



OKALOOSA TRANSIT COOPERATIVE



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Carolyn Ketchel
Chair

Jean Hood
Vice-Chair

AGENDA

Thursday, January 15, 2026 @ 10:00 a.m. CST
Okaloosa County Board Chamber
1250 N. Eglin Parkway, Shalimar, FL 32579

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chair

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Attached November 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

For those wishing to speak, please fill out a speaker request form and indicate the agenda item(s) you would like to address. You will be called by the chairman at the appropriate time. If you would like to address an item not on the agenda, there will be an opportunity at the end of the meeting (Item VIII Public Forum) to speak.

V. ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Enclosure A – By-Laws Review and updates – Howard Vanselow, Emerald Coast Regional Council**
- 2. Enclosure B – Election of Vice-Chair – Howard Vanselow, Emerald Coast Regional Council**

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 1. EC Rider Updates – Tyrone Parker, Okaloosa County**
 - Request for Proposals for Public Transportation Services
 - Comprehensive Operations Analysis
 - Other updates



Okaloosa Transit Cooperative
Staffed by the Emerald Coast Regional Council

Okaloosa Transit Cooperative Meeting Agenda Continued

2. MV Transportation Updates – *John Bohannon, MV Transportation*

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

The next Okaloosa Transit Cooperative meetings are scheduled for:

- ***Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.***
- ***Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.***

in the Okaloosa County Board Chambers – 1250 N. Eglin Parkway, Shalimar, Florida.

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

1. Public – For those wishing to speak, please fill out a speaker request form.
2. Any additional items for discussion – Co-Op, Okaloosa County Staff, MV Transportation, ECRC Staff

IX. ADJOURNMENT

EC Rider website: ecrider.org

Okaloosa Transit Cooperative information can be found on the ECRC website at:

<http://www.ecrc.org/programs/okaloosa-transit-cooperative>

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations to access meeting, and for limited English proficiency, are available upon request. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services should contact [Public Involvement](#) toll-free at 800-226-8914 or TTY 711, at least 48 hours in advance. Parainformacion en espanol, puede llamar a Ada Clark al 850-332-7976, ext. 278 o TTY 711. Sinecesita acomodaciones especiales, por favor llame 48 horas de antemano.

Participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons who believe they have been discriminated against on these conditions may file a complaint with the [Title VI Coordinator](#), 850-332-7976, ext. 220.

CONSENT AGENDA

OKALOOSA TRANSIT COOPERATIVE *DRAFT MEETING MINUTES*

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL (Designated staff)

Okaloosa County Board *Chamber*

1250 N. Eglin Parkway, Shalimar, FL 32579

November 13, 2025

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jean Hood, Vice-Chair	Mayor, Cinco Bayou Mayor
Ryan Bullard	Councilmember, City of Crestview
Doug Stauffer	Councilmember, City of Niceville
Payne Walker	Councilmember, City of Fort Walton Beach

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Cayolyn Ketchel, Chair	Commissioner, Okaloosa County
Bobby Wagner	Mayor, City of Destin

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Paul VanRisseghem	
Tyrone Parker	Okaloosa County
Sheila Fitzgerald	Okaloosa County
John Bohannon	MV Transportation
Howard Vanselow	ECRC staff

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Hood called the meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice-Chair Hood moved for approval of agenda.

Councilmember Bullard moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Stauffer seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the September 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Stauffer moved to approve the meeting minutes. Councilmember Bullard seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ACTION ITEMS

1. 2026 Cooperative Meeting Schedule – Howard Vanselow, ECRC

Cooperative meeting dates were discussed.

Approved unanimously by consent.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. EC Rider update – Mr. Tyrone Parker, Okaloosa County

- November 18, 2025, Board of County Commissioners meeting will have 3 grant items on the agenda for approval.
- Recently went through procurement process for our Operator Contract. Review committee recommended MV. We are in the contract negotiation stage for service, and we will hopefully bring this before the BOCC in December for final approval.
- Councilmember Walker asked about the IG audit findings, who is managing the contract to ensure compliance. How often is it reviewed? Trying to do a failure analysis for responsibility.
- Mr. Parker responded that as the Transit Manager he is responsible along with other county staff. They review daily, weekly, and monthly.
- Additional discussion continued
- Mr. Parker said that the findings helped with the new RFP for a contract operator to help eliminate future issues.
- Councilmember Walker suggested a checklist for compliance, asked about the current RFP scoring.
- Councilmember Bullard asked if the RFP committee scoring could be shared with the Board.
- Mr. Parker said he would provide the RFP committee scoring with the Board.
- Mr. Parker said they have received a service development grant for additional service in Crestview. Looking to start in the spring or summer of 2026. Service development is for 3 years, hopefully in that time frame the additional service will show ridership and sustainability.
- Councilmember Bullard suggested working with the Community Development Director and Crestview staff.

