

FLORIDA-ALABAMA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (TPO)

MEETING MINUTES

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL (Designated staff)

Pensacola Bay Center

February 07, 2024

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Colten Wright, CHAIR	Santa Rosa County Commission
Jerry Johnson, VICE CHAIR	City of Orange Beach
Charles F. Gruber	Baldwin County Commission
Cherry Fitch	City of Gulf Breeze
Roxanne Meiss	City of Milton
Charles Bare	City of Pensacola
Jared Moore	City of Pensacola
Allison Patton	City of Pensacola
Steven Barry	Escambia County Commission
Jeff Bergosh	Escambia County Commission
Mike Kohler	Escambia County Commission
James Calkins	Santa Rosa County Commission
Ray Eddington	Santa Rosa County Commission
Sam Parker	Santa Rosa County Commission
Kerry Smith	Santa Rosa County Commission

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Lumon May	Escambia County Commission
Casey Jones	City of Pensacola
Delarian Wiggins	City of Pensacola

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bryant Paulk	FDOT
Christy Johnson	FDOT
Carla Hodges	FDOT
Olin Pettis	FDOT
Vince Beebe	ALDOT
Scott Davidson	Hurlburt Field
Chris Phillips	Escambia County
Caitlin Cerame	City of Pensacola
Evon Horton	Brownsville Church
Macy Falcon	Kimley-Horn
Cory Wilkinson	HDR
Deston Taylor	DRMP
Wendy Gavin	City of Pensacola
Caitlin Cerame	City of Pensacola

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF

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

Virtual Attendance

Shawn Ward	Santa Rosa County
Zakkiyyah Osuigwe	Santa Rosa County
Lani Burritt	Citizen
James Schneider	Citizen
Thomas Lambert	City of Gulf Breeze
Amy Tootle	City of Pensacola
Dawn Schwartz	ECRC
Katie Fults	ECRC

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

Chair Wright called the meeting to order. The prayer was led, and the pledge of allegiance recited. Mary Beth Washnock called the roll.

Chair Wright said Scott Davidson with Hurlburt Field was there today and thanked him for his participation in the TPO process.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Wright asked for approval of the agenda. Chair Wright stated that there were add-ons and provided a brief description of both. **Commissioner Barry moved to approve the February 7, 2024 TPO agenda with two add-on items, one regarding an amendment request by ALDOT, and another to replace former Commissioner Bender on the MPOAC Governing Board. Councilmember Patton seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

PUBLIC FORUM

Evon Horton introduced himself as the Pastor of Brownsville Assembly of God for the past eighteen years. He said that when he started in this post, he quickly noticed the needs of the Brownsville residents and began to work with the community on improvements. Atkins had public workshops in the area about a decade ago explaining the concept of a road diet. Then about five years ago there were a lot of pedestrian fatalities in the area. FDOT quickly provided traffic calming and safety measures when have helped a lot. He explained that 35% of Brownsville residents are pedestrians or use bicycles for transportation. Pastor Horton

expressed concern that the traffic calming measures that have taken place could conflict with the road diet design and costs. He said he has talked to his county commissioner, Senator Broxson, and Senator Gainer about the project and Senator Broxson has committed an additional \$1,000,000 that are not FDOT funds to the road diet. He asked the TPO to consider increasing the priority of the road diet project on Cervantes Street from Pace Boulevard to Green Street.

Mary Beth Washnock stated that she met recently with Pastor Horton and explained the Project Priorities process and was glad to see him come discuss his concerns with the TPO today.

FDOT/ALDOT/ UPDATES:

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

Bryant Paulk 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 bridges, 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.

??? asked for the status of the Pine Forest project that is included in the Governor's package. Bryant Paulk stated that the project is funded through the Moving Florida Forward program and is scheduled in Fiscal Year 2027.

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

The minutes were approved.

ACTION:

1. **ENCLOSURE A – ALL COMMITTEES – Roll Call Vote. 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

- 2. ENCLOSURE B – ALL COMMITTEES – Roll Call Vote. 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**

Bryant Paulk presented the TIP amendments included in Enclosures A and B together. Enclosure A, a project to add construction of paved shoulders; the project is to begin in June 2024, and Enclosure B, a project to add design costs for a resurfacing project.

Commissioner Kohler moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolutions FL-AL 24-07 and Resolution FL-AL 24-08 amending the FY 2024-2028 TIP. Council Member Bare seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Wright	Yes
Councilmember Johnson	Yes
Commissioner Gruber	Yes
Mayor Fitch	Yes
Councilmember Meiss	Yes
Councilmember Bare	Yes
Councilmember Moore	Yes
Councilmember Patton	Yes
Commissioner Barry	Yes
Commissioner Bergosh	Yes
Commissioner Kohler	Yes
Commissioner Calkins	Yes
Commissioner Eddington	Yes
Commissioner Parker	Yes
Commissioner Smith	Yes

The motion 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

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 Enclosures C and D together, the first a TIP amendment to add funds to continue monitoring and making needed changes to the signal system, and the second an amendment to re-define the SR 180 project as two separate projects to complete the eastern-most portion to coordinate with other ongoing projects.

