

**OKALOOSA – WALTON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (TPO)**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Chautauqua Building, 95 Circle Drive in DeFuniak Springs.**

**May 21, 2026**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

|                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Todd Bierbaum, Vice Chair | DeFuniak Springs           |
| J.B. Whitten              | Crestview                  |
| Doug Capps                | Crestview                  |
| Shannon Hayes             | Crestview                  |
| Sandy Trammell            | Destin                     |
| David Schmidt             | Fort Walton Beach          |
| Tracey Dickey             | Freeport                   |
| April Sutton              | Mary Esther                |
| Doug Tolbert              | Niceville                  |
| Drew Palmer               | Okaloosa County Commission |
| Danny Glidewell           | Walton County Commission   |
| <i>Virtual Attendance</i> |                            |
| Carolyn Ketchel           | Okaloosa County Commission |
| Tom Browning              | Valparaiso                 |

**MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:**

|                     |                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Bobby Wagner, Chair | Destin                     |
| Bryce Jeter         | Fort Walton Beach          |
| James T. Wood       | MidBay Bridge Authority    |
| Sherri Cox          | Okaloosa County Commission |
| Paul Mixon          | Okaloosa County Commission |
| Donna Johns         | Walton County Commission   |
| Tony Anderson       | Walton County Commission   |

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

|                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Bryant Paulk        | FDOT                      |
| Christy Johnson     | FDOT                      |
| Bonnie Barlow       | Fort Walton Beach Chamber |
| Scott Davidson      | Hurlburt Field            |
| Cory Wilkinson      | HDR                       |
| Josh DeVries        | HDR                       |
| Jeff Cozad          | City of Destin            |
| Kristin Shell       | Okaloosa County           |
| Ben Faust           | DRMP                      |
| Ted Corcoran        | Fort Walton Beach Chamber |
| Alex Blanco-Castano | Eglin Airforce Base       |
| James Hoff          | Eglin Airforce Base       |
| Anthony Vallee      | O-W CAC Member            |

**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**

Vice Chair Bierbaum called the meeting to order and chaired the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Tiffany Bates indicated staff was requesting a TIP amendment be added to the agenda. It would be presented after Enclosure E

**Commissioner Glidewell moved to approve the agenda as amended. Council Member Hayes seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

**Ted Corcoran – Around the Mound Project**

Ted Corcoran addressed the Board in support of the Around-the-Mound project and emphasized its importance to mobility and economic development in Fort Walton Beach. He noted local support for Alternative 1A, the at-grade alternative, and encouraged the Board and FDOT to continue advancing the project.

**Bob Brook – Forest Connector Road**

Bob Brook addressed the Board in support of the proposed Forest Connector Road, citing increasing congestion, limited east-west connectivity, and emergency response concerns in South Walton County. He encouraged the Board to continue supporting the project and pursue funding opportunities.

**Paul Van Risseghem – Regional Transit Service**

Paul Van Risseghem discussed regional public transportation needs and expressed concern about the lack of transit connections to Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport. He encouraged consideration of a regional transportation authority to improve transit coordination and support future growth.

**Hurlburt Field Speaker - Colonel Clayton W. Schuety, Deputy Commander of the 1st Special Operations Wing (1 SOW) at Hurlburt Field**

Colonel Clayton Schuety addressed the Board regarding transportation challenges affecting

Hurlburt Field, particularly congestion along U.S. 98. He emphasized the importance of reliable transportation access to military readiness and thanked the Board, FDOT, and ECRC for supporting projects that improve access to the installation. He also noted Hurlburt Field's continued partnership in regional transportation and emergency planning efforts.

**FDOT Update** - *Bryant Paulk, AICP, or Christy Johnson, AICP*, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Urban Liaisons

Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT, provided an update on current and upcoming transportation projects within the Okaloosa-Walton TPO area. He reported that FDOT is preparing to begin a resurfacing project along U.S. 90 from State Road 331 north to the Holmes County line. He explained that the project will include resurfacing improvements and other associated maintenance activities intended to preserve the corridor and improve roadway conditions. FDOT will host a virtual public meeting on July 22, 2026, to provide additional information regarding the project and receive public input.

During discussion, Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel asked about the status of the Eglin Parkway resurfacing project and expressed concerns regarding pavement conditions and construction activities. Bryant Paulk explained that the contractor is currently completing preliminary work, and that more visible construction activities are expected to occur as the project advances. He noted that the project includes both roadway resurfacing and bridge deck improvements and is being implemented under a long-term construction schedule.

Board members discussed the importance of minimizing impacts to motorists and maintaining communication with the public regarding construction schedules and anticipated traffic disruptions.

#### **FDEP UPDATE**

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

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

**Commissioner Glidewell moved to approve the consent agenda. Mayor Whitten 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 - *Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT***

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

Bryant Paulk presented Resolution O-W 26-10. He 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.

Board 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 - *Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT***

Bryant Paulk presented Resolution O-W 26-11. He 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 - *Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT***

Bryant Paulk 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- *Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT***

Bryant Paulk presented Resolution O-W 26-13. He 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 - *Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT***

Bryant Paulk presented Resolution O-W 26-14 and 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.

