

**BAY COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES**  
**EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL (Designated staff)**  
**Bay County Transit Office**  
**1010 Cone Ave, Panama City, FL 32401**  
**February 05, 2025**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Pamn Henderson, CHAIR	City of Callaway
Daniel Raffield	Bay County Commission
Doug Crosby	Bay County Commission
Clair Pease	Bay County Commission
David Griggs	City of Callaway
Judy Vandergrift	City of Lynn Haven
Pat Perno	City of Lynn Haven
Brian Grainger	City of Panama City
Janice Lucas	City of Panama City
Mary Coburn	City of Panama City Beach
Paul Casto	City of Panama City Beach
Jack Griffis	City of Springfield
<u>Virtual Attendance</u>	
Josh Street	City of Panama City

**MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:**

Robert Carroll, VICE-CHAIR	Bay County Commission
Doug Moore	Bay County Commission
Jerry Smith	City of Mexico Beach
Jenna Flint Haligas	City of Panama City
Michael Rohan, Sr.	City of Panama City

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Bryant Paulk	FDOT
Vincent Spahr	Kimley Horn
Anna Pelletier	The Callaway Citizen
Teresa Langston	Callaway Citizen for Change
Cliff John	Bay County TCC
Harris Neilly	Transdev
Jeff Roberts	Michael Baker
Kaylor Collins	FDOT
Eddie Cook	City of Callaway
Lamar Hobbs	BayWay
Gene Keen	BayWay
Trey Kolmetz	BayWay
Nicole Austin	BayWay

BAY COUNTY TPO Meeting Minutes  
February 05, 2025 (Page 2 of 6)

Matt DeVit	City of Panama City
Terry Shaw	Kimley Horn
Bruch Barnhard	
<u>Virtual Attendance</u>	
Brian Graham	Kimley Horn
Colby Cleveland	
Cory Wilkinson	HDR
Daniel Rosenheim	
Jared Kirkland	FDOT

**EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF:**

Tiffany Bates  
Annie Arguello  
Leandra Meredith  
Howard Vanselow  
Gary Kramer  
Roshita Taylor  
Virtual Attendance:  
Kandase Lee  
Gabrielle McVoy  
Jill Nobles  
Rae Emary

**CALL TO ORDER / INVOCATION / PLEDGE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Councilmember Coburn moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Grainger seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Eddie Cook, City Manager of Callaway, addressed the board about the Transportation Alternatives set-aside item, and suggested that the Callaway project be returned to its spot in the ranking due to a last-minute change in scoring that was made to one of the projects. Eddie Cook stated that he did not believe that the new ranking should be accepted because scoring information was provided by the applicant after the submittal deadline.

**FDOT UPDATE: FDOT Update - *Bryant Paulk, AICP Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Urban Liaisons***

Bryant Paulk gave an update on the Tyndall Flyover Project, stating that FDOT negotiated the bridge deck issue that the contractor had, and they are now released to move forward with

the reconstruction of the portion of bridge deck that had a failure. The project has an anticipated completion date of late summer 2025. The contractor is currently more than 700 days over schedule and FDOT is assessing liquidated damages for this overage.

Bryant Paulk gave an update on the realignment project on US 231 and Starr Avenue. The project was delayed until June of this year. Bryant Paulk stated that Bay County currently has sixteen active construction projects; FDOT looked at the opportunity for additional work in this area and decided they would get better bids if this project was pushed out to the end of the fiscal year.

**PLANNING AND TRANSIT CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 1. ALL COMMITTEES - Approval of December 2024 Meeting Minutes**
- 2. TPO ONLY - Consideration of Resolution Bay 25-05 Authorizing the Surplus of Transit Vehicles 1401 1402, and 1403 – *Lamar Hobbs, Bay County Transit***

**Councilmember Coburn moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Perno seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

**PLANNING ACTION ITEMS:**

- 1. ENCLOSURE A – ALL COMMITTEES - Consideration of Resolution Bay 25-04 Supporting the Draft Bay County Safety Action Plan and Authorizing the TPO Chair to Sign a Letter of Support for the Draft Bay County Safety Action Plan - *Bay County Staff / Michael Baker International***

Jeff Roberts, Michael Baker International, provided an overview of the Bay County Safety Action Plan status and preliminary findings.

**Commissioner Griggs moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution Bay 25-04 supporting the Bay County draft Safety Action Plan and authorizing the TPO chair to sign a letter of support for the Bay County Safety Action Plan's top 100 locations for fatal and serious injury crashes. Councilmember Casto seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

- 2. ENCLOSURE B - ALL COMMITTEES - Consideration of Resolution Bay 25-01 Adopting the Bay TPO 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Goals and Objectives – *Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff***

Gary Kramer gave an introduction into the Bay County TPO 2050 LRTP Goals and Objectives, stating that the Goals and Objectives will be used to establish the evaluation criteria to rank the adopted 2050 LRTP Needs Plan projects. Once this ranking is established, it will be used to create a draft 2050 LRTP Cost Feasible Plan.

Brian Graham presented the LRTP Goals and Objectives 2050 vision and mission.

**Councilmember Casto moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution Bay 25-01 adopting the Bay County TPO 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Goals and Objectives. Commissioner Grainger seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

**3. ENCLOSURE C - ALL COMMITTEES - Consideration of Resolution Bay County TPO 25-06 Adopting the Long Range Transportation 2050 Public Participation Plan (PPP) – *Annie Arguello, ECRC Staff***

Annie Arguello presented the LRTP 2050 PPP and stated that the Bay County TPO's PPP addresses all required strategies.