Mayor Fitch moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolutions FL-AL 24-01 and FL-AL 24-03, amending the FY 2024-2028 TIP. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Wright	Yes
Councilmember Johnson	Yes
Commissioner Gruber	Yes
Mayor Fitch	Yes
Councilmember Meiss	Yes
Councilmember Bare	Yes
Councilmember Moore	Yes
Councilmember Patton	Yes
Commissioner Barry	Yes
Commissioner Bergosh	Yes
Commissioner Kohler	Yes
Commissioner Calkins	Yes
Commissioner Eddington	Yes
Commissioner Parker	Yes
Commissioner Smith	Yes

The motion 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.

Councilmember Bare moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 24-04 approving evaluation criteria for ECRC ranking of TSM projects. Councilmember Moore 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 first introduced Austin Mount, ECRC CEO, to present a wide overview. Austin Mount noted that 2024 is a banner year for ECRC, its 60th year in existence, and a new logo was created (ECRC 2.0) to promote moving into a new era. Austin Mount explained that an event was held on February 2 to introduce elected officials from across the region to the digital age of transportation planning and implementation. There have been 8,000 roadway fatalities in the region over the past 60 years, and all three TPOs have adopted and are committed to the “Vision Zero” goal. Austin Mount explained the “7-layer cake”, a concept staff developed that integrates seven projects that will usher in the digital age. They include the Safe Street 4 All program, carbon reduction, data analytics, and smart region plans, as well as their implementation, broadband and fiber deployment, and the traffic management center.

Jill Nobles explained the next three agenda items together, noting how they all work together. 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.

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.

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.

Commissioner Calkins voiced his support for all these projects, except for the Carbon Reduction Plan, stating that his constituents do not support it and the burden it places on industry. Commissioner Calkins said he thinks those funds could be better used elsewhere.

Chair Wright asked that the three items be voted on separately to note Commissioner Calkins' opposition to Enclosure H.

Councilmember Patton moved to 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. Commissioner Smith 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***

Councilmember Bare moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 24-09 approving the Data Analytics Scope of Services. Commissioner Smith 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***

Commissioner Bergosh moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 24-10, approving the Carbon Reduction Strategy Scope of Services. Commisisoner Smith seconded the motion and it passed with Commissioner Calkins opposed.

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 nominated Don Christian with Escambia County, Scott Davidson with Hurlburt Field, and Tim Milstead with the City of Milton to serve.

Austin Mount introduced Deston Taylor, with DRMP, who works with Ben Faust on this project under the current contract.

Councilmember Bare moved to appoint Don Christian, Scott Davidson, and Tim Milstead to the Selection Review Committee for the Request for Qualifications for Signalization Consultant Continuing Service. Mayor Fitch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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.

Commissioner Kohler spoke to the needs to improve the blight of this area, especially immediate to the main gate and asked for the TPO's support for the project, funded by Escambia County's CRA.

Chair Wright also spoke in support of the project.

Chris Phillips explained some concepts that will be considered in the study, including traffic control through reducing turn-ins, adding a center median, lighting, etc., and landscaping to beautify the area and reduce the sea of asphalt.

Commissioner Parker thanked Chris Phillips for his clarification and voiced support and enthusiasm for the project.

Commissioner Kohler moved to 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. Commissioner Parker seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

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*

Gary Kramer said the MPOAC announced in November that they will be accepting applications for the Passenger Rail Project Priorities. An application to restore passenger rail service through northwest Florida was prepared and the TPO's consultant recommended that the TPO's same request, approved by a resolution in 2008, also be included to show its long-standing support.

Charles Bare moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 24-02 requesting AMTRAK restore stations and passenger service in Northwest Florida. Cherry Fitch seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

ADD-ON ITEM – TPO ONLY – Appointment of TPO Member(s) to Serve the Remainder of the 2024 Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) Governing Board Term – *Chair Wright*

Chair Wright noted that with Commissioner Bender's appointment by the governor as the new Supervisor of Elections for Escambia County, a vacancy has been created on the MPOAC Governing Board. He said he currently serves as the alternate to the primary member and is willing to assume the primary role if that is the wish of the board. Commissioner Parker suggested that Councilmember Johnson assume the alternate position. Councilmember Johnson agreed. **Commissioner Calkins moved to appoint Santa Rosa County Commissioner Colten Wright as the Florida-Alabama TPO's primary MPOAC Governing Board member for the remainder of Calendar Year 2024 and Orange Beach City Councilmember Jerry Johnson as the alternate. Mayor Fitch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

ADD-ON ITEM – TPO ONLY – Request for Approval to Begin LRTP Amendment Process for County Road 99 Project – *Vince Beebe, P.E., ALDOT*

Vince Beebe said ALDOT has been working with Baldwin County on a project for County Road 99 and has experienced some cost over-runs. Funds from a turn lane have been identified that can be moved to the paved shoulders project. Vince Beebe said shifting these funds will allow the project to proceed and will speed up the project. **Commissioner Parker moved to approve ALDOT's request to begin the LRTP amendment process for County Road 99. Mayor Fitch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

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*

Tiffany Bates distributed the legislative priorities and update for the board members to review and highlighted points of two bills up for discussion that could have impacts on the MPOAC and the TPO process.

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

Commissioner Smith said there is a problem with CAC attendance and many TPO members have not selected a member to represent their district. He asked that they do so and that the TPO take advantage of the talent that exists in the citizenry.

ADJOURNMENT