

FLORIDA-ALABAMA CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)
MEETING MINUTES
EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL (Designated staff)
Pensacola Bay Center
February 06, 2024

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jeb Smith, CHAIR
Rita Gunter
Kurt Larson
Pat McClellan

Virtual Attendance:

Vernon Compton, VICE CHAIR

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Michael Broker
Alan R. Isaacson
Jim Kauffman
Tim Pagel
Jack Robie
Nick Wilson
Bart Pullum

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Christy Johnson, FDOT
Chris Phillips, Escambia County
Keith Bowe, Citizen

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF

Austin Mount
Mary Beth Washnock
Jill Nobles
Gary Kramer
Leandra Meredith
Tiffany Bates
Rae Emary

Virtual Attendance

Beth Tate	Citizen
Thomas Lambert	Gulf Breeze
Macy Falcon	Kimley-Horn
Katie Fults	ECRC

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

Chair Smith called the meeting to order, and introductions were made.

PUBLIC FORUM Keith Bowe addressed congestion and back-up at Gulf Beach Highway at the intersection of Navy Blvd. and Fairfield Drive. He asked that the re-paving and widening projects that are scheduled separately be combined to take place at the same time, both for budgetary and practical reasons. He said crosswalks are also greatly needed in the area for pedestrians to be able to access the convenience stores and the new Dollar General across the street. He said there are also sidewalks but no flashing light for students at the school that is also in that area. He said a group of about twenty residents of the area attended this meeting about a year ago, but the request went nowhere.

Mary Beth Washnock thanked Keith Bowe for his comments and stated that Escambia County and FDOT representatives are present at this meeting today and are noting his concerns.

FDOT/ALDOT/ UPDATES:

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

Christy Johnson reported that FDOT had two projects on I-10 in Escambia County to report on. The first project is a \$55 million replacement of the Nine Mile Road overpass, which is a 1400 day project to begin in late March. The second project is the final build-out of the I-10 at U.S. 29 interchange, a 2200 day project at a cost of \$235 million.

2. ALDOT Update - *Vincent Beebe, P.E., ALDOT*

Vince Beebe gave an update on the south end of the waterways bridge project and stated that construction is advancing and should be complete by 2026. ALDOT hopes to have the project completed by 2026. The north end of the project should be out for bid in April. Vince Beebe said the CR 180 at 161 intersection design improvements project is moving along and stated that ALDOT will host a public involvement meeting in early 2024. Another project on Canal Road will tie in where the bridge meets SR 180 to the Foley Express. Hoping to have that project complete in 2026 as well.

CONSENT:

- 1. ALL COMMITTEES:** Approval of November 2023 Meeting Minutes

Pat McClellan moved to approve the FL-AL CAC November 2023 meeting minutes as amended. Kurt Larson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

ACTION:

1. **ENCLOSURE A – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of FL-AL 24-07 Amending the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Construction Costs for SR 292 (Sorrento Road) from CR 293 (Bauer Road) to CR 292A (Gulf Beach Highway), Paved Shoulders Project for Financial Project Identification (FDIP) Number 4508142 in FY 2023/2024 at a Total Cost of \$3,632,000 – *Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT***

Christy Johnson presented the TIP amendment to add construction of paved shoulders; the project is to begin in June 2024.

There was general discussion about this project and how it ties in with other needed projects, such as those discussed under public forum. Christy Johnson said she did not have any further information with her other than this specific amendment request.

Pat McClellan moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 24-07 amending the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program. Kurt Larson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. **ENCLOSURE B – ALL COMMITTEES - Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 24-08 Amending the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Design Costs for SR 8 (I-10) from Miller Bluff Road to the Okaloosa County Line, Resurfacing Project for Financial Project Identification (FPID) Number 4541791 in FY 2023/2024 at a Total Cost of \$3,251,600 - *Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT***

Christy Johnson presented the TIP amendment to add design costs for this resurfacing to begin in 2026.

Kurt Larson moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 24-08 amending the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program. Rita Gunter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. **ENCLOSURE C – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 24-01 Amending the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the 5-Year Regional Traffic Operations Program (RTOP) for Signal Management and Upgrades on all State Routes in the Southwest Region of Alabama for Comprehensive Project Management System (CPMS) Number 100071946 in FY**

2023/2024 at a Total Cost of \$2,349,854- Vincent Beebe, P.E., ALDOT

Vince Beebe presented the TIP amendment to add funds to continue monitoring and making needed changes to the signal system.

Kurt Larson moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 24-01 amending the FY 2024-2028 TIP. Pat McClellan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. **ENCLOSURE D – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 24-03 Amending the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program to Re-segment the Design, Utility, Right-of-Way, and Construction Phases for SR 180 (Canal Road) from SR 59 to the Foley Beach Express into Two- Vincent Beebe, P.E., ALDOT**

Vince Beebe presented the TIP amendment to re-define the SR 180 project as two separate projects to complete the eastern-most portion to coordinate with other ongoing projects.

There was general discussion about the project and the reasons for splitting it into two.

Kurt Larson moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 24-03 amending the FY 2024-2028 TIP. Rita Gunter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5. **ENCLOSURE E – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 24-04 Approving Evaluation Criteria for Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) Staff Ranking of Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Projects – Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff**

Jill Nobles stated that the criteria are being updated to match the available data. Level of Service is the criterion being updated due to a change in data collection. There were no questions from the TCC members.

