

**FLORIDA-ALABAMA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (TPO)**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL (Designated Staff)**  
**Bayview Community Center 2001 E Lloyd St, Pensacola, FL 32503**  
**February 11, 2026**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Steven Barry, Chair	Escambia County
Kerry Smith	Santa Rosa County
Ashley Hofberger	Escambia County
JB Schluter	City of Gulf Breeze
Heather Lindsay	City of Milton
Casey Jones	City of Pensacola
Allison Patton	City of Pensacola
Rhett Rowell	Santa Rosa County
Ray Eddington	Santa Rosa County
Bobby Burkett	Santa Rosa County

**MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:**

Charles F. Gruber	Baldwin County
Steve Stroberger	Escambia County
Mike Kohler	Escambia County
Lumon May	Escambia County
Jerry Johnson	City of Orange Beach
Charles Bare	City of Pensacola
Jared Moore	City of Pensacola
Delarian Wiggins	City of Pensacola
Colten Wright	Santa Rosa County

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Bryant Paulk	FDOT
Christy Johnson	FDOT
Schott Davidson	Hurlburt Field
Cory Wilkinson	HDR
Chris Phillips	Jacobs
Dan Schabler	Wharton Smith
Deston Taylor	DRMP
Keith Bowe	Citizen
Mary Beth Washnock	Gund Management Group
Mary Morgan	HDR
Kaylor Collins	FDOT
Amy DuRusso	FDOT
Mimi Taylor	PNS Airport

Ben Faust	DRMP
Wendy Gavin	City of Pensacola
Caitlin Cerame	City of Pensacola

### **EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF**

Kandase Lee  
Tiffany Bates  
Rae Emary  
Leandra Meredith  
Tammy Neal  
Gabrielle McVoy  
Jill Nobles  
*Virtual Attendance:*  
Gary Kramer

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

Chair Steven Barry called the meeting to order.

Mayor JB Schluter delivered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Tiffany Bates, TPO staff, conducted the roll call and confirmed that a quorum was present.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Steven Barry asked if any members wished to add items to the agenda. Commissioner Ashley Hofberger raised a question regarding a potential letter of support related to the Pensacola Beach shared use path ADA upgrades project. Discussion clarified that the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners had already acted regarding the request and that the TPO could not formally support the project outside the Transportation Alternatives ranking process.

**Mayor Schluter moved to approve the agenda as provided. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Patton, and it was unanimously approved.**

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Keith Bove addressed the board regarding transportation infrastructure efficiency and project coordination and emphasized concerns related to delays between phases of roadway construction projects and the impacts those delays can have on safety and accessibility. Keith Bove referenced ongoing work along Gulf Beach Highway and expressed concern that interruptions in project sequencing can result in unfinished sections that create traffic hazards and potentially limit emergency vehicle access. Keith Bove encouraged the TPO and partner agencies to focus on improving project efficiency and reducing gaps between construction phases.

Mary Beth Washnock spoke on behalf of Gude Management Group and Benesh regarding an upcoming route redesign initiative for Escambia County Area Transit (ECAT). Mary Beth Washnock explained that the project is an implementation plan rather than a traditional study and will involve surveys, data collection, and stakeholder input to evaluate ECAT's routes and operations. Mary Beth Washnock invited TPO members to provide feedback or recommendations as the project progresses.

**FDOT Update – Bryant Paulk, AICP., FDOT**

Bryant Paulk announced an upcoming public meeting regarding a multi-use path project along Blue Angel Parkway between Gulf Beach Highway and Sorrento Road. The meeting will be held on April 21 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Liberty Church on Blue Angel Parkway and will also include an online participation option. Bryant Paulk explained that the project is currently in the design phase and is anticipated to move into construction in Fiscal Year 2027. No additional questions were raised by board members.

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

Vince Beebe reported that construction continues on the bridge project over the Intracoastal Waterway associated with improvements to State Route 161. The project is anticipated to be completed and open to traffic during the summer.

Vince Beebe also noted that ALDOT is conducting alternative analysis for improvements at the intersection of State Route 180 and State Route 161 and will begin the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process once a preferred alternative is identified. Additionally, pedestrian improvements are being evaluated along State Route 182, including the addition of crosswalks at strategic locations.

**FDEP UPDATE**

Cassidy Haney with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Office of Greenways and Trails provided two updates and explained that statewide regional trail corridor status maps were updated at the end of 2025 and are now available through the agency's website and GIS mapping systems.

Cassidy Haney also discussed the U.S. 90 Trail Corridor Alliance initiative. The proposed corridor extends approximately 430 miles from Escambia and Santa Rosa counties across the state to Nassau and Duval counties. Cassidy Haney noted that the trail is currently only five to six percent complete and the agency is working to build partnerships to advance the project.

During discussion, a board member asked whether funding would be available through the SUN Trail program during the current cycle. Cassidy Haney explained that SUN Trail funding eligibility depends on whether projects are located within a designated Florida Greenways and Trails Priority Corridor and noted that FDOT administers the funding.

