

**FLORIDA-ALABAMA CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL (Designated Staff)**

**Gulf Breeze Community Center – 800 Shoreline Drive, Gulf Breeze, Florida 32561**

**August 12, 2025**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Nick Wilson, Vice Chair

Keith Bowe

Jim Kauffman

Rhonda Dorfman

Jack Robie

Bart R. Pullum

Michael Broker

Alan R. Isaacson

Virtual Attendance

Laura Keith King

**MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:**

Wayne Briske, Chair

Tim Pagel

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Christy Johnson

FDOT

Vince Beebe

ALDOT

Deston Taylor

DRMP

Lindsay Slautterback

Kimley Horn

Macy Falcon

Kimley Horn

Scott Davidson

Hurlburt Field

Ian Rehrig

City of Milton

Jessica Francois

Quest

Caitlin Cerame

City of Pensacola

Stephen Moody

New CAC Member (Kohler)

Cassidy Haney

NWFL Greenways and Trails

Virtual Attendance

Allison Fluitt

Kimley Horn

Michael Clynch

**EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF**

Kandase Lee

Tiffany Bates

Rae Emary

Leandra Meredith

Gary Kramer  
Jill Nobles  
Howard Vanselow  
Tammy Neal  
Roshita Taylor  
Elizabeth Marino  
Virtual Attendance:  
Gabrielle McVoy

## **CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION/PLEDGE/BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order with Nick Wilson serving as acting chair in place of Vice Chair Briske, who was unable to attend due to a work emergency. The agenda was approved without additions, and there were no public comments submitted.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

### **FDOT/ALDOT/ UPDATES:**

#### **1. FDOT Update - *Bryant Paulk, AICP, or Christy Johnson, AICP, FDOT Urban Liaison***

Christy Johnson informed the committee of an upcoming public hearing for the Sorrento Road PD&E Study. Christy Johnson stated that it will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at The Point Church, located at 13801 Innerarity Point Road. The study will evaluate capacity widening needs for the corridor and Christy Johnson noted that more information is available through the Northwest Florida Roads website.

#### **2. ALDOT Update – *Vincent Beebe, P.E., ALDOT***

Vince Beebe reported that the Waterways Project's northern segment, running from Foley Beach Express to County Road 4, is approximately 90 percent complete with two bridges in various stages of construction. The southern segment, which includes a new bridge crossing the canal, is also nearing 90 percent completion. Vince Beebe indicated that both portions should be fully complete by summer 2026.

Vince Beebe stated that there are a few pre-construction projects underway, including a State Route 180 widening project from Beaver Creek Lane to Foley Beach Express, which is currently in the NEPA process with plans 30 to 60 percent complete. A public involvement meeting is expected later in September. Additionally, intersection improvements are being planned at State Route 180 and 161, which remain in the NEPA

process and will be brought forward for public review next calendar year. Vince Beebe also mentioned that ALDOT is planning pedestrian improvements on State Route 182, adding new crosswalks from Perdido Pass Bridge to the state line.

Cassidy Haney with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection provided an update from the Office of Greenways and Trails. Cassidy Haney stated that statewide trail status maps are being updated and should be finalized by the end of the year. Cassidy Haney also highlighted the launch of the US-90 Trail Corridor Alliance and Trail town Alliance Program, which will expand opportunities for connectivity and participation in trail development across the region.

**CONSENT:**

- 1. ALL COMMITTEES: Approval of May 2025 Meeting Minutes**
- 2. TPO ONLY – Consideration of Membership Certifications for the Escambia County and Santa Rosa County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards, *Howard Vanselow, ECRC Staff***
- 3. ALL COMMITTEES - Consideration of Addition of Quest Corporation of America as a Subcontractor to the TPO’s Planning Consultant Contract**
- 4. TPO AND CAC ONLY - Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 25-12 Amending the Florida Alabama Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Citizens’ Advisory Committee (CAC) Bylaws**

**Keith Bowe moved to approve the May 2025 CAC minutes and to recommend the TPO approve consent agenda items 1,3, and 4. Jim Kauffman seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

**ACTION:**

- 1. ENCLOSURE A – ALL COMMITTEES – ROLL CALL VOTE AND PUBLIC HEARING - Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 25-21 Adopting the 2050 Florida-Alabama TPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Cost Feasible Plan – *Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff***