- Vice-Chair Hooded added that Crestview has been asking for additional service for years and to continue to work with them to coordinate services.

2. MV Transportation Updates – Mr. John Bohannon

- Staffing MV has 51 drivers for fix and paratransit services.
- Have hire 13 drivers since September and lost 1.
- 61% turnover, on track to do better that previous year.
- January 1, 2026 there will be a slight pay increase for drivers.
- Fixed route year-to-date on-time percentage is 90.2
- Preventable accident safety goal is .76 and we are at .70
- Always focusing on safety
- Councilmember Bullard asked about drug and alcohol screening.
- Mr. Bohannon stated they are doing the screening with random pool and are keeping records electronically and hard copies.
- Councilmember Walker asked about the \$850,000 contract discrepancy and compliance.
- Mr. Bohannon stated that it was before his time as manager, but he has read the entire contract and focuses on day-to-day management.
- Councilmember Walker added contract dictates the service and conformity. How is the \$850,000 going to be addressed?
- Ms. Fitzgerald there is lots of context to this issue but in 2019 service was provided by the revenue hour and to start the routes with deadhead miles and then switched to gate to gate without a contract amendment. Best intentions for the service.
- Vice-Chair Hood added Okaloosa County has a unique landscape from north to south, I have complete faith in the integrity of the staff and the system. Additional questions and clarifications can be addressed to staff after the meeting.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

- January 15, 2026 @ 10:00 am

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Paul VanRisseghem

- Has been a citizen of Okaloosa County for over 7 years
- Frustrated with the public bus service to the airport. Limited private service available and rental vehicles. High cost of the private services.

- Service is needed to the airport more now than ever, especially with a JetBlue starting service.
- Hoping for pilot bus service to the airport to start as soon as possible. Not all private services are ADA compliant.
- Also added City of Destin issues with parking, maybe a park and ride or hop on hop off trolley service can be added.
- Vice-Chair Hood thanked Mr. VanRisseghem for his continued concern and comments.

IX. Additional Comments

X. Adjournment

Seeing no other business, Vice-Chair Hood adjourned the meeting.

Approved by Okaloosa Transit Cooperative

DATE: _____

SIGNED: _____

ENCLOSURE A

OKALOOSA TRANSIT COOPERATIVE

ADOPTED: April 28, 2016

AMENDED: March 28, 2024

AMENDED: January 16, 2025

OKALOOSA TRANSIT COOPERATIVE BYLAWS, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES

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1.01 PREAMBLE

The Okaloosa County Public Transit Cooperative (Co-op) is created in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Okaloosa County (County) and participating jurisdictions, which are currently Fort Walton Beach, Cinco Bayou, Crestview, Destin, and Niceville.

The Okaloosa County Public Transit Cooperative Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was established in accordance to Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, Intergovernmental Programs, Part I, Miscellaneous Programs, Section 163.01, The Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act of 1969, which provides that public agencies of the State of Florida may exercise jointly with any other public agency of the State of Florida any power, privilege, or authority which such agencies share in common, and which each might exercise separately, and that a joint exercise of power by such agencies may be made by contract in the form of an interlocal agreement.

1.02 PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS

The purpose of the Co-op is for the County and participating municipalities to cooperate, pursuant to the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), to provide for the coordination of fixed route transit service and to formulate and implement consistent plans, programs, policies and procedures in the operation, maintenance and development of transit service throughout the legal service areas of the participating entities.

The Co-op will review the operation of the public transit systems and, as it may deem appropriate, recommend changes to the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) regarding routes, stops, or other components of the fixed route system.

1.03 MEMBERSHIP

- (1) The Voting Membership of the Co-op is appointed by the participating governmental entities from eligible elected officials.
- (2) The Co-op Voting Member's term of office shall be held for the duration of their elected office. The membership of a member who is a public official automatically terminates upon said official leaving the elective or appointive office for any reason, or may be terminated by a majority vote of the total membership of the governmental entity represented by the member. A vacancy shall be filled by the original appointing entity.
- (3) The original appointing body shall appoint members to fill Co-op membership vacancies.
- (4) Non-Voting Advisory Members may be appointed by the Co-op as deemed necessary.
- (5) Non-Voting Advisory Members shall sit with the same rights and privileges as Co-op Voting Members, except that Non-Voting Members shall not have the right to present resolutions, motions, or second same, or to vote upon any motions or resolutions of the Co-op.