Kurt Larson moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 24-04 approving evaluation criteria for ECRC ranking of TSM projects. Rita Gunter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. **ENCLOSURE F – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 24-05 Approving the Scope of Services for the Smart Regions Master Plan - Jill Nobles,**

ECRC Staff

Jill Nobles explained the Smart Regions Master Plan Scope of Services, which will build off the results of the Safe Streets 4 All plan results, identifying where fatalities and serious injuries are happening and to identify technological strategies that can be implemented in those locations.

Rita Gunter asked what the thresholds are for determining the highest risk corridors. Jill Nobles stated that there is a database called Signal 4 Analytics that will help make that determination. She said portions of the database are available to the public and can be found by searching "Signal 4 Analytics".

Kurt Larson moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 24-05 approving the Smart Regions Master Plan Scope of Services and authorizing the ECRC CEO to issue a Notice to Proceed to Kimley-Horn. Rita Gunter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

7. ENCLOSURE G – ALL COMMITTEES -- Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 24-09 Approving the Data Analytics Scope of – *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*

Jill Nobles explained the Data Analytics Scope of Services. This two-phase project will then use the results of the above two plans to identify the initial software needs to connect the transportation management center with FDOT.

Kurt Larson moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 24-09 approving the Data Analytics Scope of Services. Rita Gunter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

8. ENCLOSURE H – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 24-10 Approving the Carbon Reduction Strategy Scope of Services – *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*

Jill Nobles said the Carbon Reduction Scope of Services will work with the Okaloosa-Walton TPO to identify greenhouse gas performance measures and mitigation strategies. The TPO's ATMS/ITS projects are one of the main types of eligible projects for carbon reduction funds.

Pat McClellan asked if the same staff are working on all three of these projects (the previous two items and this one) concurrently. Jill Nobles stated that the staff and Kimley-Horn are working together on all three, and that some tasks are dependent on the results of others, but that in some cases work is happening concurrently.

Kurt Larson said he is supportive of this project and the benefits it will provide.

Kurt Larson moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 24-10, approving the Carbon Reduction Strategy Scope of Services. Pat McClellan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

9. ENCLOSURE I - ALL COMMITTEES - Establishment of a Selection Review Committee for the Request for Qualification for Signalization Consultant Continuing Service - *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*

Jill Nobles said the current contract with DRMP to provide signalization services expires in June, so a Selection Review Committee is needed to review the proposals staff receives in response to the RFQ. The TCC elected Don Christian, Scott Davidson, and Tim Milstead agreed to serve.

10. ENCLOSURE J - ALL COMMITTEES- Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 24-06 Approving ECRC Staff Coordination with Escambia County Staff to Finalize a Scope of Services and Enter a Contract with One of the TPO's General Planning Consultants for the South Navy Boulevard Corridor Management Plan - *Chris Phillips, PE, CPM, Escambia County Staff*

Chris Phillips stated the project corridor, which leads to the main gate of Pensacola NAS, needs many aesthetic and safety improvements. Landscaping, lighting, message boards, a spot for freight trucks to turn around, re-striping, to better deal with traffic and incorporate bike lanes is also part of the project. The County will be working with ECRC and its consultant on this project.

Pat McClellan asked if the main gate will be re-opened to the public after the improvements are made. Chris Phillips stated that opening only the west gate to the public was part of the compromise with the Navy for opening back up after the shooting that took place several years ago.

Rita Gunter asked for clarification of the request being made. Chris Phillips explained. The county will be paying for everything and offered to do this to assist the mission of the base.

Keith Bowe stated that he is a member of the Warrington Revitalization Committee, who has the funds, and has offered them for this project.

Pat McClellan moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 24-06 approving ECRC staff coordination with Escambia County

staff to finalize a scope of services and enter a contract with one of the TPO's General Planning Consultants for the South Navy Boulevard Corridor Management Plan. Kurt Larson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

11. ENCLOSURE K – TPO ONLY – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 24-02 Requesting AMTRAK Restore Stations and Passenger Service in Northwest Florida – *Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff*

Pat McLellan spoke in support of a return of this service.

PRESENTATIONS: (no action necessary)

1. ENCLOSURE L – ALL COMMITTEES – Schedule for Development of the Florida-Alabama TPO FY 2026-2030 Project Priorities – *Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff*

Gary Kramer said a joint Project Priorities workshop will be held at the ECRC's new office on Gregory Street at 10:00 a.m. on March 13, 2024. He then reviewed future workshops that will be held in April and May. The Project Priorities will be considered at the June meetings.

2. ENCLOSURE M – ALL COMMITTEES – Draft Update to Evaluation Criteria for Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) Staff Ranking of Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Project – *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*

Jill Nobles presented the draft update to evaluation criteria for ECRC staff's ranking of Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Projects, informing the board as per the UPWP, ECRC staff are reevaluating the adopted evaluation criteria used to rank candidate projects. Comments will be collected through January 19, 2024.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES - TPO ONLY - *Tiffany Bates, ECRC Community Liaison*

INFORMATION ITEMS (no presentation necessary)

1. TCC and CAC November 2023 Meeting Minutes
2. FL-AL TPO November 2023 Actions Report
3. Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Application Review Workshop Agenda
4. FL-AL TPO Signed Florida Commerce Letter
5. ALDOT Self-Certification Form
6. Amendment to the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Letters
7. 2024 FL-AL TPO Schedule

OTHER BUSINESS

Mary Beth Washnock said the next CAC meeting will be held April 9, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT