that provides for the security of residents, visitors, and commerce
8. A multi-modal transportation system that maintains acceptable roadway level of service on all major facilities

CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS

The Congestion Management Process (CMP) is a systematic approach for identifying congestion, evaluating causes, selecting strategies, and monitoring results. The Bay County TPO adopted the 2025 major CMP update on August 27, 2025 through Resolution Bay 25-18.

The CMP evaluates approximately 450 miles of arterial, collector, and freeway facilities and considers roadway, transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and freight travel. The CMP informs the Needs Plan of the LRTP by identifying congested or deficient corridors that can be addressed through projects identified within the Needs Plan.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Evaluation criteria translate the LRTP goals and objectives into a consistent project-scoring method. The 2050 criteria were reviewed by the Steering Committee in April and June 2025 and adopted by the Bay County TPO on August 27, 2025 through Resolution Bay 25-17. The categories and weights remain aligned with the eight LRTP goals, while the individual measures were updated to improve clarity and reflect current data and planning priorities.

Evaluation Category	Weight	What it Considers
Transportation Safety	20%	Crash severity and opportunities to reduce fatal and serious-injury crashes
Multimodal Choices and Connections	15%	Transit, bicycle, pedestrian, freight, and network connectivity
System Efficiency and Preservation	10%	Operations, maintenance, condition, and efficient use of infrastructure
System Sustainability and Livability	10%	Community, environmental, resilience, and quality-of-life considerations
Economic Vitality	15%	Access to jobs, commerce, military facilities, freight, tourism, and regional destinations
Transportation Security	10%	Evacuation, emergency response, and secure movement of people and goods
Congestion Management	20%	Congestion, level of service, travel demand, and system-management strategies



NEEDS PLAN

The Needs Plan identifies transportation improvements that would be needed through 2050 without limiting the list to currently anticipated revenues. It was developed from the 2045 LRTP, the existing-plus-committed transportation network, level-of-service analysis, local plans and studies, public input, and recommendations from the Steering Committee and local partners. Projects already completed or committed for construction between 2020 and 2028 were treated as part of the future transportation network and were not carried forward as new needs.

The Bay County TPO adopted the 2050 Needs Plan on February 25, 2026 through Resolution Bay 26-01.

Needs Plan Category	Number of Projects	Estimated Cost
Roadway Capacity	47	$ 6,148,229,479
Intersection	36	$ 185,119,011
Bicycle / Pedestrian	81	$303,031,291
Corridor Management	26	$ 249,360,000
Public Transportation	9	$ 128,077,805
Total	**199**	**$ 7,013,817,586**

