

FLORIDA-ALABAMA TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

**EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL (Designated Staff)
Bayview Community Center, 2001 E Lloyd St., Pensacola, FL
May 12, 2026**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Samantha Abell, Chair	City of Gulf Breeze
Drew Holmer, Vice	Chair Escambia County
Sarah C. Sislak	Eastern Shore MPO
Don Christian	Escambia County
Roy Remington	City of Pensacola
Leslie Statler	City of Pensacola
Thomas "Shep" Coggin	City of Pensacola
Wendy Gavin	City of Pensacola
Max Rogers	Santa Rosa County
Scott Davidson	Hurlburt Field

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Ann Simpson	Baldwin County
Jacob Kearley	Emerald Coast Utilities Authority
Thaddeus Davenport	Escambia County Area Transit
Darlene Hart	Escambia County School District
Tommi S. Lyter	Escambia County Sheriff's Office
Ronald D. Rivera	Escambia County Sheriff's Office
Jacob Hullett	City of Milton
Griffin Powell	City of Orange Beach
Victoria D'Angelo	City of Pensacola
Bill Kimball	City of Pensacola
Steve Opalenik	Pensacola Naval Air Station
Ted Young	Pensacola State College
Shawn Ward	Santa Rosa County
Jud Crane	Santa Rosa County School District
Virginia Sutler	Santa Rosa County School District
Chip Chism	University of West Florida

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bryant Paulk, AICP	FDOT
Vincent Beebe	ALDOT
Caitlin Cerame	City of Pensacola
Cory Wilkinson	HDR
Seth Peterson	Baldwin County Commission
Deston Taylor	DRMP

Cory Wilkinson HDR

ECRC STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Kandase Lee
Tiffany Bates
Rae Emary
Leandra Meredith
Gary Kramer
Jill Nobles
Tammy Neal
Eric Christianson
Virtual Attendance
Gabrielle McVoy

CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION/PLEDGE/BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL

Chair Abell called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

PUBLIC FORUM

FDOT Update – Bryant Paulk, AICP., FDOT

Bryant Paulk, FDOT, provided an update on upcoming projects within the Florida-Alabama TPO area. He reported that installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of U.S. 98 and Bergen Road is scheduled to begin in August 2026 and is expected to require approximately 90 days for construction. Bryant Paulk also advised that design is underway for a resurfacing project along Alcaniz Street, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, and Davis Highway, which comprise the one-way pair roadway system in Pensacola. Construction for that project is anticipated to begin in May 2027. No questions were raised by the committee.

ALDOT Update – Vincent Beebe, P.E., ALDOT

Vincent Beebe, ALDOT, reported that construction continues on the Foley Beach Express (SR 161) project. A temporary detour remains in place, but work is expected to be completed soon, allowing traffic to transition to a new one-way traffic pattern. Vince Beebe also reported that ALDOT is completing the alternatives analysis for the SR 180 and SR 161 intersection improvement project and advancing the preferred alternative into the NEPA and design phases.

FDEP UPDATE

No representative from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection was present.

DRMP ITS Presentation - Summer Beach Monitoring Update – Deston Taylor, DRMP

Deston Taylor, DRMP, presented an update on beach traffic conditions and monitoring efforts for Pensacola Beach and Navarre Beach, reporting continued growth in traffic volumes at Pensacola Beach and noting that 2025 experienced ten additional days exceeding 20,000 southbound vehicles compared to 2024. As of early May 2026, twenty days had already exceeded the 20,000-vehicle threshold, indicating continued increases in beach-related travel demand. He further reported that near-record traffic counts were observed during April 2026, including a day with approximately 27,200 southbound vehicles, approaching the all-time record established in 2025.

Deston Taylor reviewed traffic monitoring data showing that congestion continues to intensify during peak beach periods, particularly when large volumes of motorists arrive and depart simultaneously. He presented examples from Pensacola Beach illustrating parking capacity constraints, queue formation extending into Gulf Breeze, and congestion along Fort Pickens Road. He noted that existing signal timing and traffic management strategies are approaching their operational limits and may not be sufficient to address future growth.

Deston Taylor also presented traffic data for Navarre Beach. While overall traffic growth has remained relatively stable compared to Pensacola Beach, he noted that the corridor continues to experience significant congestion due to limited roadway capacity. Monitoring data showed recurring delays at the Navarre Beach Causeway and U.S. 98 intersection, particularly during peak travel periods.

