

OKALOOSA – WALTON CITIZENS’ ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)
MEETING MINUTES
Chautauqua Building, 95 Circle Drive in DeFuniak Springs
May 21, 2026

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Amy Jamieson, Chair
Robert J. Rennie, Vice Chair
Yvonne Earle
Yvonne Shanklin
Bill Cox
Mike Pararisi
Anthony Vallee

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Matthew Cox
Steven J. Czonstka
Chance Leavins
Kirby Locklear
Steven Place
Harrison Harsch
Celeste Cobena
Neill O'Connell
Megan Harrison

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christy Johnson	FDOT
Cory Wilkinson	HDR
Carol Kent Smith	Gund Management Group
Mary Beth Washnock	Gund Management Group
Samantha Graves	City of Freeport
Anna Hudson	Walton County
Chance Powell	Walton County

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF:

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

Tammy Neal

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

PUBLIC FORUM

FDOT Update -

Christy Johnson, FDOT, provided updates on current and upcoming transportation projects. Christy Johnson reported that the U.S. 90 resurfacing project from Country Club Road in Walton County to the Holmes County line can be viewed through the Northwest Florida Roads website as a virtual project update. She also discussed the designation of State Road 85 from State Road 123 to U.S. 98 as part of the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS), noting that the addition would close an existing gap in the corridor and improve connectivity.

Committee members discussed the status of resurfacing work along Eglin Parkway, signal synchronization in Crestview, conditions along the new bypass bicycle path, and concerns regarding manhole covers and roadway conditions along U.S. 331 and U.S. 90 in DeFuniak Springs. Staff agreed to follow up on the issues raised.

FDEP UPDATE

Cassidy Haney provided an update on statewide trail planning efforts, including the Regional Trail Corridor maps, Great Northwest Coast Connector, and U.S. 90 Trail Corridor. She also discussed the establishment of a U.S. 90 Trail Corridor Alliance to improve coordination and expand the regional trail network.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. ALL COMMITTEES: Approval of the February 2026 Meeting Minutes

Anthony Vallee moved to approve the February 2026 meeting minutes. Robert Rennie seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

2. ALL COMMITTEES: Consideration of Resolution O-W 26-09 Adopting the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 – FY 2028 Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Anthony Vallee moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 26-09 adopting the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 – FY 2028 Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Robert Rennie seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

3. ALL COMMITTEES: Consideration of Resolution O-W 26-15 Supporting the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Receipt of Section 5310 Funding to Continue Transit Services

Mike Pararisi moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 26-09 adopting the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 – FY 2028 Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Robert Rennie seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. ENCLOSURE A – ALL COMMITTEES – ROLL CALL VOTE - Consideration of Resolution O-W 26-10 Amending the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Preliminary Engineering (PE) Phase for I-10 from 1.85 Miles West of the SR 81 Interchange to the Holmes County Line – the Walton County I-10 Median Barrier Project Phase II for Financial Project Identification (FPID) Number 457026-2 in FY 2025/2026 at a Total Cost of \$306,020 - *Christy Johnson, FDOT***

Chair Shell noted that Resolutions O-W 26-10 through O-W 26-14 were all TIP amendments presented by FDOT. By consensus of the committee, the five TIP amendment resolutions would be considered together and voted on as a single action item.

Christy Johnson presented Resolution O-W 26-10 and explained that the amendment would add construction funding for the North Walton County Multi-Use Trail project. The project will provide enhanced bicycle and pedestrian connectivity within the area and support implementation of regional trail network goals. Committee members discussed the continued importance of expanding multimodal transportation opportunities throughout Walton County and recognized the project's contribution to improving pedestrian and bicycle safety.