### **PRESENTATION – SORRENTO ROAD SAFETY REVIEW**

Mary Morgan, HDR Engineering, presented an update regarding the Sorrento Road safety review, explaining that the review was initiated following a request from the Florida–Alabama TPO in August 2025. The study corridor extends approximately 10.3 miles along State Road 292 from Innerarity Point Road to State Road 295 (Navy Boulevard).

Mary Morgan reported that the analysis reviewed crash data from January 2020 through September 2025. During that time approximately 1,100 crashes occurred along the corridor, including 18 fatalities and 43 serious injuries. The analysis categorized crashes into segment-related and intersection-related incidents, with the most common crash types including rear-end collisions, lane-departure crashes, and intersection angle collisions.

Mary Morgan noted that several safety improvement projects were completed between 2020 and 2023, including turn lanes, lighting, vibratory pavement markings, pedestrian accommodations, and traffic signal improvements. Preliminary crash analyses indicate that some locations have experienced a significant reduction in serious injury crashes following those improvements.

Two additional projects are scheduled that include safety enhancements such as paved shoulders, upgraded pavement markings, high-friction pavement, signal upgrades, crosswalk improvements, and pedestrian accessibility features. Crash reduction factors associated with these countermeasures suggest potential reductions in crash frequency ranging from approximately 15 to 62 percent.

Mary Morgan explained that FDOT will continue evaluating additional countermeasures and will coordinate with stakeholders including Escambia County, the Escambia County Sheriff's Office, and the Emerald Coast Regional Council. Following stakeholder engagement and feasibility analysis, FDOT will present recommended next steps to the TPO.

No questions were raised by board members following the presentation.

### **CONSENT:**

- 1. ALL COMMITTEES - Approval of November 2025 Meeting Minutes**  
**Mayor Lindsay moved to approve the November 2025 Meeting Minutes.**  
**Commissioner Burkett seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

### **ACTION:**

- 1. ENCLOSURE A – ALL COMMITTEES – ROLL CALL VOTE – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 26-02 Amending the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Construction Cost for SR 727/SR 295 (Fairfield Drive) from North 65th Avenue to West Highland Drive, a Lighting Project, for Financial Project Identification (FPID) Number 4568692 in FY 2025/2026 at a Total Cost of \$25,000 - *Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT***

Bryant Paulk presented Resolution FL-AL 26-02, which amends the Transportation Improvement Program to add construction funding for a lighting project along Fairfield Drive from North 65th Avenue to West Highland Drive. The project totals \$25,000 and will be administered through a lighting agreement with Florida Power and Light (FPL).

**Mayor Lindsay moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 26-02 amending the FY 2026-2030 TIP. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion.**

Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Steven Barry	Yes
Commissioner Kerry Smith	Yes
Commissioner Ashley Hofberger	Yes
Mayor JB Schluter	Yes
Mayor Heather Lindsay	Yes
Council Member Casey Jones	Yes
Council Member Allison Patton	Yes
Commissioner Rhett Rowell	Yes
Commissioner Ray Eddington	Yes
Commissioner Bobby Burkett	Yes

**The motion was unanimously approved.**

- 2. ENCLOSURE B - ALL COMMITTEES - ROLL CALL VOTE - Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 26-03 Amending the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program to Change the Project Description and Limits for Financial Project Identification (FPID) Number from "North Hayne Street from East Cervantes Street to East Blount Street with a Mileage of 0.459 Mile" to "East Gonzalez Street to East Blount Street with a Mileage of 0.27 Mile" at a Total Cost of \$918,634- *Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT***

Bryant Paulk presented Resolution FL-AL 26-03, which amends the Transportation Improvement Program to modify the project limits for the North Hayne Street multi-use path project. The project limits will change from East Cervantes Street to East Blount Street to a revised segment extending from East Gonzalez Street to East Blount Street, reducing the project length due to budget considerations while maintaining a total project cost of \$918,634.

**Councilmember Patton to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 26-03 amending the FY 2026-2030 TIP. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.**

Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Steven Barry	Yes
Commissioner Kerry Smith	Yes
Commissioner Ashley Hofberger	Yes
Mayor JB Schluter	Yes
Mayor Heather Lindsay	Yes
Council Member Casey Jones	Yes
Council Member Allison Patton	Yes
Commissioner Rhett Rowell	Yes
Commissioner Ray Eddington	Yes
Commissioner Bobby Burkett	Yes

**The motion was unanimously approved.**

**3. ENCLOSURE C – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 26-01 Adopting the 2026 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Ranked Projects for FDOT District 3 Fiscal Year 2028 – 2032 Tentative Work Program – *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff***

Jill Nobles presented the recommended ranking for Transportation Alternatives projects to be submitted to FDOT for the Fiscal Year 2028–2032 Tentative Work Program. The three projects submitted for consideration included the East Maxwell Street Multi-Use Path, the West Jackson Street Sidewalk Project, and the Pensacola Beach Shared Use Path Safety and ADA Improvements project. Board members briefly discussed the submitted projects and the evaluation process used to develop the ranking. Staff confirmed that the projects met all requirements of the Transportation Alternatives program and that the rankings must be submitted to FDOT by April 23, 2026.