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

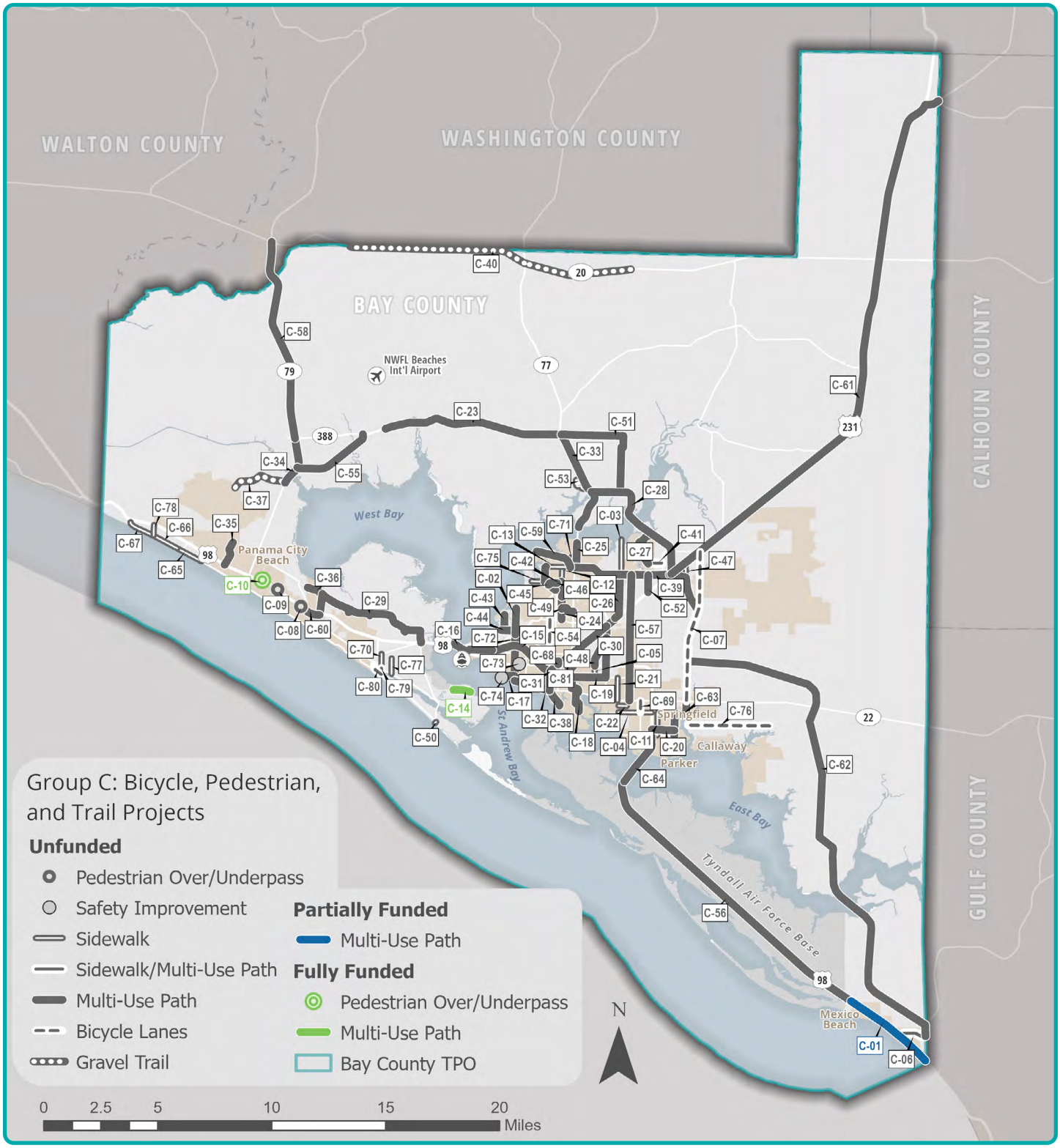
The Financial Resources analysis identifies federal, state, and local revenue that may be available to implement the 2050 LRTP. The forecast is based on the Florida Department of Transportation 2050 Revenue Forecast Handbook and considers funds for the Strategic Intermodal System, other State Highway System and local roadway improvements, transit, and related transportation programs.

Bay County TPO Revenue Estimates *(Millions of $)*						
Funding Source	**FY 24-25**	**FY 26-30**	**FY 31-35**	**FY 36-40**	**FY 41-50**	**Total**
SIS (SIS Cost Feasible Plan)	$66.53	$261.88	$411.23	$247.70	$4.62	$991.96
SL *(Handbook Table 9)*	$0.50	$28.49	$29.41	$29.41	$58.82	$146.63
SHS (non-SIS) Non-TMA*	$2.17	$0.89	$2.33	$2.43	$4.96	$12.78
Other Roads (non-SIS, non-SHS) *(Handbook Table 39)*	$0.21	$1.30	$3.40	$3.53	$7.20	$15.64
Transit *(Handbook Table 40)*	$1.04	$2.87	$3.10	$3.24	$6.61	$16.86
TMA/SU	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Capacity Programs	$70.45	$295.43	$449.47	$286.31	$82.21	$1,183.87

*Provided by FDOT District 3 for Bay TPO area only



BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN, AND TRAIL PROJECTS





Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Trail Projects Funding Status