Deston Taylor advised that both beach corridors are nearing operational capacity and emphasized the need to explore additional congestion mitigation strategies, including increased use of alternative transportation options, public education efforts encouraging staggered arrival and departure times, and long-term infrastructure improvements. He also discussed ongoing studies including the Pensacola Beach Gateway Project, the Pensacola Beach Traffic Study, and planned bridge replacement projects in Navarre intended to improve future mobility.

CONSENT:

- 1. ALL COMMITTEES - Approval of February 2026 Meeting Minutes**
- 2. ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 26-14 Adopting the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 – FY 2028 Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – *Kandase Lee, ECRC CEO***

Don Christian moved to approve the February 2026 meeting minutes and to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 26-14 adopting the FY 2027–FY 2028 Unified Planning Work Program and authorizing execution of the associated FDOT agreement. Wendy Gavin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

ACTION:

- 1. ENCLOSURE A - ALL COMMITTEES - ROLL CALL VOTE - Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 26-09 Amending the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Construction Cost for Benny Russell Park from Benny Russell Park to Hamilton Lane Multi-Use Path Project for Financial Project Identification (FPID) Number 4573521 in FY 2026/2027 at a Total Cost of \$410,178- *Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT***

Chair Abell noted that Resolutions FL-AL 26-09 through FL-AL 26-13 were all Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments presented by FDOT. By consensus of the committee, the five TIP amendment resolutions were considered together and voted on as a single action item.

Bryant Paulk presented Resolution FL-AL 26-09 and explained that the amendment would add construction funding for the Benny Russell Park to Hamilton Lane Multi-Use Path Project under Financial Project Identification Number 457352-1. Bryant Paulk noted that the project would add a multi-use facility intended to improve connectivity and provide enhanced pedestrian and bicycle accommodations within the project area. The amendment adds \$410,178 in construction funding to the Transportation Improvement Program.

- 2. ENCLOSURE B - ALL COMMITTEES - ROLL CALL VOTE - Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 26-10 Amending the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Construction Cost for North Hayne Street from East Blount Street to East Avery Street Hollice T. Williams Storm Water Park Community Connector Under Interstate-110 Project for Financial Project Identification (FPID) Number 4582681 in FY 2025/2026 at a Total Cost of \$10,000,000- *Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT***

Bryant Paulk explained that the amendment would add \$10,000,000 in construction funding for the North Hayne Street Community Connector project extending from East Blount Street to East Avery Street and connecting to the Hollice T. Williams Stormwater Park area. He noted that the project will improve multimodal connectivity, provide safer access between neighborhoods, and enhance transportation connections through the corridor.

- 3. ENCLOSURE C - ALL COMMITTEES - ROLL CALL VOTE -Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 26-11 Amending the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Construction Cost for the Deaton Bridge Drive Railroad Crossing #339779Y Safety Project for Financial Project**

**Identification (FPID) Number 4582641 in FY 2025/2026 at a Total Cost of \$110,802
- Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT**

Bryant Paulk explained that the project would provide safety improvements at Railroad Crossing #339779Y located on Deaton Bridge Drive. The amendment adds \$110,802 in construction funding during Fiscal Year 2025/2026. Mr. Paulk stated that the project is intended to improve railroad crossing safety through upgraded warning devices and associated safety enhancements.

4. ENCLOSURE D - ALL COMMITTEES - ROLL CALL VOTE - Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 26-12 Amending the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Construction Cost for Guidy Lane over Unnamed Branch Bridge No. 484023 Bridge Replacement Project for Financial Project Identification (FPID) Number 4489672 in FY 2026/2027 at a Total Cost of \$4,738,655- Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT

Bryant Paulk explained that the amendment adds \$4,738,655 in construction funding for replacement of Bridge No. 484023 on Guidy Lane. The project will replace the existing structure and improve safety and resiliency along the corridor.

5. ENCLOSURE E - ALL COMMITTEES - ROLL CALL VOTE - Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 26-13 Amending the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Construction Cost for Industrial Boulevard Railroad Crossing #353876S Safety Project for Financial Project Identification (FPID) Number 4562651 in FY 2025/2026 at a Total Cost of \$115,019- Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT

Bryant Paulk explained that the amendment would add \$115,019 in construction funding for safety improvements at Railroad Crossing #353876S located on Industrial Boulevard. The project includes railroad crossing safety upgrades intended to reduce potential conflicts between vehicles and rail traffic and improve overall transportation safety within the corridor.

