

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 07, 2024

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Pamn Henderson, Chair	City of Callaway
Robert Carroll, Vice-Chair	Bay County Commission
William Dozier	Bay County Commission
Doug Moore	Bay County Commission
Tommy Hamm	Bay County Commission
David Griggs	City of Callaway
Pat Perno	City of Lynn Haven
Brian Grainger	City of Panama City
Janice Lucas	City of Panama City
Josh Street	City of Panama City
Michael Rohan, Sr.	City of Panama City
Mary Coburn	City of Panama City Beach
Paul Casto	City of Panama City Beach
Judy Vandergrift	City of Lynn Haven

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Clair Pease	Bay County Commission
Jerry Smith	City of Mexico Beach
Jenna Flint Haligas	City of Panama City
Jack Griffis	City of Springfield

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bryant Paulk	FDOT
Mark Brock	FDOT
Kaylee Kildare	FDOT
Casey Johns	FDOT
Taylor Branton	FDOT
Harrison Neilly	Transdev
Tammie Mams	Transdev
Mark McQueen	Bay District Schools
Ashley Stucky	Bay County BOCC
Jennifer Bennett	Citizen
Lamar Hobbs	BayWay

Virtual Attendance:

Colby Cleveland
Cory Wilkinson

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Gary Huston
Kasey Cuchens
Kathy Rudd
Trey Kolmetz

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF:

Austin Mount
Tiffany Bates
Angela Bradley
Howard Vanselow
Virtual Attendance:
Rae Emary
Leandra Meredith
Gabrielle McVoy
Gina Watson

CALL TO ORDER / INVOCATION / PLEDGE – Chair Pamn Henderson

Chair Henderson called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Hamm moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Coburn, and it was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Jennifer Bennet spoke regarding the Bicycle and Trails Master Plan and the Governing Transit Committee (GTC) items. Jennifer Bennet stated concern about the updated plan included areas of private property and expressed her concern regarding the verbiage in the GTC legislation discussing land acquisition.

Mark McQueen, Bay County Superintendent of Schools, discussed significant safety concerns related to student safety and traffic congestion along SR 22 in the vicinity of Callaway Elementary School. Mark McQueen stated that there has been tremendous growth in both Callaway and Callaway Elementary School and that nearly 600 students now attend the school. Mark McQueen stated that as housing in the area continues to increase, the school's improved grade will undoubtedly attract additional students.

Mark McQueen stated that due to budget limitations students living within two miles of the school are no longer provided bus services. This has increased the number of parent/guardian drop offs, which has contributed greatly to the safety issues and congestion along the SR22 corridor. Mark McQueen explained that despite guidance to drop students off on school property many parents/guardians are choosing to drop their children off along

the SR22 right-of-way. In many cases this requires the student to cross the highway during this busy time of day which places an additional burden on both school employees and law enforcement as they attempt to provide a safe environment beyond the school property.

Mark McQueen stated that the Bay County School Board encourages FDOT and the TPO to consider all potential pedestrian and cyclist improvements as part of the capacity project. Improvements such as a pedestrian overpass at the school and appropriate sidewalks and bike lanes are features that would greatly increase safety for the students.

The TPO directed staff to draft a resolution addressing SR 22 in Callaway and to work with FDOT on the resolution and to send to Chair Henderson for signature to be forwarded to FDOT Secretary Gainer and to Callaway Elementary School.

FDOT UPDATE

1. FDOT Update - Mr. Bryant Paulk, AICP, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Urban Liaison

Casey Johns, FDOT planning specialist, presented the 2055 Florida Transportation Plan Update.

Chair Henderson asked for an update on the DuPont bridge contract. Bryant Paulk stated that at this time, a contract has yet to be posted. Discussion ensued regarding concerns on the estimated cost and the need for the bridge.