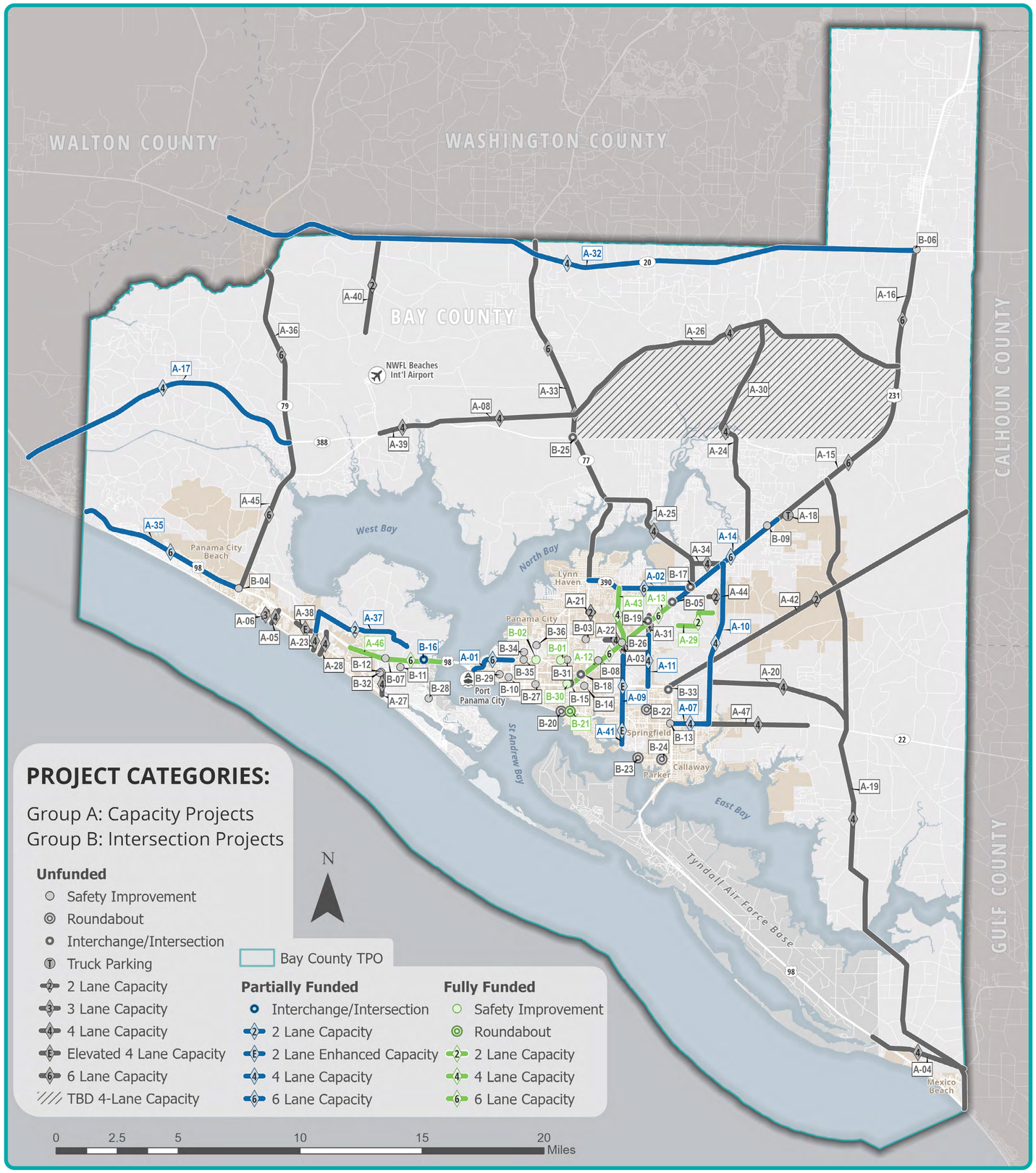
ID	Project Name
C-01	US 98 / SR 30
C-02	CR 385 / Frankford Ave
C-03	Harvard Boulevard Sidewalks
C-04	CR 3026 / Cherry Street Sidewalks
C-05	CR 2337 Sherman Avenue Sidewalks
C-06	15th Street Sidewalks
C-07	CR 2315 / Star Avenue
C-08	Pedestrian Structure on US 98 / Back Beach Road @ Nautilus Street
C-09	Pedestrian Structure on US 98 / Back Beach Road @ Powell Adams Rd
C-10	Pedestrian Structure on US 98 / Back Beach Road @ Frank Brown Park
C-11	South Gay Avenue
C-12	Carolina Avenue
C-13	14th Street
C-14	Magnolia Beach Road
C-15	Panama City Sun Trail Program [Phase 2]
C-16	Panama City Sun Trail Program [Phase 1]
C-17	Panama City Sun Trail Program [Phase 4]
C-18	Panama City Sun Trail Program [Phase 5]
C-19	Panama City Sun Trail Program [Phase 6]
C-20	Lake Dr
C-21	School Ave
C-22	2nd St
C-23	CR 388
C-24	Harrison Ave
C-25	Pennsylvania Ave
C-26	Ormond Ave
C-27	Mill Bayou Trail Extension
C-28	CR 2321/SR 77 - Dam Road Trail
C-29	Breakfast Point East Connector
C-30	Panama City Spine Trail - RR Corridor to US 231
C-31	Panama City Spine Trail - South Spur
C-32	Beach Drive Trail
C-33	SR 77 - Southport North
C-34	SR 79 - Gayle's Trails North Extension
C-35	Griffin Blvd - Gayle's Trails South Connector
C-36	Colony Club Connector