Don Christian moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 26-09, Resolution FL-AL 26-10, Resolution FL-AL 26-11, Resolution FL-AL 26-12, and Resolution FL-AL 26-13. Leslie Statler seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

6. ENCLOSURE F – ALL COMMITTEES – (ROLL CALL VOTE AND PUBLIC HEARING) – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 26-08 Adopting the Florida-Alabama TPO FY 2027-2031 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff
Gary Kramer presented the FY 2027–2031 Transportation Improvement Program.

Gary Kramer presented the FY 2027–2031 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and explained that the TIP is the culmination of the project prioritization process serving as the TPO's implementation document for transportation projects programmed within FDOT's Five-Year Work Program. He noted that the draft TIP was posted on the TPO's web page and distributed to TPO, TCC, and CAC members for review. Public comments received during the review period would be incorporated into the final document.

Wendy Gavin moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign FL-AL 26-08 adopting the FY 2027–2031 Transportation Improvement Program. Max Rogers seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

7. ENCLOSURE G – ALL COMMITTEES – ROLL CALL VOTE – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 26-07 Adopting the FL-AL FY 2028-2032 Project Priorities – Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff

Gary Kramer presented the FY 2028–2032 Project Priorities and reviewed the methodology used to develop the rankings. He explained that project priorities are derived from the Cost Feasible Plan of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan and serve as guidance for FDOT and ALDOT when developing future work programs. He reviewed the various project categories, including capacity, transportation system management, transportation alternatives, public transportation, aviation, port, and trail projects.

Rae Emary, ECRC staff, presented the public outreach results associated with development of the priorities. Outreach efforts included a 30-day public comment period, virtual open house, public workshops in Pensacola, Gulf Breeze, and Milton, and a heavily promoted online survey. A total of 403 survey responses and 373 written comments were received. Public comments emphasized concerns regarding congestion, roadway safety, emergency access, roadway maintenance, and multimodal connectivity. U.S. 98 and U.S. 90 were the most frequently cited corridors requiring improvement.

Gary Kramer then reviewed recommended revisions to the project priorities resulting from public comments and workshop feedback. Changes included updates to funding requests, clarification of project descriptions, corrections to project information, and the addition of four Transportation System Management projects requested by the City of Pensacola.

Wendy Gavin moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 26-07 adopting the FY 2028-2032 Project Priorities as amended. Leslie Statler seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

8. ENCLOSURE H – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 26-17 Amending the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 – FY 2026 Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to De-obligate PL and SU Funds – *Kandase Lee, ECRC CEO*

Kandase Lee presented Resolution FL-AL 26-17. and explained that the amendment was primarily an administrative housekeeping item associated with the end of the current Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) cycle. She advised that the TPO has remaining Planning (PL) and Surface Transportation Urban (SU) funds that must be de-obligated at the conclusion of the current fiscal cycle.

Kandase Lee clarified that unlike traditional de-obligation actions, which typically return unused funds to the federal government, the proposed action would allow the funds to be re-obligated and carried forward into the next fiscal year for future TPO activities. She noted that the requirement was procedural in nature and necessary to comply with federal funding requirements.

Sarah Sislak moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 26-17 amending the FY 2025-FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program. Max Rogers seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

9. ENCLOSURE I – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 26-20 Authorizing the Chair to Execute the Revised Joint Participation Agreement Between Florida Department of Transportation and the FL-AL TPO – *Kandase Lee, ECRC CEO*

Kandase Lee reminded the committee that during the February 2026 meeting cycle, the TPO approved a request for additional Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) equipment funding. Since that time, staff have coordinated with the Florida

Department of Transportation regarding the request and received approval for approximately \$625,000 in additional funding. She further reported that an additional \$1 million had also been made available, resulting in approximately \$1.6 million in new equipment investments for Escambia County, Santa Rosa County, and the City of Pensacola.

Kandase Lee explained that the revised Joint Participation Agreement was necessary to formally incorporate the additional funding into the TPO's agreement with FDOT and allow staff to proceed with equipment procurement. She noted that staff intended to move quickly with implementation and anticipated ordering equipment before June 2026. Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of Resolution FL-AL 26-20. The motion carried unanimously.

