

BAY COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL (Designated staff)
Bay County Transit Office
1010 Cone Ave, Panama City, FL 32401
August 27, 2025

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Pamn Henderson, CHAIR	City of Callaway
Robert Carroll, VICE CHAIR	Bay County Commission
Doug Crosby	Bay County Commission
Daniel Raffield	Bay County Commission
Clair Pease	Bay County Commission
David Griggs	City of Callaway
Pat Perno	City of Lynn Haven
Josh Street	City of Panama City
Mary Coburn	City of Panama City Beach
Paul Casto	City of Panama City Beach
Allan Branch	City of Panama City
Robbie Hughes	City of Panama City

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Doug Moore	Bay County Commission
Jerry Smith	City of Mexico Beach
Brian Grainger	City of Panama City
Janice Lucas	City of Panama City
Jack Griffis	City of Springfield

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bryant Paulk	FDOT
Lamar Hobbs	BayWay
Harrison Neilly	Trnasdev
Kaylor Collins	FDOT
Cassidy Haney	NWFL Greenways and Trails
Mary Beth Washnock	Grud
Angela Bradley	Grud
Ben Faust	DRMP
Sarah Harris	Port of Panama City
Donald Hennings	Callaway
Clinton Murphy	
<u>Virtual Attendance:</u>	
Brian Graham	Kimley-Horn
Anna Pelletier	

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF:

Kandase Lee
Tiffany Bates
Jessica Walton
Leandra Meredith
Gary Kramer
Roshita Taylor
Tammy Neal
Elizabeth Marino

Virtual Attendance:

Rae Emary
Gabrielle McVoy

CALL TO ORDER / INVOCATION / PLEDGE

Chair Henderson called the meeting. Commissioner Street delivered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Briggs.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Tiffany Bates stated that corrections to the July minutes, including removal of Commissioner Jerry Smith from the attendance list and clarification that the referenced “Rast Avenue projects” were in Panama City, not Callaway. Additionally, Item 4 was removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of Lamar Hobbs.

Commissioner Pease moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Street seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM – There were no speakers.

FDOT UPDATE

Bryant Paul provided an update on the U.S. 231/Star Avenue realignment project. The contract was executed in June 2025, with construction anticipated to begin in late August or early September. The project is scheduled as a 700-day contract with Roberts & Roberts as the awarded contractor. Bryant Paul thanked Bay County for contributing local funds and expressed optimism that the project would be delivered under budget.

Commissioner Griggs discussed the ongoing priority of Highway 22 widening, highlighting recent accident statistics—five of eight reported incidents in the area occurred on or near Highway 22—and stressed the need for safety improvements, especially given its use as a school corridor and military access route. Bryant Paulk acknowledged the urgency, affirmed the project’s status as a top priority, and emphasized that the high cost remains a barrier to funding. Bryant Paulk added that the addition of the new parkway segment may relieve some traffic but does not eliminate the long-term capacity need.

Commissioner Carroll raised questions about the opening of the new parkway connection at Star Avenue, which is awaiting installation of traffic signals. Bryant Paulk explained that signal component delays are affecting multiple projects statewide, making it difficult to provide a specific opening date. FDOT will provide updates as more information becomes available.

FDEP Update - *Cassidy Haney, Florida Department of Environmental Protection Office of Greenways and Trails*

Cassidy Haney reported that statewide status maps for trail corridors are being updated. For Bay County, this includes the Great Northwest Coast Connector and the U.S. 90 Trail Corridor. Updated maps will reflect trail segments that have advanced from “gap” status into acquisition, funding, or completion. The maps are expected by the end of 2025.

Cassidy Haney also described efforts to form alliances along trail corridors to bring municipalities and stakeholders together to coordinate acquisitions and funding to close existing gaps. Cassidy Haney invited members to reach out for more details.

PLANNING AND TRANSIT CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **ALL COMMITTEES:** Approval of the May 2025 Meeting Minutes
2. **ALL COMMITTEES:** Consideration of Addition of Quest Corporation of America, Inc. as a Subcontractor to the TPO’s Consultant Contract
3. **TPO ONLY:** Consideration of the Membership Certification for Bay County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board
4. ~~**ALL COMMITTEES:** Consideration of Resolution Bay 25-21 Approving the Updated BayWay Title VI Non-Discrimination Program Including Limited English Proficiency (LEP) for FY2025 thru FY2028~~
5. **ALL COMMITTEES** – Consideration of Resolution of BAY 25-20 Adopting the Intergovernmental Coordination and Review and Public Transportation Coordination Joint Participation Agreement

Councilmember Coburn moved to approve the minutes as amended and to approve consent agenda items 2,3 and 5. Commissioner Street seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

PLANNING ACTION ITEMS:

1. **ENCLOSURE A – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution Bay 25-17 Adopting the Bay County TPO 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Evaluation Criteria – Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff**

Gary Kramer, ECRC, and Brian Graham, Kimley-Horn, presented proposed evaluation criteria for the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Criteria categories included transportation safety, multimodal choices and connections, system

efficiency and preservation, sustainability and livability, economic vitality, transportation security, and congestion management. The highest weights (20% each) were given to safety and congestion management. Brian Graham outlined specific measures under each category, including crash severity, multimodal connections, environmental and economic factors, emergency response, and level-of-service data.