Gary Kramer, ECRC, and Corey Wilkinson, HDR, presented the cost feasible plan for the 2050 Florida-Alabama TPO LRTP. Cory Wilkinson explained that the plan outlines available revenues and narrows the broader needs plan to a fiscally constrained list of fundable projects through 2050. Since the May draft review, design phases for certain non-SIS projects were funded, and safety action studies for U.S. 98 and U.S. 90 were

added. Cory Wilkinson emphasized that while over \$12 billion in needs have been identified, only \$411 million is available, requiring prioritization and fiscal constraint. The Steering Committee had already recommended approval, and committee members commended the collaborative effort and detailed work.

Committee members engaged in a substantive discussion regarding the reduction in fully funded projects compared to the previous LRTP. Members expressed concern that the number of projects advancing through to construction has fallen sharply—dropping from 11 in the 2045 Plan to just one in the 2050 Plan. Questions were raised about whether this represented a failure of planning or cost estimation, and whether projects were being “dropped.”

Wilkinson clarified that no projects are being discarded, but rather pushed into later phases because of constrained revenues. He explained that each project moves through multiple phases—study, design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction—and many projects remain funded in earlier stages. Rising costs, coupled with stagnant revenues, especially from the declining fuel tax base, have extended project timelines. Staff further noted that inflation, COVID-era disruptions, and increased costs for labor and materials have dramatically affected transportation budgets statewide. Members were reminded that this is not an isolated challenge, but a trend across all Florida TPOs and MPOs updating their LRTPs. Despite concerns, members acknowledged that the plan reflects the realities of limited revenue and rising costs. After further discussion, the committee unanimously approved a motion recommending adoption of the 2050 LRTP Cost Feasible Plan to the TPO.

**Keith Bowe moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 25-21 adopting the 2050 Florida-Alabama TPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Cost Feasible Plan. Jim Kauffman seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

**2. ENCLOSURE B – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 25-22 Adopting the Congestion Elimination Plan – *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff***

Macy Falcon and Allison Fluitt of Kimley-Horn presented. Macy Falcon explained that the plan was designed to align with existing efforts such as the Smart Regions Master Plan, the Safety Action Plan, and the LRTP. The plan identifies congested corridors and applies a “toolbox” of strategies organized around technology solutions, safety and congestion management, and expanded transportation options.

Allison Fluitt elaborated on how the strategies could be combined and adapted for different corridors. Allison Fluitt stressed the importance of aligning congestion solutions with safety and technology initiatives to maximize eligibility for federal, state, and local

funding. Discussion included questions about fiber installation on SR 399 and coordination with Escambia County's gateway and bridge projects.

During discussion, several committee members expressed strong support for the plan, stating that traditional roadway expansion is increasingly limited by cost, environmental constraints, and public resistance. Members emphasized that technology-driven solutions may provide quicker, more cost-effective relief from congestion compared to major infrastructure projects.

Acting Chair Wilson asked who would ultimately control and operate the new systems. Allison Fluitt explained that responsibility would depend on the corridor and the type of strategy deployed, but coordination would occur through FDOT, ALDOT, and local jurisdictions. Staff added that most of the technology and monitoring functions would be centralized in the Regional Transportation Management Center (TMC), now out for construction bids in partnership with Escambia County. Once completed, the facility will allow real-time monitoring, signal adjustments, and incident response.

Committee members also inquired whether the funding for technology improvements would compete with traditional infrastructure projects. Kandase Lee clarified that while the TMC facility itself is funded from capacity dollars, many technology deployments—such as the \$10 million discretionary federal grant currently under negotiation—come from separate funding sources. This distinction reassured members that congestion management initiatives would not necessarily divert funds from critical road construction needs.

Overall, the discussion reflected optimism that the plan would position the region to better compete for federal and state funding. Members agreed that the holistic approach—blending technology, safety, and mobility—was both innovative and practical.