C-37	Gayle's Trails North Connector to SR 79
C-38	Beach Drive Connector
C-39	SR 390 West Trail
C-40	Florida National Scenic Trail
C-41	Minge Branch Rd
C-42	Mowat School Rd Connector
C-43	Kings Rd
C-44	W 27th St
C-45	Northshore Rd
C-46	Wildridge Rd
C-47	Cherokee Heights Rd
C-48	CR 2337 / Sherman Avenue
C-49	Lakeridge Dr / 34th St
C-50	Lookout St
C-51	Kingswood Rd / Edwards Rd
C-52	Cato Rd
C-53	Southport Elementary Pedestrian Improvements
C-54	State Ave
C-55	CR 388
C-56	US 98 Tyndall AFB Multi-Use Path
C-57	Transmitter Rd
C-58	SR 79
C-59	Lynn Haven Rails to Trails - North Extension
C-60	Nautilus St, US 98, & Clara Ave
C-61	US 231
C-62	Nehi Rd, CR 2315 / Star Ave, Other
C-63	S Berthe Ave, Chippewa St, CR 2315/Star Ave
C-64	US 98 Tyndall AFB Multi-Use Path
C-65	SR 30 / US 98A / Front Beach Rd
C-66	SR 30 / US 98A / Front Beach Rd
C-67	SR 30 / US 98A / Front Beach Rd
C-68	SR 391 / Harrison Ave
C-69	CR 22A / Bob Little Rd
C-70	CR 30B Joan Ave
C-71	Lynn Haven Elementary School Sidewalk Project
C-72	CR 385 / Frankford Ave
C-73	US 98 and Fortune Ave
C-74	Chestnut Ave and 9th Street
C-75	Goose Bayou Road
C-76	Old Bicycle Rd
C-77	Laurie Avenue
C-78	Kelly Street
C-79	Joan Avenue
C-80	Thomas Drive
C-81	Elevated Pedestrian Structure on US 98 / 15th Street @ SR 77 / MLK Jr Blvd

