

OKALOOSA – WALTON TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TCC)

MEETING MINUTES

Chautauqua Building, 95 Circle Drive in DeFuniak Springs.

February 19, 2026

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Kristen Shell, Chair	Okaloosa County
Latilda Hughes-Neel – Vice Chair	City of Freeport
Jayce Vanderford	City of Crestview
Kyle Lusk	City of Crestview
Chris Wallace	City of DeFuniak Springs
Jeff Cozadd	City of Destin
Chris Frassetto	City of Niceville
Joseph J. Fulghum	Okaloosa County
Roy Petrey	Okaloosa County
Chance Powell	Walton County
Anna Hudson	Walton County

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Tim Gibson	City of Fort Walton Beach
Scott Davidson	Hurlburt Field
Robert Herbssteith	City of Mary Esther
Van Fuller	Mid-Bay Bridge Authority
Johnathan Laird	City of Niceville
Elliot Kampert	Okaloosa County
Tracy Stage	Okaloosa County Airports
Robert Rogers	Okaloosa County Airports
Bill Smith	Okaloosa County School District
Joel Paul	Tri-County Community Council
Joseph Preston	Walton County
Michelle B. Doggett	Walton County School District

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bryant Paulk	FDOT
Christy Johnson	FDOT
Cassidy Haney	FDEP
Cory Wilkinson	HDR
Ben Faust	DRMP
Josh DeVries	HDR
Anthony Vallee	O-W CAC Member
<u>Virtual Attendance</u>	
Colby Cleveland	FDOT
Gordon King	
Lexi Harris	

Rob Schiffer

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF:

Kandase Lee

Tiffany Bates

Rae Emary

Gary Kramer

Jill Nobles

Tammy Neal

Leandra Meredith

Virtual Attendance

Howard Vanselow

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE

Chair Shell called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – TPO Only

PUBLIC FORUM

FDOT UPDATE

Bryant Paulk with the Florida Department of Transportation provided an update on a resurfacing project along Eglin Parkway from U.S. 98 north to Richburg Avenue. Bryant Paulk explained that the corridor has been a longstanding concern for both the TCC and the TPO Board. The resurfacing project began in mid-January and is expected to last approximately 600 days.

Bryant Paulk noted that the project will address multiple improvements along the corridor, including work on the bridges, which had previously been raised as a concern by Commissioner Ketchel. He stated that FDOT wanted to ensure the committee was aware that construction had begun and that improvements would address a number of operational and safety issues along the corridor.

FDEP UPDATE

Chair Shell noted that an additional update would be provided during the meeting by Cassidy Haynes with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Office of Greenways and Trails.

Cassidy Haynes provided two updates related to regional trail initiatives. She explained that the department recently completed updates to its statewide trail status maps, which now include real-time information on stakeholder engagement, project progress, and identified gaps across Florida's fourteen regional trail systems.

Cassidy Haynes also discussed the development of a U.S. 90 Trail Corridor Alliance, which would connect regional trail segments stretching from Escambia and Santa Rosa counties

eastward to Nassau and Duval counties. She noted that the trail corridor spans approximately 434 miles, though only about six percent of the trail has been completed.

Cassidy Haynes explained that the purpose of the alliance is to bring together stakeholders who are interested in advancing the completion of the corridor. She stated that the group meets monthly via a one-hour virtual meeting and encouraged committee members to participate or share the opportunity with interested partners.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. ALL COMMITTEES: Approval of the November 2025 Meeting Minutes

Latilda Hughes-Neel moved to approve the consent agenda. Joseph J. Fulghum seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. ENCLOSURE A – ALL COMMITTEES – ROLL CALL VOTE - Consideration of Resolution O-W 26-04 Amending the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Preliminary Engineering (PE) Phase for Valley Road from SR 10 (US 90) to Stillwell Boulevard, a Sidewalk Project, for Financial Project Identification (FPID) Number 4573561 in FY 2026/2027 at a Total Cost of \$180,237 - *Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT*

Bryant Paulk presented Resolution O-W 26-04, which proposes amending the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the Preliminary Engineering (PE) phase for a sidewalk project along Valley Road from SR 10 (U.S. 90) to Stillwell Boulevard in Crestview.

