



OKALOOSA TRANSIT COOPERATIVE



Mailing: P.O. Box 11399, Pensacola, FL 32524-1399
(850) 332-7976 Fax: (850) 637-1923 Toll Free: 1-800-226-8914
Web Site: www.ecrc.org

Carolyn Ketchel
Chair

Jean Hood
Vice-Chair

AGENDA

Tuesday, November 13, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m. CST
Okaloosa County Board Chamber
1250 N. Eglin Parkway, Shalimar, FL 32579

I. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE – Chair

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Attached September 18, 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 – 2025 Meeting Dates – 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
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2. **MV Transportation Updates** – *John Bohannon, MV Transportation*

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

The next Okaloosa Transit Cooperative meetings are scheduled for:

- **Thursday, January 15, 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 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 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.



Okaloosa Transit Cooperative
Staffed by the Emerald Coast Regional Council

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

September 18, 2025

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Cayolyn Ketchel, Chair	Commissioner, Okaloosa County
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

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
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 agenda with the addition of consideration to support bus service for the Destin Seafood Festival.

Mayor Hood moved to approve the agenda with the Destin Seafood Festival request. Councilmember Bullard seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the July 29, 2025 Meeting Minutes

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

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ACTION ITEMS

1. Consideration of bus support for the Destin Seafood Festival – Mr. Tyrone Parker, Okaloosa County

Destin has submitted a request for EC Rider to provide bus support to the Destin Seafood Festival September 26-28, 2025. Support has been provided in past years, and we would be able to support them again this year if approved.

Councilmember Walker asked is the Seafood Festival service is part of transits annual budget.

Mr. Paker stated no, any additional cost incurred for this service is charged to the Seafood Festival and the service is open to the public.

Mayor Hood moved to approve the Seafood Festival request.
Councilmember Bullard seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Comprehensive Operations Analysis Implementation Updates – Mr. Tyrone Parker, Okaloosa County

- Phase 1 adjusted service in Destin.
- Phase 2 Fort Walton Beach, County Jail, and West Minister Manor.
- Phase 3 will look at changes in Crestview. Applied for a service development grant. If awarded it can provide 3 years of service – to help kick start additional service to Crestview.

Chair Ketchel asked if a match was required.

Tyrone Parker stated not for the first 3 years if the Service Development is awarded.

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

- So far, a very busy 2025
 - o Several audits – Federal Transit Administration, Florida Department of Transportation, and the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.
 - o All audits have come back with positive remarks
 - o Covering all areas of transit, checking off numerous points.
 - o Waiting for the final reports.
- Board of County Commissioners accepted Capital Grants. To include 5311 for 2 new fixed route buses. These buses will replace existing buses which have reached the end of their life. The buses should be arriving in November or December and are Federally funded. Okaloosa County is fortunate to be able to replace vehicles in a timely manner.

Mayor Hood asked if the buses will be for the rural area, and said she is in favor of increased rural services.

Mr. Parker said yes, they will be.

Councilmember Bullard asked why the new buses could not be used for additional services in the rural areas.

Mr. Parker said the buses are slated as replacement buses and additional funds are needed for increased or additional services.

3. MV Transportation Updates – Mr. John Bohannon

- Staffing MV has 45 drivers for fix and paratransit services.
- Hired 1 driver in August but recently lost 5 drivers.
- Need 12 more, 3 drivers just started, and a few have been approved and will start the process.
- No service is being missed.
- Fully staffed administrative positions.
- August zero accidents for fixed route but there was 1 paratransit accident.
- August 5th was MV's anniversary, good celebration with staff.
- Safety meeting is scheduled for September. Also, it will include a safety blitz and campaign.
- August on time percentage was 90.1%.

Mayor Hood stated she is thankful for the service helping people who cannot drive.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Walker asked if the total budget for transit was 18 million.

Mr. Parker said the County's contribution is just over 100,000 dollars and grants cover 12 million dollars.

Chair Ketchel added that the contribution is needed for the match requirements.

Councilmember Walker asked about the numbers Shelia Fitzgerald had emailed him.

Ms. Fitzgerald said 2024 costs were 7.3 million for capital and operations. Grants and fares covered the majority, and the County covered 100,000 dollars which would be consistent with 2025 numbers.

Councilmember Walker asked what the fare totals are.

Mr. Parker said he would send him the information.

Councilmember Bullard said he supports the County's contribution and would support increasing it. Citizens who use the service contribute and it has a positive return to the community.

Chair Ketchel added transit has had a positive impact and helps reduce traffic. There have been a lot of strides and impact in the past few years.

Mayor Hood said she is an advocate for the medically fragile and underserved who need the service. She agreed that transit helps with a strong economic impact.

Next meetings will be:

- November 13, 2025 @ 10:00 am

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

None.

IX. Additional Comments

X. Adjournment

Seeing no other business, Chair Ketchel adjourned the meeting.

Approved by Okaloosa Transit Cooperative

DATE: _____

SIGNED: _____

ENCLOSURE A

OKALOOSA TRANSIT COOPERATIVE

DRAFT 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE

Public meetings of the Okaloosa Transit Cooperative are held
at the Okaloosa County Commission Chambers
1250 N. Eglin Parkway, Shalimar, Florida.

THURSDAY - JANUARY 15, 2026 @ 10:00 am

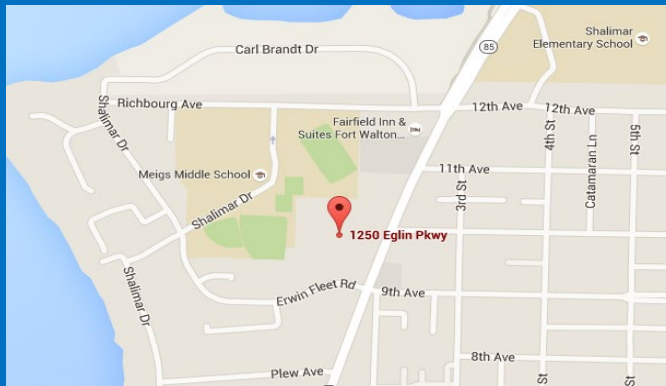
THURSDAY - JULY 16, 2026 @ 10:00 am

THURSDAY - MARCH 19, 2026 @ 10:00 am

THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 17, 2026 @ 10:00 am

THURSDAY - MAY 21, 2026 @ 10:00 am

THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 19, 2026 @ 10:00 am



**Okaloosa County Commission Chambers
1250 N. Eglin Pkwy, Shalimar, FL 32579**



Meeting schedule is subject to change.

For agendas and updates, please visit
www.ecrc.org, call 800-226-8914, or
email howard.vanselow@ecrc.org.

The Okaloosa Transit Cooperative is staffed
by the Emerald Coast Regional Council,
a not-for-profit organization providing
professional planning, coordinating, and
advisory services to local governments,
state, and federal agencies to preserve and
enhance the quality of life in northwest
Florida.



Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC)
PO Box 11399
Pensacola, FL 32524