**Councilmember Coburn moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution Bay 25-06 approving the 2050 LRTP Public Participation Plan for the Bay County TPO. Commissioner Perno seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

**4. ENCLOSURE D - ALL COMMITTEES - Consideration of Resolution Bay 25-03 Adopting the 2025 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Ranked Projects for FDOT District 3 Fiscal Year 2027 – 2031 Tentative Work Program– *Roshita Taylor, ECRC Staff***

Roshita Taylor presented the 2025 TA Set-Aside ranked projects to send to FDOT for inclusion in the District 3 Fiscal Year 2027 – 2031 Tentative Work Program. Roshita Taylor stated that the following projects were submitted to be ranked for submission to FDOT: (1) Bay County-Manolia Beach Road Multi-Use Path (west of Pelican Bay Drive to east of Mystic Lane); (2) City of Callaway-South Gay Avenue Sidewalk Project (Boat Race Road to Cherry Street); (3) City of Lynn Haven-Carolina Avenue & 14th Street Sidewalk (SR 390 to West 14th Street & SR 390 to Maryland Avenue).

Roshita Taylor stated that there was a resubmission of the Lynn Haven TA application after the deadline which would result in additional points for the safety and design amenities criteria. Roshita Taylor noted that whether to accept the score change was at the board's discretion. After discussion, the board decided not to accept the scoring change due to the material being submitted after the deadline.

**Commissioner Pease moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution Bay 25-03 adopting the 2025 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-aside ranked projects as originally ranked. Councilmember Casto seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

**5. ENCLOSURE E – ALL COMMITTEES - Consideration of Resolution Bay 25-02 Accepting the Smart Regions Master Plan – *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff***

Terry Shaw presented the Smart Regions Master Plan and stated that ECRC, in partnership with the FL-AL TPO, developed the plan to further ECRC and the TPO's efforts in advancing technological infrastructure needed to achieve Vision Zero and develop a Smart Region based on existing infrastructure and opportunities to understand and/or solve problems using technology. Terry Shaw stated that the plan aims to identify lifesaving technology concepts across the ECRC and the TPO areas. This plan is simply a resource for improvements and concepts should a local government wish to implement. There was discussion about putting pedestrian crosswalk lights above drivers in Mexico beach due to traffic blocking the current sign location on the side of the road.

**Commissioner Griggs moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution Bay 25-02 accepting the Smart Regions Master Plan. Commissioner Peas seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

**PLANNING PRESENTATIONS ITEMS:**

**1. ENCLOSURE F - ALL COMMITTEES - Schedule for Development of the Bay County TPO FY 2027-2031 Project Priorities– *Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff***

Gary Kramer presented the schedule for the Bay County TPO FY27-31 Project Priorities.

**PLANNING INFORMATION ITEMS (no presentation necessary):**

1. TCC and CAC December 2024 Meeting Minutes
2. 2025 Bay County TPO Meeting Schedule

**TRANSIT AGENDA**

**TRANSIT UPDATE**

Lamar Hobbs stated that there is no additional funding to continue the Sunday service after March of this year.

Lamar Hobbs stated that Genfare, the fare boxes used to collect transit fares, is no longer going to service, or maintain the Odyssey Fare Box, which is what the county primarily uses. Lamar Hobbs stated that Bay County can either buy new fare boxes or look for an alternative way to take fares without having to spend several hundred thousand dollars. Lamar Hobbs stated that staff are looking into what other agencies across the country are doing and stated

that one option is to go back to the old typical manual fare box where customers put the cash in at the top and push a button down. Genfare's intent is to quit servicing the fare boxes at the end of 2025.

Lamar Hobbs stated that last year the county began a partnership with a Transportation Network Company. The county was notified that they were subject to a federal drug and alcohol audit of the transit system, which does not concern the county because they never had any issues with drug and alcohol compliance. One of the findings that came out of that drug and alcohol audit was that there were drivers in safety sensitive positions, some of which have not met the FTA drug and alcohol requirements. After an audit Bay County was exempt, but because there was an app they would not qualify for the Taxicab exemption. Lamar Hobbs stated that in 2018 Dallas Area Transit (Texas) received the same finding but was able to get out of it because they continued to meet the qualifications for exemption even though they used an app. Lamar Hobbs stated that the county is currently fighting an objection.

Chair Henderson asked where the bus wash facility stands and where the Transit Authority House Bill stands. Lamar Hobbs stated that the Transit Authority Bill is dead for now. It did not go to the legislature this year, nor did it get to the local delegation for approval. The governor's office has indicated they want to review the language.

## **LEGAL UPDATE**

Lamar Hobbs gave the legal update and stated that the contractor for the bus wash system has not done a good job of providing a good quality product and that the contractor is not following specifications. After 40-50 buses went through, the flooring started to bubble and come up in sheets. Lamar Hobbs stated that they did not use an approved product. County staff asked the architect verbally and in writing if he equipment will need to be removed to properly redo the floors. The price given to redo the floors was estimated to be \$80,000 to \$100,000. Lamar Hobbs stated that county staff are giving the contractors the opportunity to correct the problem.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**