



## OKALOOSA TRANSIT COOPERATIVE



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**Carolyn Ketchel**  
Chair

**Jean Hood**  
Vice-Chair

### AGENDA

**Thursday, September 18, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m. CST**  
Okaloosa County Board Chamber  
1250 N. Eglin Parkway, Shalimar, FL 32579

**I. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Ketchel**

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of the Attached July 29, 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**

None

**VI. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- 1. Comprehensive Operations Analysis Implementation Updates – Tyrone Parker, Okaloosa County**
- 2. EC Rider Updates – Tyrone Parker, Okaloosa County**



Okaloosa Transit Cooperative  
Staffed by the Emerald Coast Regional Council

## *Okaloosa Transit Cooperative Meeting Agenda Continued*

### **3. MV Transportation Updates – John Bohannon, MV Transportation**

#### **VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

The next Okaloosa Transit Cooperative meetings are scheduled for:

- **Thursday November 13, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** (Originally scheduled for Nov 20<sup>th</sup>)

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](http://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 our [Marketing Team](#) 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 antemanos.

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**

**July 29, 2025**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Cayolyn Ketchel, Chair	Commissioner, Okaloosa County
Jean Hood, Vice-Chair	Mayor, Cinco Bayou Mayor
Shannon Hayes	Councilmember, City of Crestview
Doug Stauffer	Councilmember, City of Niceville
Payne Walker	Councilmember, City of Fort Walton Beach

**MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

Bobby Wagner	Mayor, City of Destin
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**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Tyrone Parker	Okaloosa County
Sheila Fitzgerald	Okaloosa County
John Bohannon	MV Transportation
Mary Beth Washnock	Grude Management Group
Tiffany Bates	ECRC staff
Elizabeth Marino	ECRC staff
Howard Vanselow	ECRC staff

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Ketchel called the meeting to order.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Ketchel moved for approval of the agenda

**Mayor Hood moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Hayes seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of the May 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes

**Mayor Hood moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Hayes seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

#### IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

#### V. ACTION ITEMS

None.

#### VI. INFORMATION ITEMS:

##### 1. Comprehensive Operation Analysis implementation updates – Mr. Tyrone Parker, Okaloosa County

- 1<sup>st</sup> Phase Destin was completed in May 2025.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase Fort Walton Beach was completed in March 2025.
- Part of Phase 2 adding a stop at the Okaloosa County Jail, the stop was added in June with 2 trips a day as part of the Express Crestview route.
- Airport service was presented to the Okaloosa County Board of Commissioners in January. The items was tabled for some additional technical and fairbook information and will be brought back to the Board in Spring in hopes of starting late spring or summer service.

Chair Ketchel stated she was disappointed in the delay and asked how the Jail was able to be added so quickly.

Mr. Parker said the existing route lay over time allowed for the stop.

Chair Ketchel said she feels this is an important item and asked the Board members to advocate for the Airport service.

Councilmember Walker said he had written to the Commissioners about his concerns with the route, and asked how much of the route funding would be taxpayers' money. He asked how success would be measured.

Mr. Parker said the service is trying to provide additional options for tourists and citizens.

Shelia Fitzgerald said ridership is a key component of success and if approved they will track where they are going. Still working on complete funding details but the majority of will be funded by Tourist Development and the Airport. She later added there is clear guidance on how TDD dollars can be used, and we are looking for this Pilot Program for data. If we don't do it, we won't know.

Councilmember Walker added he does not agree with using taxpayers' dollars and he is looking out for Private Transportation. Airport and Hotels should provide service for their staff.

Councilmember Hayes said citizens in Crestview are looking for options and need to try something to help citizens.

Mayor Hood said individuals have come to this Board asking for the service and have expressed concern with no Ubers or rentals available and had to walk.

Councilmember Stauffer stated he has been to the airport twice in the last 2 weeks. There is no parking, and the airport is very busy. Not everyone has access and people have a need.

- Mr. Parker continued with the update stating they had received some comments concerning new Route 4. EC Rider will modify the route to add a stop back at West Minister Manor starting August 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Hood said West Minister Manor primarily serves low-income elderly members.

Councilmember Hayes applauded the change, especially this time of year walking a longer distance can be hazardous in the heat.

## **2. EC Rider update – Mr. Tyrone Parker, Okaloosa County**

- Currently fully staffed in the transit division, recently hired new maintenance staff.
- Working on the procurement process for an Operator, will provide an update at the next meeting.

## **3. MV Transportation Updates – Mr. John Bohannon**

- The analysis took the West Minister Manor stop out of the neighborhood but now adding back.
- MV has 45 drivers but need 8 or 10 more especially during peak.
- Once peak is over we can use a few less drivers
- Continually recruiting but currently all administrative positions are filled.
- MV is running a safety initiative program. Okaloosa falls into the medium division. Focusing on all safety.
- Next week is MV's 50th anniversary, corporate will visit.
- Waiting on the RFP

Chair Ketchel commented that people have been very complimentary of the service.

Councilmember Walker asked what MV stands for and what do they provide.

Mr. Bohannon said MV is the transit operator, providing all operational services except maintenance. He also said he is unsure if MV stands for anything besides MV Transportation.

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Next meetings will be:

- September 18, 2025 @10:00 am
- November 13, 2025 @ 10:00 am

**VIII. PUBLIC FORUM**

Mary Beth Washnock from Grude Management Group introduced herself and said she is staff to a similar committee in Escambia County.

**IX. Additional Comments**

**X. Adjournment**

Seeing no other business, Chair Ketchel adjourned the meeting.

Approved by Okaloosa Transit Cooperative

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_