- 2. ENCLOSURE B – ALL COMMITTEES – ROLL CALL VOTE - Consideration of Resolution O-W 26-11 Amending the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Preliminary Engineering (PE) Phase for SR 30 (US 98) from Doodles Forest Road to the Forestry Station, a Capacity Project, for Financial Project Identification (FPID) Number 4371798 in FY 2026/2027 at a Total Cost of \$5,280,000 - *Christy Johnson, FDOT***

Christy Johnson presented Resolution O-W 26-11. She advised that the amendment would add construction funding for a shared use path along John Sims Parkway. The

project will enhance connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists while supporting multimodal transportation options within the Niceville area.

- 3. ENCLOSURE C – ALL COMMITTEES – ROLL CALL VOTE – Consideration of Resolution O-W 26-12 Amending the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Preliminary Engineering (PE) Phase for SR 30 (US 98) from Forestry Station to West of Phillips Inlet, a Bridge Capacity Project, for Financial Project Identification (FPID) Number 4371799 in FY 2026/2027 at a Total Cost of \$4,800,000 - Christy Johnson, FDOT**

Christy Johnson presented Resolution O-W 26-12 and explained that the amendment would add funding for Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSM&O) improvements intended to enhance traffic operations, improve system efficiency, and support congestion management throughout the region.

- 4. ENCLOSURE D – ALL COMMITTEES – ROLL CALL VOTE – Consideration of Resolution O-W 26-13 Amending the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Right-of- Phase for S.R. 85 from S.R. 123 to S.R. 210 (McWhorter Avenue), a Capacity Project, for Financial Project Identification (FPID) Number 2201714 in FY 2025/2026 at a Total Cost of \$50,000- Christy Johnson, FDOT**

Christy Johnson presented Resolution O-W 26-13. She reviewed proposed safety improvements and explained that the amendment would provide funding for intersection improvements intended to reduce crash potential and improve traffic operations.

- 5. ENCLOSURE E – ALL COMMITTEES – ROLL CALL VOTE – Consideration of Resolution O-W 26-14 Amending the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program to add the Right-of-Way Phase for SR 85 from SR 210 (McWhorter Avenue) to South of Live Oak Church Road, a Capacity Project, for Financial Project Identification (FPID) Number 2201715 in FY 2026/2027 at a Total Cost of \$800,300 - Christy Johnson, FDOT**

Christy Johnson presented Resolution O-W 26-14. She reviewed the proposed amendment and explained that the action would add additional funding and programming adjustments necessary to advance transportation projects within the Okaloosa-Walton TPO planning area.

Anthony Vallee moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 26-10, Resolution O-W 26-11, Resolution O-W 26-12, Resolution O-W 26-13, and Resolution O-W 26-14 amending the FY 2026-2030 TIP. Yvonne Shanklin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

6. ENCLOSURE F – ALL COMMITTEES – ROLL CALL VOTE - Consideration of Resolution O-W 26-06 Adopting the Okaloosa-Walton TPO FY 2027-2031 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – *Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff*

Gary Kramer presented the FY 2027–2031 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which identifies transportation projects programmed for funding over the next five years. He noted that the TIP was developed using the adopted Project Priorities and FDOT's Tentative Work Program.

Mike Pararisi moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 26-06 adopting the FY 2027–2031 Transportation Improvement Program. Anthony Vallee seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

7. ENCLOSURE G – ALL COMMITTEES – ROLL CALL VOTE- Consideration of Resolution O-W 26-07 Adopting the Okaloosa-Walton TPO FY 2028 – FY 2032 Project Priorities – *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*

Gary Kramer presented the FY 2028–2032 Project Priorities and reviewed the recommended rankings. Rae Emary summarized public outreach efforts, noting that congestion, safety, emergency evacuation, and east-west mobility were among the primary concerns identified. Gary Kramer also reviewed recommended changes based on public comments and local government coordination.

Committee members discussed several project rankings, including the Around-the-Mound project, the Forest Connector Road, U.S. 98 improvements, and military-related transportation needs associated with Hurlburt Field and Eglin Air Force Base.