Commissioner Pease moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution Bay 25-17 adopting the Bay County TPO 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Evaluation Criteria. Commissioner Street seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

2. ENCLOSURE B - ALL COMMITTEES - Consideration of Resolution Bay 25-18 Adopting the Bay County TPO 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Congestion Management Process (CMP) - *Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff*

Brian Graham presented the updated Congestion Management Process. Objectives include reducing travel demand, improving safety, encouraging active transportation, enhancing reliability, and preserving the system. Brian Graham outlined the designated roadway, transit, bicycle/pedestrian, and freight networks, as well as performance measures and targets such as carpooling rates, crash rates, facility miles, level-of-service thresholds, and resurfacing percentages. Brian Graham discussed trends in commuting data, particularly the high percentage of residents commuting alone (over 75%), and acknowledged the need to strengthen strategies promoting alternative modes.

Commissioner Carroll moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution Bay 25-18 adopting the Bay County TPO 2050 LRTP CMP. Commissioner Perno seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

3. ENCLOSURE C - ALL COMMITTEES -Consideration of Resolution Bay 25-19 Adopting the Bay County TPO 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Financial Resources - *Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff*

Brian Graham presented the Bay County TPO 2025 LRTP Financial Resources. Brian Graham highlighted that available revenues for the 2050 Plan are lower than in the 2045 update, meaning fewer projects can be fiscally constrained. Key sources include the local option gas tax, currently collecting approximately \$7 million annually but with potential to generate up to \$12 million, and the half-cent local infrastructure sales tax, currently producing \$32 million annually but with potential to double if increased to one cent.

Councilmember Coburn moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution Bay 25-19 adopting the Bay County TPO 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Financial Resources. Councilmember Casto seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

PRESENTATIONS

1. ENCLOSURE D - ALL COMMITTEES - Draft Bay TPO 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Needs Plan Update – *Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff*

Brian Graham presented an update on the development of the Needs Plan. The plan will evaluate completed and ongoing projects from the 2045 LRTP, current TIP projects, identified roadway deficiencies, and stakeholder input. Brian Graham reviewed completed and partially completed projects, as well as projections showing growing congestion on SR 77, SR 79, and the Panama City Beach Parkway. Stakeholder input highlighted priorities for the Port of Panama City, the airport, Bayway transit, the Navy Base, and Tyndall Air Force Base. Suggested projects included improvements to SR 389, SR 388 east of the airport, SR 22, and additional access to military installations.

Commissioner Griggs requested the information from Enclosures A, B, and C. Gary Kramer stated that staff can email it out to the board. There was a request for more time to review the materials and emphasized the need to consider long-term alternatives, including the possibility of a new north-south corridor between Panama City North and Callaway. Gary Kramer confirmed that this was the first informational presentation, with opportunities for further review and input in November and February.

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

Elizabeth Marino provided an overview of the RideOn Commuter Services Program, a FDOT-funded initiative covering 16 counties. Elizabeth Marino explained that the program provides a free app offering ride-matching, trip logging, commuter rewards, and tax benefits of up to \$325 per month for participating commuters and employers.

Elizabeth Marino emphasized the program's potential for reducing congestion, lowering commuting costs, and benefiting local businesses. She noted its relevance for Bay County's military, hospitality, and medical sectors. Members received flyers and were encouraged to download the app, promote it through their municipalities, and explore employer participation.

PLANNING INFORMATION ITEMS (no presentation necessary):

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

TRANSIT UPDATE

Lamar Hobbs announced that the third annual Bayway Day will be held on September 18, 2025, at the Gulf Coast State College transfer point, offering appreciation activities for riders.

Lamar Hobbs also reported progress on the bus wash facility, explaining that remediation work is scheduled to begin in early September, with completion targeted by September 18.

LEGAL UPDATE – *Burke, Blue, Hutchison, Walters & Smith, P.A.*

Staff reported that the Douglas Road property is scheduled to close on September 9, 2025.

OTHER BUSINESS –

Chair Henderson stated that Clifford Johnson submitted a letter highlighting bicycle and pedestrian safety concerns. While he did not present formally, members were invited to review the letter and consider expressing support for the program's initiatives.

Tiffany Bates reminded members about the Trails Master Plan Update survey, thanking cities and counties for their help distributing the survey link. The survey remains open until Sunday, and members were encouraged to promote it during the final outreach push.

The next Bay TPO meeting will be held on November 05, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. The TCC will meet at 11:00 a.m. and the CAC at 1:30 p.m. All meetings will take place at the Bay County Transit Office, 1010 Cone Ave Panama City, FL 32401.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.