Legend

- Unfunded
- Partially Funded
- Fully Funded



CAPACITY & INTERSECTION PROJECTS



ID	Project Name
A-01	SR 368 / 23rd Street
A-02	SR 390 / E. 14th Street
A-03	SR 389 / East Avenue
A-04	Gulf to Bay Highway (Parkway)
A-05	CR 30P / Hills Road
A-06	Powell Adams Dr
A-07	SR 22 / Wewa Highway [Phase 1]
A-08	SR 388 / West Bay Parkway
A-09	SR 389 / East Avenue
A-10	CR 2315 / Star Avenue
A-11	CR 2327 / Transmitter Road
A-12	US 231 / SR 75 [Segment 7]
A-13	US 231 / SR 75 [Segment 8]
A-14	US 231 / SR 75
A-15	US 231 / SR 75
A-16	US 231 / SR 75
A-17	SR 388 / West Bay Parkway
A-18	Truck Parking at US 231 Industrial Park
A-19	Gulf Coast Parkway
A-20	Gulf Coast Parkway Connector
A-21	26th Street Extension
A-22	CR 391 / Baldwin Road
A-23	CR 30C / Clara Avenue
A-24	CR 2301
A-25	CR 2321
A-26	CR 388 / West Bay Parkway
A-27	Joan Avenue
A-28	Lyndell Lane
A-29	Pipeline Road Extension
A-30	Gulf Coast Parkway Extension
A-31	CR 2327 / Transmitter Road
A-32	SR 20

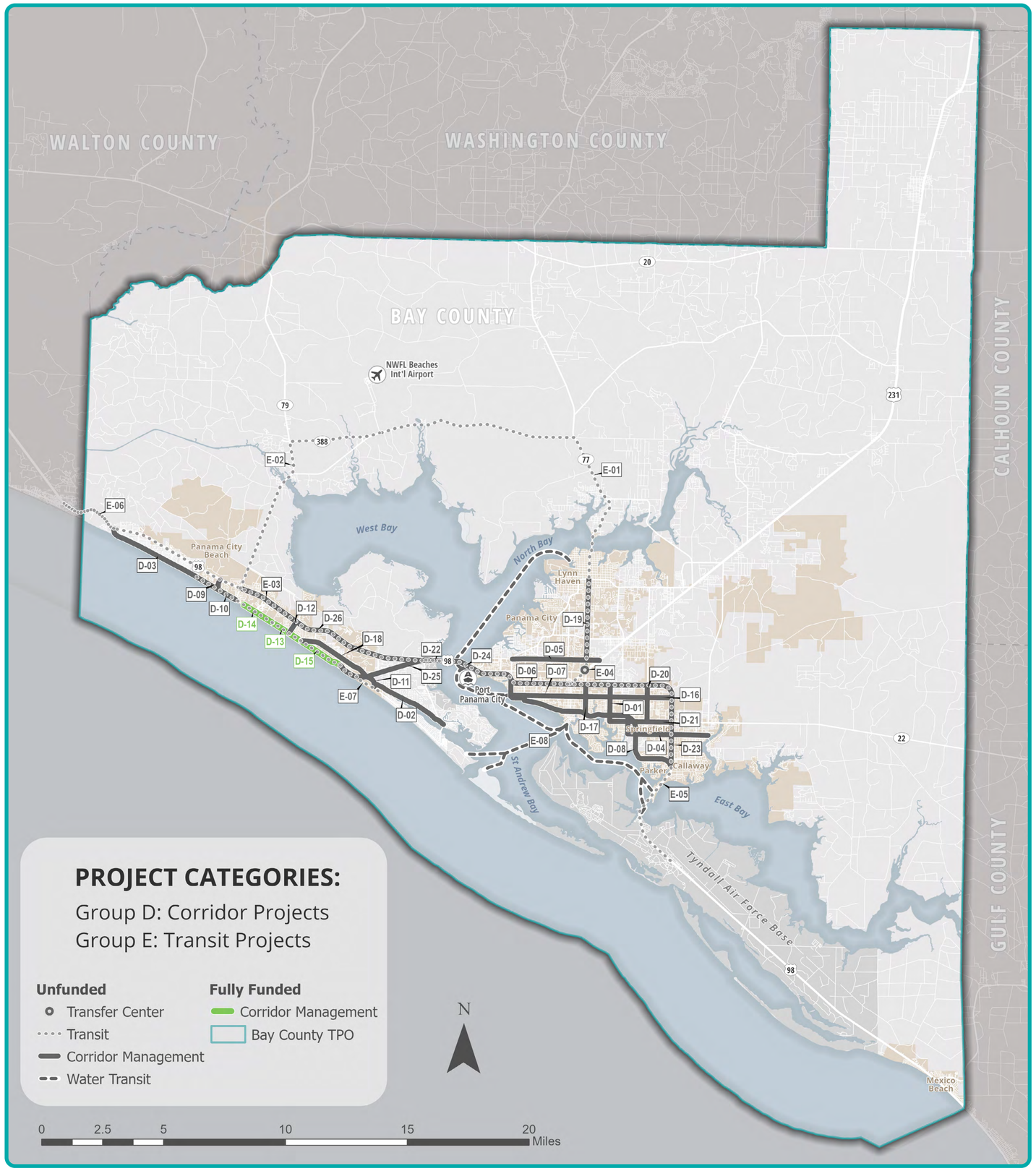
ID	Project Name
A-33	SR 77
A-34	Titus Road
A-35	US 98 / Panama City Beach Pkwy
A-36	SR 79
A-37	Philip Griffitts Sr Parkway [Phase 3]
A-38	Philip Griffitts Sr Parkway [Phase 4]
A-39	SR 388
A-40	Northern Airport Connector
A-41	CR 389 / East Avenue
A-42	US 98 to I-10 Corridor
A-43	CR 389 / East Avenue
A-44	Liberty Blvd Extension
A-45	SR 79
A-46	US 98 / Panama City Beach Parkway
A-47	SR 22
B-01	State Avenue and W 23rd Street
B-02	Lisenby Avenue and W 23rd Street
B-03	SR 77 and Baldwin Road
B-04	Arnold Rd and Back Beach Road
B-05	US 231 / SR 75 and Pipeline Road
B-06	US 231 / SR 75 and SR 20
B-07	Allison Ave and US 98 / Panama City Beach Parkway
B-08	SR 368 / 23rd St and US 231 / SR 75
B-09	Bayou George Dr and US 231 / SR 75
B-10	W 17th St / Bayview Ave
B-11	Pryor Ave and US 98A / Front Beach Rd
B-12	Joan Ave and US 98A / Front Beach Rd
B-13	SR-22 / 3rd St and US 98 / Tyndall Pkwy
B-14	US 98 / 15TH ST and SR 77 / MLK Jr Blvd