1.04 OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

- (1) The officers of the Co-op shall be the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. The Okaloosa County Commissioner appointed to serve on the Co-op shall be a voting member and serve as the Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson shall be a voting member and elected by the Co-op voting membership.
- (2) The Chairperson shall preside at Co-op meetings and be responsible for the preparation of agendas and minutes (with staff assistance).
- (3) In the absence or incapacity of the Co-op Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall assume the duties of the Chairperson.
- (4) Election of Co-op officers shall be part of the regular Co-op meeting in January (or in the event there is not a meeting in January, the election shall take place at the next Co-op meeting). Newly elected officers shall assume their duties at the next meeting following the election. They shall hold office for one year, or until their successors are elected, and they shall be eligible for re-election.
- (5) Election of officers shall be by a majority vote of the Co-op Voting Members present.
- (6) In the event that the Vice-Chairperson position becomes vacant, a replacement shall be elected at the next scheduled Co-op meeting.

1.05 REGULAR MEETINGS

- (1) Regular meetings of the Co-op shall be held as needed, at a time and place designated by the Co-op Chairperson, normally scheduled every other month.
- (2) In the event that the Co-op Chairperson wishes to cancel or change the meeting time of a regular Co-op meeting, advance notice of such cancellation or change shall be made as soon as practicable, preferably at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to when such meeting was to have taken place.
- (3) At least three (3) days prior to a regular Co-op meeting, public notice, and tentative agendas shall be sent to the members of the Co-op and local media services.

1.06 SPECIAL MEETINGS

- (1) A special meeting of the Co-op may be called by the Co-op Chairperson or a majority of the Voting Members at a regular Co-op meeting. Each member of the Co-op shall receive a notification of such special meeting stating the date, hour, and place of the meeting and the purpose for which such meeting is called, and no other business shall be transacted at that meeting.
- (2) In the event that the Co-op Chairperson wishes to cancel or change the meeting time of a special Co-op meeting, advance notice of such cancellation or change shall be made as soon as practicable, preferably at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to when such meeting was to have taken place.
- (3) At least three (3) days prior to a special Co-op meeting, public notice, and tentative agendas shall be sent to the members of the Co-op and local media services stating the date, hour, and place of the

special meeting including a statement of the general subject matter to be considered.

1.07 EMERGENCY MEETINGS

- (1) The Co-op Chairperson may call an emergency meeting of the Co-op when in his or her opinion an emergency exists which requires immediate action by the Co-op. When such meeting is called, each Co-op member shall be notified, stating the date, hour, and place of the meeting and the purpose for which it is called, and no other business shall be transacted at that meeting. At least a twenty-four (24) hour advance public notice of such emergency meeting shall be given to local media services before the time the meeting is held.
- (2) If after reasonable diligence, it becomes impossible to give notice to each Co-op member, such failure shall not affect the legality of the emergency meeting if a quorum is present. The minutes of each emergency meeting shall show the manner and method by which notice of such meeting was given to each member of the Co-op, or shall show a waiver of notice.

1.08 PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

- (1) A workshop may be called by the Co-op and may be scheduled before, during or after a regular meeting at the same meeting place or may be scheduled at another time and place.
- (2) Public notice shall be given to local media services and each Co-op member stating the date, hour, and place of a public hearing or workshop including a statement of the general subject matter to be considered as much advance notice as possible prior to the event.
- (3) No formal business, for which notice has not been given, shall be transacted at a workshop.

1.09 MEETING AGENDA

- (1) There shall be an official agenda for every meeting of the Co-op, which shall determine the order of business conducted at the meeting.
- (2) Request for agenda items should be received by Cooperative staff 10 days prior to the scheduled meeting.
- (3) The Co-op shall not take action upon any matter, proposal or item of business not listed on the official agenda; however, following call to order, the Co-op Chairperson may authorize addition of new business to the agenda with the approval of two thirds (2/3) of the Voting Members present.

1.10 OFFICIAL ACTIONS

- (1) All official actions of the Co-op shall be by adoption of resolutions or motions.
- (2) All official actions of the Co-op shall be recorded and kept in the Co-op's permanent files along with the meeting minutes. Verbatim minutes are not required but minutes shall include an accurate summary of discussions and actions taken.