Bryant Paulk explained that FDOT was able to include this project during the most recent Work Program development cycle and requested that the TPO amend the TIP to include the phase so design could begin at the start of the next state fiscal year. The project is identified as Financial Project Identification Number 4573561 and carries a total cost of \$180,237

Chris Wallace moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 26-04 amending the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program. The motion was seconded by Roy Petrey, and it was unanimously approved.

2. ENCLOSURE B – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution O-W 26-01 Approving the Okaloosa-Walton TPO 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Goals and Objectives - *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*

Jill Nobles explained that the LRTP is updated every five years and the current effort is transitioning the plan from the 2045 LRTP to the 2050 LRTP. She described the process used to develop the updated goals and objectives, noting that staff reviewed the previous plan, federal and state planning requirements, and regional and local planning documents to ensure consistency with broader transportation priorities.

Jill Nobles highlighted that the LRTP goals are structured around several core themes including safety, multimodal transportation, effective movement of goods and people, quality of life, efficiency, and maintaining a comprehensive and cooperative planning process. She explained that the goals align with federal planning factors and planning emphasis areas as well as state and regional policy guidance.

During discussion, Chair Shell asked whether language referencing consistency with the ECRC Safety Action Plan should also acknowledge local government safety action plans or safe streets initiatives. Jill Nobles responded that language referencing local plans could be added if the committee desired to ensure consistency with local planning documents.

Joseph J. Fulghum moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 26-01 approving the Okaloosa-Walton TPO 2050 LRTP Goals and Objectives with the additional language to A1 to acknowledge local government safety action plans to ensure consistency. The motion was seconded by Latilda Hughes-Neel, and it was unanimously approved.

3. ENCLOSURE C – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution O-W 26-02 Approving the Okaloosa-Walton TPO 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Evaluation Criteria - *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*

Jill Nobles explained that the criteria were updated from the 2045 LRTP evaluation process and were adjusted to align with the updated goals and objectives. She noted that the criteria provide a scoring framework used to evaluate proposed projects based on factors such as safety improvements, multimodal access, mobility, congestion reduction, and system performance.

Jill Nobles stated that each category is weighted to reflect the relative importance of the goal areas and that the scoring system will help staff develop several project prioritization scenarios when preparing the LRTP Cost Feasible Plan. She emphasized that while the evaluation criteria provide a structured method for ranking projects, the final project list will ultimately be determined through committee and board discussion during the LRTP development process.

Latilda Hughes-Neel moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 26-02 approving the Okaloosa-Walton TPO 2050 LRTP Evaluation Criteria. The motion was seconded by Kyle Lusk, and it was unanimously approved.

4. ENCLOSURE D – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution O-W 26-05 Approving the Okaloosa-Walton TPO 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Financial Resources Technical Report - *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*

Jill Nobles presented Resolution O-W 26-05, which proposed approval of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Financial Resources Technical Report. Jill Nobles explained that the report forecasts expected revenues available to support transportation improvements through the planning horizon and is a required component of the LRTP update. She stated that the financial outlook showed a decline in projected funding compared with the prior planning cycle and noted that the current estimate reflected approximately a \$49 million funding difference when looking ahead to 2050 as compared to the prior 2045 outlook.

Jill Nobles remarked that although the numbers were not ideal, the purpose of the report was to present a realistic estimate of anticipated revenues rather than inflate available resources. She advised that the report had been reviewed as part of the LRTP process and would guide development of the financially feasible project list. During discussion, one comment was made expressing a wish that the region could recover the projected \$49 million loss in funding.

Chris Wallace moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 26-05 approving the Okaloosa-Walton TPO 2050 LRTP Financial Resources Technical Report. The motion was seconded by Latilda Hughes-Neel, and it was unanimously approved.

5. ENCLOSURE E – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution O-W 26-03 Adopting the 2026 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Ranked Projects for FDOT District 3 Fiscal Year 2028 – 2032 Tentative Work Program - *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*

Jill Nobles presented Resolution O-W 26-03, which proposed adoption of the 2026 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside ranked projects for submission to FDOT District 3. Jill Nobles explained that the TA Program provides funding opportunities for bicycle and pedestrian improvements, including sidewalks, multi-use paths, and related activities such as environmental mitigation, vegetation management, stormwater improvements, and habitat connectivity. She noted that each jurisdiction within the TPO area was limited to three application submittals and that the TPO received four

applications for consideration.