PLANNING AND TRANSIT CONSENT AGENDA:

1. ALL COMMITTEES - Approval of June Meeting Minutes
Councilmember Coburn moved to approve the June 2024 meeting minutes.
Commissioner Griggs seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

PLANNING ACTION ITEMS:

1. ENCLOSURE A- ALL COMMITTEES - Consideration of Resolution Bay 24-17 Authorizing the ECRC/TPO to Enter Scope Negotiations, to Issue a Task Order to a GPC for the Completion of a Bike/Ped/Trail Plan, Adopting the 2024 Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Trail Master Plan – Ms. Angela Bradley, ECRC Staff

Angela Bradley stated that this plan will serve as a resource for the Bay County TPO and will be a major update to the TPO's current bicycle pedestrian master plan, which will include the addition of a trail element. Angela Bradley informed the board that the intent of this plan is to incorporate the improvements and Complete Streets policy into an updated Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Trail Master Plan.

Commissioner Dozier moved to recommend the TPO chair sign Resolution BAY 24-17 authorizing the ECRC/TPO to enter scope negotiations, issue a task order

to a GPC for the completion of a Bike/Ped/Trail plan, and adopting the 2024 Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Trail Master Plan. Councilmember Casto seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

2. ENCLOSURE B- TPO ONLY – Request by Bay County - *Bay County BOCC*

Commissioner Moore presented the Bay County BOCC resolution expressing interest in finding alternative administrative support for the Bay County TPO. Commissioner Moore discussed the general concerns and responsibilities of ECRC and discussed his concerns with the joint TPO/MPOAC meeting held in November 2023. Commissioner Moore opened discussions from the board. Discussion ensued. The board decided to not pursue any further action and to continue with ECRC as the administrative support for the Bay TPO.

Commissioner Rohan made a motion to not pursue any further action and to continue with ECRC as the administrative support for the Bay TPO. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dozier and unanimously approved.

PLANNING PRESENTATIONS ITEMS:

ENCLOSURE C - PLANNING INFORMATION ITEMS (no presentation necessary):

1. TCC and CAC June 2024 Meeting Minutes
2. Bay TPO Actions Report – June 2024
3. 2024 Bay County TPO Meeting Schedule

TRANSIT AGENDA

TRANSIT ACTION ITEMS:

1. **ENCLOSURE D – TPO ONLY - Consideration of Resolution Bay 24-16 Approving Draft Bill Language for Proceeding with the Necessary Legislative Process for Creation of a New Independent Transit Authority - *Ashley Stukey, Director Collaborative Services Department, Bay County BOCC***

Lamar Hobbs presented the updated draft bill language for proceeding with the necessary legislative process for the creation of a new independent transit authority. The highlighted changes included that the authority shall not have the power of eminent domain to acquire property for public transportation facilities, the authority shall have no ad valorem taxing or non-ad valorem assessment power.

Commissioner Hamm moved to recommend the TPO chair sign Resolution Bay 24-16 approving draft bill language for proceeding with the necessary legislative process for creation of a new independent transit authority. Councilmember Coburn seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

TRANSIT UPDATE

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

OTHER BUSINESS – The next Bay TPO meeting will be held on November 6th, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. The TCC will meet at 11:00 a.m. and the CAC will meet at 1:30 p.m. All meetings will be held at the Bayway Public Transit System, Administration and Meeting Facility, 1010 Cone Ave, Panama City, Florida 32401.

ADJOURNMENT:

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, or family status. Reasonable accommodations for access will be made in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act and for languages other than English. Please notify ECRC Public Involvement of any special requirements or requests at publicinvolvement@ecrc.org or email Leandra Meredith at Leandra.Meredith@ecrc.org. You may also call 1800-226-8914 or 1-800-955-8771 for TTY-Florida. All requests should be made at least 48 hours in advance.

Introduzca la participación del público se solicita, sin distinción de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, edad, religión, discapacidad o estado familiar. La OPC hará arreglos razonables para el acceso a esta reunión de acuerdo con el Americans with Disabilities Act, y para los requisitos de idioma que no sea Inglés. Notifique a la Ada Clark (ada.clark@ecrc.org) de los requisitos de acceso o el idioma en el 850-332-7976 ext. 227 o 1-800-955-8771 para TTY-Florida al menos 48 horas de antelación.