Don Christian moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 26-20 authorizing execution of the revised Joint Participation Agreement. Max Rogers seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

10. ENCLOSURE J – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 26-18 Adopting the Scope of Services for the Florida-Alabama TPO Regional Freight Network Plan — Highways of Commerce Update- *Eric Christianson, ECRC Staff*

Eric Christianson presented the proposed scope of services for the Regional Freight Network Plan, explaining that the existing Regional Freight Network Plan was completed in 2010 using data that dates to 2003. While the plan has served as the foundation for freight planning throughout the region, significant changes in economic conditions, freight movement patterns, technology, and federal planning requirements have occurred since its adoption. He stated that the proposed effort would provide a comprehensive update to better reflect current and future freight transportation needs.

Eric Christianson advised that the Florida-Alabama TPO study area would be the first of four regional freight planning updates anticipated over the next several years. The study will examine freight movement by highway, rail, air, and water transportation modes while also evaluating freight vulnerabilities associated with disruptions caused by weather events, bridge closures, traffic congestion, and other transportation system constraints.

Additional study elements include analysis of emerging technologies such as autonomous vehicles, alternative fuel technologies, drone delivery systems, and

digital transportation modeling. Mr. Christianson noted that the study would include extensive stakeholder engagement through a Freight Advisory Committee, local governments, military partners, airports, ports, freight operators, and regional economic development organizations. The resulting plan will identify prioritized freight transportation improvements and potential funding opportunities to support implementation. Mr. Christianson reviewed the anticipated project schedule and noted that staff hope to initiate the study during Summer 2026 and begin stakeholder outreach later in the year.

Roy Remington moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 26-18 adopting the Regional Freight Network Plan Scope of Services. Don Christian seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

11. ENCLOSURE K – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 26-16 Adopting the Pace Boulevard (SR 292) Corridor Management Plan (CMP) from Barrancas Avenue to West Fairfield Drive and Endorsing Implementation of Transportation Strategies and Projects Identified in the Plan – *Cory Wilkinson, HDR Staff*

Cory Wilkinson of HDR presented the Pace Boulevard Corridor Management Plan and explained that the plan evaluates transportation operations, safety conditions, access management opportunities, and multimodal improvements along the Pace Boulevard corridor between Barrancas Avenue and West Fairfield Drive. The study identified several recommendations designed to improve traffic flow, safety, pedestrian accessibility, bicycle accommodations, and corridor operations.

Committee members discussed the draft status of the document and whether additional changes could occur following committee review. Mr. Wilkinson advised that local government staff were still reviewing the draft plan and minor revisions could occur prior to final adoption; however, substantive changes were not anticipated. Staff noted the importance of completing the project before the end of the current fiscal year.

Sarah Sislak moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 26-16. Don Christian seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

12. ENCLOSURE L – TPO ONLY – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 26-15 Recommending RideITL Cares, Inc. as the Designated Single Community Transportation Coordinator for Escambia County – *Howard Vaselow, ECRC Staff*

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

Prior to officer elections, outgoing TCC Chair Samatha Abell thanked committee members for the opportunity to serve during the past year. Chair Abell stated that serving as chair had been a rewarding experience and had allowed her to become more engaged in regional transportation planning efforts and local government coordination. She encouraged future officers to take advantage of the opportunity to participate in the TPO process.

Kandase Lee then opened nominations for Fiscal Year 2027 officers and reminded members that TCC officers serve one-year terms in accordance with the committee's bylaws.

Don Christian moved to elect as Andrew Holmer Chair and Max Rogers as Vice Chair to serve for Fiscal Year 2027. Samantha Abell seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

INFORMATION ITEMS - (no presentation necessary)

1. TCC and CAC February 2026 Meeting Minutes
2. Amendment to the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Letter
3. FDOT MPO Joint Certification
4. 2026 FL-AL TPO Meeting Schedule

OTHER BUSINESS - The next Florida – Alabama TPO meeting will be held on **Wednesday, August 12, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.** Advisory committee meetings will be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2026. The TCC will meet at 10:00 a.m. and CAC will meet at 1:30 p.m. All meetings will be held at the **Gulf Breeze Community Center; 800 Shoreline Dr, Gulf Breeze, FL**

ADJOURNMENT