ID	Project Name
B-15	US 231 / SR 75 and US 98 / Harrison Avenue
B-16	US 98 and Thomas Drive Interchange [Phase II and III]
B-17	US 231 and SR 390
B-18	US 231 / SR 75 and 19th Street
B-19	US 231 / SR 75 and CR 2327 / Transmitter Rd
B-20	6th Street and Beach Drive
B-21	6th Street and Harrison Ave
B-22	CR 2322 / 7th Avenue and CR 2327 / Transmitter Rd
B-23	US 98B and Cedar Street and Pitts Ave
B-24	US 98B and Cheri Lane, Boat Race Road, and Luther St
B-25	SR 388 / Edwards Rd and SR 77
B-26	US 231 / SR 75 and SR 389 / East Ave
B-27	US 98 / 15th St and Lisenby Ave
B-28	CR 3031 / Thomas Dr and Gwyn Drive
B-29	US 98 and Michigan Ave
B-30	US 98 / 15th St and Jenks Ave
B-31	SR 368 / 23rd St and Jenks Ave
B-32	US 98A / Front Beach Rd and Hinson Rd
B-33	Tram Road and US 98 / Tyndall Pkwy
B-34	Frankford Ave / SR 390
B-35	Frankford Ave / 23rd Street
B-36	Lisenby Avenue and SR 390