Yvonne Earle moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 26-07 adopting the FY 2028–2032 Project Priorities. Robert Rennie seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

8. ENCLOSURE H – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution O-W 26-08 Adopting the Okaloosa-Walton TPO 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan System Performance Report – *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*

Josh DeVries presented the 2025 System Performance Report and reviewed key measures related to safety, infrastructure condition, congestion, freight movement, and system reliability. Committee members discussed crash statistics, fatality trends, safety analysis, and available crash data resources.

Bill Cox moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign

Resolution O-W 26-08 adopting the 2025 System Performance Report. Anthony Vallee seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

- 9. ENCLOSURE I – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution O-W 26-16 Authorizing the TPO Chair to Sign a Letter of Support for State Road (S.R.) 85 from S.R. 123 to U.S. 98 Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Designation Change Request- *Christy Johnson, FDOT***

Kandase Lee presented Resolution O-W 26-16 and explained that the resolution would provide formal support for designation of State Road 85 as part of Florida's SIS. She noted that SR 85 serves as a critical transportation corridor supporting military installations, regional economic activity, freight movement, and emergency evacuation operations.

Yvonne Earle moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 26-16 supporting SIS designation of State Road 85. Anthony Vallee seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

- 10. ENCLOSURE J – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution O-W 26-17 Amending the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 – FY 2026 Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to De-obligate PL and CM Funds – *Kandase Lee, ECRC CEO***

Kandase Lee presented Resolution O-W 26-17, a routine amendment to close out the current Unified Planning Work Program and reprogram funds for future planning activities while maintaining federal funding compliance.

Mike Pararisi moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 26-17. Robert Rennie seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

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

Yvonne Earle moved to elect Amy Jamieson as Chair of the O-W CAC for Fiscal Year 2027 and Robert Rennie as vice chair. Bill Cox seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION ITEMS

- 1. ENCLOSURE L – ALL COMMITTEES – Review of the Okaloosa-Walton TPO 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan Congestion Management Process Plan (CMPP) - *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff***

Josh DeVries presented an overview of the CMPP being developed as part of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan update. He reviewed existing transportation conditions and identified approximately 91.8 miles of the network operating below adopted level of service standards.

2. ENCLOSURE M- ALL COMMITTEES - Review of the Okaloosa-Walton TPO 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Draft Needs List - *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*

Joshua DeVries presented the draft Needs List for the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan, which includes roadway, multimodal, transit, freight, safety, and operational improvements. He noted that the list will serve as the foundation for developing the Cost Feasible Plan.

3. ENCLOSURE N - ALL COMMITTEES - Review of Existing Conditions and Proposed Networks for the Okaloosa-Walton TPO Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Trail Master Plan Update – *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*

Joshua DeVries presented an update on the Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Trail Master Plan. The presentation included a review of existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities, identified network gaps, and proposed improvements intended to enhance connectivity throughout the region.

Joshua DeVries explained that the update focuses on creating a more connected and accessible transportation network for pedestrians and bicyclists while supporting safety, recreation, tourism, and alternative transportation opportunities. Proposed improvements include shared-use paths, sidewalks, bicycle facilities, trail connections, and other multimodal enhancements.

INFORMATION ITEMS (no presentation necessary):

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

Committee members discussed concerns regarding the increasing use of electric bicycles, scooters, and other motorized devices on shared-use paths and trails. Discussion included potential legislation, local regulatory authority, enforcement challenges, and safety concerns involving underage riders. Staff reported that several local governments and state agencies are actively evaluating policy options and monitoring legislative developments related to electric mobility devices.

Chair Jamieson also commended staff for their successful public outreach efforts and

workshops associated with the Long Range Transportation Plan update.

The next Okaloosa Walton Transportation Planning Organization meeting will be held on August 20, 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 Niceville Community Center, 204 Partin Dr N, Niceville, FL

ADJOURNMENT: *There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.*