**Mayor Schluter moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 26-01 adopting the 2026 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-aside ranked projects. Commissioner Rowell seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

**4. ENCLOSURE D – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 26-04 Approving the 2026 Beach Traffic Monitoring Proposal with DRMP Utilizing \$62,860 of TPO Funds and Requesting Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties to Pay Their Respective Shares of \$41,906.67 and \$20,953.33 – *Kandase Lee, ECRC Staff***

Kandase Lee presented a proposal for beach traffic monitoring services utilizing DRMP. The project will utilize \$62,860 in TPO funds, with cost participation requested from Escambia

County and Santa Rosa County. Board members discussed the value of the program and acknowledged that the monitoring data has clarified seasonal traffic conditions and improving traffic management during high-volume periods.

**Commissioner Eddington moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL26-04 approving the beach monitoring proposal with DRMP utilizing \$62,860 of TPO funds and requesting Escambia and Santa Rosa counties pay their respective shares of \$41,906.67 and \$20,953.33. Commissioner Burkett seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

- 5. ENCLOSURE E – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 26-05 Approving the Interstate Compact Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Authorizing the TPO Chair to Execute it, and Directing TPO Staff to Distribute for Signature by all Parties, and to File the Fully Executed MOU with the Appropriate State and Federal Agencies – *Kandase Lee, ECRC Staff***

Kandase Lee presented and explained that the memorandum formalizes coordination between agencies involved in the Florida–Alabama TPO planning process and establishes procedures for cooperation between the participating jurisdictions. Kandase Lee noted that the agreement outlines the roles and responsibilities of participating organizations and provides a framework for continued collaboration between Florida and Alabama partners in regional transportation planning activities.

Board members briefly discussed the purpose of the memorandum and confirmed that the agreement supports the ongoing cooperative planning relationship between the participating agencies.

**Council Member Jones moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FLAL 26-05 approving the Interstate Compact Memorandum of Agreement, authorizing the TPO chair to execute it, and directing TPO staff to distribute for signature by all parties, and to file the fully executed agreement with the appropriate agencies. Councilmember Patton seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

- 6. ENCLOSURE F – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 26-06 Requesting the Florida Department of Transportation District 3 Allocate Additional TMA Funding Towards ITS Equipment Upgrades Necessary for Emergency Vehicle Preemption and Continued Technology Upgrades- *Kandase Lee, ECRC Staff***

Kandase Lee explained that the requested funding would support upgrades to traffic signal technology and ITS equipment necessary to implement emergency vehicle preemption systems and to maintain compatibility with evolving traffic management technologies. The improvements would enhance the ability of emergency responders to move safely and efficiently through signalized intersections while also supporting continued technological upgrades within the regional transportation system.

Board members discussed the importance of maintaining modern traffic signal infrastructure and acknowledged the benefits of emergency vehicle preemption systems in improving response times for public safety agencies.

**Council Member Patton moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 26-06 requesting FDOT District 3 to allocate additional TMA funding towards ITS equipment upgrades necessary for emergency preemption and continued technology upgrades. Commissioner Hofberger seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

**PRESENTATIONS: (no action necessary)**

**1. ENCLOSURE G - ALL COMMITTEES - Schedule for Development of the Florida-Alabama TPO FY 2028-2032 Project Priorities - *Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff***

Kandase Lee presented the schedule for the development of the Florida–Alabama TPO FY 2028–2032 Project Priorities. Kandase Lee explained that the schedule outlines the timeline for local governments to submit project priority requests and for the TPO committees and board to review and approve the final prioritized project lists.

Kandase Lee noted that the priority development process allows local jurisdictions to submit transportation project requests for consideration in the upcoming FDOT Work Program cycle. The schedule includes key milestones for project submittals, staff review, committee evaluation, and final adoption by the TPO Board.

Kandase Lee explained that once the priorities are approved by the TPO, the list will be transmitted to FDOT District 3 to be considered during the development of the tentative work program. Kandase Lee encouraged local jurisdictions to coordinate with TPO staff early in the process to ensure that project information and supporting documentation are submitted in a timely manner.

Board members acknowledged the schedule and no additional discussion occurred.

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

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1. TCC and CAC November 2025 Meeting Minutes
2. Amendment to the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Letter
3. 2026 FL-AL TPO Meeting Schedule

**OTHER BUSINESS** - The next Florida – Alabama TPO meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.** Committee meetings will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026. The TCC will meet at 10:00 a.m. and CAC will meet at 1:30 p.m. All meetings will be held at the **Bayview Community Center, 2001 E Lloyd St., Pensacola, FL.**

**ADJOURNMENT**