**Keith Bowe moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 25-22 adopting the Congestion Elimination Plan. Jim Kauffman seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

- 3. ENCLOSURE C – TPO ONLY– Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 25-23 Adopting the Intergovernmental Coordination and Review (ICAR) and Public Transportation Coordination Joint Participation Agreement – *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff***
- 4. ENCLOSURE D – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 25-24 Adopting the Advanced Transportation Management System (ATMS) Master Plan**

**Update Scope of Services and Authorizing Execution of Consultant Task Work Order  
– Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff**

Kandase Lee, ECRC CEO, stated that this item was requesting approval to issue a task order for an updated ATMS Master Plan. Kandase Lee explained that the original master plan, completed in 2015–2017, is outdated given advancements in technology and planning as well as recent funding opportunities. Kandase Lee emphasized that the update is critical for regional coordination and integration with related initiatives.

**Keith Bowe moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 25-24 adopting the Advanced Transportation Management System Master Plan Update Scope of Services and authorizing execution of Consultant Task Work Order. Jim Kauffman seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

**5. ENCLOSURE E – ALL COMMITTEES - Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 25-25 Requesting FDOT Transfer of Funds from FPID#218693-2 to FPID#451524-1 in the Amount of \$450,000 for Post Design Architectural Services for Delivery of the Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC)– Kandase Lee, ECRC CEO**

Kandase Lee stated that this item was requesting approval to reallocate \$450,000 from DOT's reserve fund for engineering professional services into an existing open agreement line item. The reallocated funds will support post-design architectural services for the Regional Transportation Management Center (TMC) during its 18–24-month construction phase. Kandase Lee noted that the Department specifically requested this action due to the complexity of the facility, stressing the importance of keeping architectural staff engaged throughout project delivery

**Keith Bowe moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 25-25 requesting FDOT transfer of funds from FPID#218693-2 to FPID#451524-1 in the amount of \$450,000 for Post Design Architectural Services for delivery of the RTMC. Jim Kauffman seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**1. ENCLOSURE F – ALL COMMITTEES – Congestion Management Process Plan (CMPP) Minor Update – Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff**

Jill Nobles presented the CMP minor update. The annual update included revised metrics for 2023 covering travel demand reduction, safety, active transportation, reliability, and

system preservation. Members were encouraged to review FDOT's interactive level-of-service maps linked in the report. Adoption of the update will be requested at the November meeting.

**2. ENCLOSURE G – ALL COMMITTEES – RideOn Commuter Services Program Update, Elizabeth Marino, ECRC Staff**

Elizabeth Moreno introduced herself and provided an overview of the relaunched RideOn Commuter Services Program, a grant-funded FDOT initiative. She explained that RideOn helps commuters identify smarter travel options such as carpools, vanpools, and transit, while also offering employer and commuter tax benefits of up to \$325 per month.

Elizabeth Moreno described the recently launched mobile app, which supports ride matching, trip logging, and commuter rewards. She stated that the program covers 16 counties, with her team overseeing the Emerald Coast region. Areas of focus include hospitality, medical, and military sectors. Members were encouraged to download the app, follow the program's social media, and promote the benefits of the service.

**INFORMATION ITEMS - (no presentation necessary)**

1. TCC and CAC May 2025 Meeting Minutes
2. Amendment to the FY 2025-2029 TIP Letters
3. 2025 FL-AL TPO Schedule

**OTHER BUSINESS-**

Deston Taylor provided a traffic and beach monitoring update with a focus on the Blue Angels Air Show. Deston Taylor reported record-setting traffic volumes, including more than 3,000 additional vehicles on Wednesday, making it the busiest show ever recorded. Casino Beach parking lot filled before dawn on Saturday, contributing to severe parking shortages and congestion during the mass exit following the show. While on-site coordination with law enforcement and emergency services was effective, Deston Taylor noted persistent challenges with pedestrian crossings and a need for improved traveler information systems, such as dynamic message boards. Deston Taylor also highlighted the economic impact of the event, estimated at \$31 million, and underscored the urgency of planning for even higher traffic volumes in the future.

The next Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. TCC and CAC will meet on Thursday, November 06, 2025. The TCC will meet at 10:00 a.m. and the CAC will meet at 1:30 p.m. All meetings will be held at the Santa Rosa Auditorium in Milton: 4530 Spikes Way, Milton, FL 32583.

**ADJOURNMENT**