Jill Nobles reviewed the four submitted projects: the City of Destin Harbor Boulevard/Boardwalk Under the Bridge project, the City of Niceville Palm Boulevard multi-use trail, the Okaloosa County Fourth Avenue sidewalk in Shalimar, and the Walton County Walton Road multi-use path. She explained that staff reviewed each application and applied the scoring criteria consistently, which resulted in revised point totals for several of the submissions. Jill Nobles stated that the recommended top three ranked projects were Niceville first, Walton County second, and the City of Destin third. She noted that Niceville's project ranked especially well in the areas of safety, connectivity, and project support.

Following the vote, Chair Shell noted that Niceville had already partially designed the connecting segment associated with the Palm Boulevard project and commented that it would provide an important connection to the college area.

Jeff Cozadd moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 26-03 adopting the 2026 TA Set-Aside ranked projects for FDOT District 3 Fiscal Year 2028 – 2032 Tentative Work Program with the inclusion that FDOT consider using any available urbanized area funding to supplement Transportation Alternatives funds if available. The motion was seconded by Joseph J. Fulghum, and it was unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION ITEMS

1. ENCLOSURE F – ALL COMMITTEES – Schedule for Development of the Okaloosa-Walton TPO FY 2028-2032 Project Priorities - Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff

Jill Nobles presented the schedule for development of the FY 2028–2032 Project Priorities and explained that this presentation was intended to provide the committee with the schedule only and that the draft priority list would be distributed later, following its end of February completion deadline. She advised committee members to place the upcoming workshop on their calendars and stated that the TPO/TCC/CAC workshop would be held virtually on March 12 at 1:00 p.m.

Jill Nobles explained that the schedule was being provided early so members would have adequate time to review the draft priorities prior to the workshop discussions.

2. ENCLOSURE G- ALL COMMITTEES - Review of the Okaloosa-Walton TPO 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Draft Needs List- Joshua DeVries, AICP, HDR Staff

Joshua DeVries with HDR presented the draft Needs List for the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and explained that the Needs List represents the initial inventory of transportation improvements that may be considered for inclusion in the 2050 LRTP. He stated that the list was developed through coordination with local governments, FDOT, and regional stakeholders, and reflects projects identified through previous planning efforts as well as new needs submitted during the LRTP update process.

Joshua DeVries noted that the Needs List includes a variety of project types, including roadway capacity improvements, operational enhancements, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and multimodal transportation projects. He explained that the Needs List is intentionally comprehensive and includes projects that exceed expected funding levels, allowing the TPO to evaluate alternatives and ultimately develop a financially feasible plan.

Joshua DeVries advised the committee that the next steps in the LRTP process would include evaluating the projects using the adopted scoring criteria and developing several cost feasible scenarios for review by the advisory committees and the TPO Board.

Committee members were encouraged to review the Draft Needs List and provide comments or identify any additional projects that should be considered as the LRTP process moves forward.

3. ENCLOSURE H - ALL COMMITTEES- Review of Okaloosa-Walton TPO Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Trail Master Plan Update – *Joshua DeVries, AICP, HDR Staff*

Joshua DeVries also presented an update on the Okaloosa-Walton TPO Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Trail Master Plan. Joshua DeVries explained that the update builds upon previous regional planning efforts and aims to identify opportunities to improve connectivity for non-motorized transportation throughout Okaloosa and Walton counties.

Joshua DeVries discussed the goals of the plan update, which include improving safety for bicyclists and pedestrians, enhancing connectivity between communities and activity centers, and identifying priority corridors for future trail and sidewalk improvements. He noted that the plan will also help support funding opportunities through programs such as the TA Program and other state and federal grant initiatives.

Joshua DeVries explained that the planning process will involve coordination with

local governments, stakeholders, and the public to identify priority corridors and potential project opportunities. The resulting plan will serve as a guiding document to help the TPO and local governments pursue funding for bicycle, pedestrian, and trail projects throughout the region.

INFORMATION ITEMS (no presentation necessary):

1. TCC and CAC November 2025 Meeting Minutes
2. Amendment to the FY 2026-2030 TIP Letters
3. 2026 O-W TPO Meeting Schedule

OTHER BUSINESS: The next Okaloosa Walton Transportation Planning Organization meeting will be held on **May 21, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.** The CAC will meet at 9:30 a.m. and the TCC will meet at 1:30 p.m. All meetings will be held at the Chautauqua Building, 95 Circle Drive in DeFuniak Springs.