1.11 CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

- (1) All Co-op meetings shall be consistent with the Florida Sunshine Law and open to the public and press.
- (2) Roberts Rules of Order shall be followed at all Co-op meetings.
- (3) Three Voting Members must be present to constitute a quorum. No official action shall be taken without a quorum. No resolution or motion shall be adopted by the Co-op except upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present.
- (4) The Co-op Chairperson may adjourn the meeting if he or she determines that no quorum is in attendance fifteen (15) minutes after the hour appointed for the meeting. In that event, those members present may, by unanimous agreement, select another hour or day to meet. Those members present may also, by unanimous agreement, select to continue the meeting as a workshop to discuss items on the agenda as per paragraph 1.08. The names of the members present and their action at such meeting shall be recorded in summary minutes.
- (5) All meetings of the Co-op shall be conducted in accordance with the following:
 - (a) The Chairperson shall preside at all Co-op meetings at which he or she is present;
 - (b) The Chairperson shall take the chair at the hour appointed for the meeting, and shall call the Co-op meeting to order immediately;
 - (c) In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside;
 - (d) The Chairperson shall state every question coming before the Co-op and announce the decision of the Co-op on all matters;
 - (e) A majority vote of the members present shall govern and conclusively determine all questions of order not otherwise covered;
 - (f) In the absence of the Co-op Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, the Co-op staff representative shall determine whether a quorum is present and in that event shall call for election of a temporary Chairperson. Upon the arrival of the Chairperson, or Vice-Chairperson, the temporary Chairperson shall relinquish the Chair upon conclusion of the business immediately before the Co-op;
 - (g) Any Co-op member who intends to be absent from any Co-op meeting shall notify the Co-op staff of the intended absence as soon as he or she conveniently can;
 - (h) When a conflict of interest exists, it shall be declared by the member(s) with a conflict upon opening of discussion of a matter by the Co-op. Any member of the Co-op who has a conflict of interest on a matter is required to fill out the necessary Conflict of Interest Form that will be attached to the minutes for the meeting and shall be deemed absent for the purpose of constituting a quorum, voting or for any other purpose for that particular matter only;

- (i) No member may abstain from voting on any matter unless a conflict of interest is declared.
- (j) The Co-op vote upon any resolution or motion may be by a voice vote, unless the Chairperson or any member requests that a show of hands or a roll call vote be taken;
- (k) Upon every Co-op roll call vote the Co-op staff representative shall call the roll, tabulate the votes, and announce the results;
- (l) The minutes of prior Co-op meetings shall be approved by a majority of the members present and upon approval shall become the official minutes;
- (m) Unless a reading of the minutes of a Co-op meeting is requested by a majority of the Co-op, the minutes shall not be read for approval provided the Co-op staff delivers a copy thereof to each Co-op member at least two (2) full working days prior to the meeting;
- (n) Each person, other than Co-op staff members, who addresses the Co-op shall give the following information for the minutes:
 - (1) name;
 - (2) address;
 - (3) representing;
 - (4) whether or not he or she is being compensated by the person or persons for whom he or she speaks; and
 - (5) whether he or she or any member of his or her immediate family has a personal financial interest in the pending matter, other than that set forth in (4) above;
- (o) Unless further time is granted by the Co-op, each person shall limit his or her address to three (3) minutes; and
- (p) All remarks shall be addressed to the Co-op as a body and not to any member thereof. No person, other than Co-op members, and the persons having the floor, shall be permitted to enter into any discussion, either directly or through a member, without permission of the Chairperson. No question shall be asked a governing board member except through the Chairperson.

1.12 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- (1) Citizens' participation in the Co-op meetings are strongly encouraged and any citizen shall be entitled to be placed on the official agenda of a regular meeting of the Co-op and be heard concerning any matter within the scope of the jurisdiction of the Co-op.
- (2) The regular Co-op meeting agenda shall include a "Public Forum" agenda item to provide an opportunity for citizens to address the Co-op at each Co-op meeting. In addition, the Chairperson may recognize citizens to speak on agenda items immediately following discussion by the Co-op and prior to a vote on the matter by the Co-op.

1.13 ADMINISTRATION

- (1) The Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) public transportation staff shall serve as the staff of the Co-op for the duration stated in the Staff Services Agreement between Okaloosa County and the ECRC.
- (2) The ECRC public transportation staff is responsible for producing all notices and agendas for the Co-op meetings and recording the minutes of all meetings.
- (3) The ECRC staff shall furnish a recording secretary for all Co-op meetings.
- (4) The ECRC staff shall prepare, duplicate, and distribute all materials necessary for Co-op meetings.
- (5) All official actions of the Co-op are to be recorded and kept in permanent minute files by the ECRC. These files shall be open for public inspection during regular office hours at the ECRC office or made available electronically by email.
- (6) If legal advice/representation is needed ECRC attorney would be used for the Cooperative Board and ECRC concerns.
- (7) The Co-op is responsible for the supervision and review of all financial matters concerning it. In order to best execute this, the ECRC will keep, maintain, and manage all accounts, records, and documents, both of the technical and financial nature, for the Co-op as specified in the Staff Services Agreement between Okaloosa County and the ECRC.

ENCLOSURE B

1.04 OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

- (1) The officers of the Co-op shall be the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. The Okaloosa County Commissioner appointed to serve on the Co-op shall be a voting member and serve as the Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson shall be a voting member and elected by the Co-op voting membership.