Legend
- Unfunded
- Partially Funded
- Fully Funded



CORRIDOR & TRANSIT PROJECTS



ID	Project Name
D-01	Sherman Ave to 3rd St
D-02	SR 392 / Thomas Drive
D-03	US 98A / Front Beach Rd
D-04	Everitt Avenue to Cherry Street
D-05	SR 368 / 23rd Street
D-06	US 98 / 15th Street
D-07	CR 28 / 11th Street
D-08	US 98B
D-09	Cobb Road
D-10	US 98A / Front Beach Road [Segment 5]
D-11	CR 392 / Thomas Drive
D-12	Nautilus Road
D-13	US 98A / Front Beach Road [Segment 4.2]
D-14	US 98A / Front Beach Road [Segment 4.1]
D-15	US 98A / Front Beach Road [Segment 4.3]
D-16	CR 28 / 11th Street
D-17	SR 77 / MLK Jr. Blvd
D-18	SR 392A / Hutchison Blvd
D-19	SR 77 / MLK Jr. Blvd
D-20	CR 2327 / Transmitter Road
D-21	SR 22 / Wewa Highway [Phase 2]
D-22	US 98
D-23	US 98 / Tyndall Parkway
D-24	US 98
D-25	US 98A / Front Beach Rd
D-26	Panama City Beach Parkway
E-01	Express Bus Service from Panama City to the NW FL Beaches International Airport
E-02	Express Bus Service from Panama City Beach to the NW FL Beaches International Airport
E-03	Express Bus Service from Panama City to South Walton County
E-04	New Main Transfer Center
E-05	Express Bus Service between NSA and Tyndall Air Force Base
E-06	Inlet Beach Route from Front Beach & US 98 to Inlet Beach

ID	Project Name
E-07	US 98A Front Beach Road Trolley (Dedicated Lane) from DeLuna Place to Thomas Drive
E-08	Water Transit between Lagoon Marinas, Tyndall, Panama City, St. Andrews, Sun Harbor, and Lynn Haven
E-09*	Update Bayway bus stops to be ADA compliant

*E-09 not shown on the map

Legend
- Unfunded
- Partially Funded
- Fully Funded



COST FEASIBLE PLAN

The Cost Feasible Plan narrows the approximately $7.01 billion Needs Plan to the projects that can be implemented with revenues reasonably anticipated through 2050.

The project team developed three alternatives for the Non-SIS portion of the Cost Feasible Plan that were reviewed by the Bay TPO, its advisory committees, the general public, and the LRTP Steering Committee to provide feedback.

- **Evaluation Criteria Alternative:** This alternative used the adopted evaluation criteria to score and rank the Needs Plan projects. Highest scoring projects were included in this alternative.
- **Multimodal Alternative:** This alternative prioritized multimodal projects from the Needs Plan.
- **Existing Project Priorities Alternative:** This alternative used the Bay County TPO's adopted project priorities to determine which projects should be included.

The project team then combined these alternatives into one Non-SIS Hybrid Alternative. This alternative, combined with the SIS projects from the FDOT SIS Cost Feasible Plan, and the Local Projects list make up the Cost Feasible Plan. The plan was adopted by the Bay County TPO Board on May 27, 2026 in Resolution 26-10.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Bay County TPO's 2050 LRTP provides the policy and investment framework for making transportation decisions in the region. Implementation will require continued coordination between the TPO, local governments, FDOT, Bayway, military installations, the airport, the port, community organizations, businesses, residents, and other transportation partners.

The TPO will track system performance, update project priorities, maintain the Congestion Management Process, and incorporate funded projects into the Transportation Improvement Program. Future updates and amendments will respond to changing growth patterns, project costs, funding programs, technology, resilience needs, and community priorities.

The Bay County TPO encourages residents, businesses, and partner agencies to stay involved in transportation planning. Meeting agendas, planning documents, project priorities, and public participation opportunities are available through the Bay County TPO and Emerald Coast Regional Council.

For more information visit https://www.ecrc.org or https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/ec75f662138941eb887460e9a53c1b60#

Or contact Mr. Gary Kramer, LRTP Manager at (850) 332-7976 x219 or gary.kramer@ECRC.org