**ADD ON ITEM: – ROLL CALL VOTE – Consideration of Resolution O-W 26-18 Amending the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program to add the RRU (Railroad and Utilities) Phase for South 25th Street Railroad Safety Project for Financial Project Identification (FPID) number 458263-1 in FY 2025/2026 for a total cost of \$108,633.**

Bryant Paulk presented Resolution O-W 26-18 and advised the Board that a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment page had been provided at each member's seat. Bryant Paulk explained that the amendment consists of a rail safety improvement project located at the South 25th Street railroad crossing in DeFuniak Springs. The project includes standard railroad crossing signal upgrades and related safety improvements and is included as part of FDOT's annual rail safety program.

**Commissioner Glidewell moved to 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, Resolution O-W 26-14, and Resolution O-W 26-18 amending the FY 2026-2030 TIP. Council Member Sutton seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call Vote**

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Todd Bierbaum      | Yes |
| J.B. Whitten       | Yes |
| Doug Capps         | Yes |
| Shannon Hayes      | Yes |
| Sandy Trammell     | Yes |
| David Schmidt      | Yes |
| Tracey Dickey      | Yes |
| April Sutton       | Yes |
| Doug Tolbert       | Yes |
| Drew Palmer        | Yes |
| Danny Glidewell    | Yes |
| Virtual Attendance | Yes |
| Carolyn Ketchel    | Yes |
| Tom Browning       | Yes |

**The motion 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 TIP, which identifies transportation projects programmed for funding over the next five years. He noted that the draft TIP was available for public review and was recommended for approval by the TCC and CAC. Vice Chair Bierbaum opened and closed the public hearing with no public comments received.

**Council Member Hayes moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 26-06 adopting the FY 2027–2031 Transportation Improvement Program. Council Member Sutton seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call Vote**

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Todd Bierbaum  | Yes |
| J.B. Whitten   | Yes |
| Doug Capps     | Yes |
| Shannon Hayes  | Yes |
| Sandy Trammell | Yes |
| David Schmidt  | Yes |
| Tracey Dickey  | Yes |

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| April Sutton       | Yes |
| Doug Tolbert       | Yes |
| Drew Palmer        | Yes |
| Danny Glidewell    | Yes |
| Virtual Attendance | Yes |
| Carolyn Ketchel    | Yes |
| Tom Browning       | Yes |

**The motion 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 prioritization process and recommended rankings. Rae Emary summarized public outreach efforts and noted that congestion, safety, emergency evacuation, and east-west mobility were among the primary concerns identified. Board members discussed several project rankings and emphasized balancing congestion relief, safety, economic development, and project readiness when establishing priorities.

**Mayor Whitten moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 26-07 adopting the FY 2028–2032 Project Priorities. Council Member Sutton seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call Vote**

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Todd Bierbaum      | Yes |
| J.B. Whitten       | Yes |
| Doug Capps         | Yes |
| Shannon Hayes      | Yes |
| Sandy Trammell     | Yes |
| David Schmidt      | Yes |
| Tracey Dickey      | Yes |
| April Sutton       | Yes |
| Doug Tolbert       | Yes |
| Drew Palmer        | Yes |
| Danny Glidewell    | Yes |
| Virtual Attendance | Yes |
| Carolyn Ketchel    | Yes |
| Tom Browning       | Yes |

**The motion 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. He explained how TPO transportation investments support federal performance targets and noted areas of continued progress and future improvement.

**Council Member Sutton moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 26-08 adopting the 2025 System Performance Report. Council Member Trammel 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- *Bryant Paulk, AICP,FDOT***

Kandase Lee presented Resolution O-W 26-16 supporting the designation of State Road 85 as part of Florida's SIS. Board members discussed the corridor's importance to military installations, regional connectivity, and future funding opportunities.

**Council Member Hayes moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 26-16 supporting SIS designation of State Road 85. Council Member Tolbert 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 and explained that the amendment is a routine administrative action to close out the current Unified Planning Work Program while maintaining compliance with federal funding requirements.

**Commissioner Glidewell moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 26-17. Council Member Trammell 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***

Kandase Lee reviewed the officer election procedures contained within the Okaloosa-Walton TPO Bylaws. Chair Todd Bierbaum opened nominations for Chair.

Commissioner Danny Glidewell nominated Todd Bierbaum to serve as Chair for Fiscal Year 2027. Hearing no additional nominations, Vice Chair Bierbaum closed nominations.

**Commissioner Glidewell moved to elect Todd Bierbaum as Chair of the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization for Fiscal Year 2027. Council Member Schmidt seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

Chair-elect Bierbaum then opened nominations for Vice Chair. Council Member Trammell nominated April Sutton to serve as Vice Chair for Fiscal Year 2027. Hearing no additional nominations, nominations were closed.

**Council Member Trammell moved to elect April Sutton as Vice Chair of the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization for Fiscal Year 2027. Commissioner Glidewell 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***

Jill Nobles presented an overview of the CMPP being developed as part of the 2050 LRTP update. Joshua DeVries reviewed existing system conditions and identified corridors experiencing congestion. Board members discussed congestion related to population growth, tourism, military activity, and seasonal travel demand, as well as potential roadway, operational, and multimodal improvements.

- 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, bicycle and pedestrian, transit, freight, safety, and operational improvements. He explained that the list will guide development of the Cost Feasible Plan. Board members discussed several projects and emphasized regional mobility, economic development, military readiness, and quality of life.

- 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,

reviewing existing facilities, network gaps, and proposed multimodal improvements. Board members discussed improving connectivity and safety for pedestrians and bicyclists and expanding transportation options throughout the region.

**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:** 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.*