

FLORIDA-ALABAMA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (TPO)

MEETING MINUTES

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL (Designated staff)

Gulf Breeze Community Center – 800 Shoreline Drive, Gulf Breeze, Florida 32561

April 10, 2024

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Colten Wright, CHAIR	Santa Rosa County
Cherry Fitch	Gulf Breeze
Roxanne Meiss	Milton
Charles Bare	Pensacola
Allison Patton	Pensacola
Delarian Wiggins	Pensacola
Steven Barry	Escambia County
Mike Kohler	Escambia County
James Calkins	Santa Rosa County
Sam Parker	Santa Rosa County

Virtual Attendance:

Kerry Smith	Santa Rosa County
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MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Jerry Johnson, VICE-CHAIR	Orange Beach
Charles F. Gruber	Baldwin County
Casey Jones	Pensacola
Jared Moore	Pensacola
Jeff Bergosh	Escambia County
Lumon May	Escambia County
Ray Eddington	Santa Rosa County

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bryant Paulk	FDOT
Christy Johnson	FDOT
Chris Francis	SRF Consulting Group
Cory Wilkinson	HDR
Chris Phillips	Escambia County
Rob Working	Citizen
Kevin Harrison	Sain Association
Scott Davidson	Hurlburt Field
Matt Vera	Hurlburt Field
Wendy Gavin	City of Pensacola
Michael Kohler	Escambia County
Rodriquez Kimbrough	ECAT
Kristen Wood	Hurlburt Field

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Amber Borden	ECAT
Scott Moseley	ALDOT
Zee Osuigwe	Santa Rosa County
Casey Jones	City of Pensacola City County
Olen Pettis	FDOT
Romi White	South SR News
Deston Taylor	DRMP
Justin Baldwin	DEP
Jerry Shaw	Kimley Horn

Virtual Attendance:

Colby Cleveland	FDOT
Andrew McKay	News Radio 1620
Tim Milstead	City of Milton
AJ Brewer	
Bruce Burnham	
Paul Long	
Kristina Whitfield	Kimley Horn
Andrew Hill	

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF

Austin Mount
Mary Beth Washnock
Tiffany Bates
Rae Emary
Lisa Cunningham
Renee Quick
Gary Kramer
Jill Nobles

Virtual Attendance:

Leandra Meredith
Tammy Neal
Gina Watson
Katie Fults

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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mary Beth Washnock stated that there was a request to add a letter of support from ECAT to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in support of a grant application.

Commissioner Barry moved to approve the agenda as amended. Councilmember Bare seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

HURLBURT FIELD UPDATE

Colonel Kristen Wood with Hurlburt Field addressed the board about how traffic is impacting Hurlburt Field. Colonel Wood stated that while Hurlburt is in Okaloosa County, about half of the members live in Santa Rosa County. Colonel Wood discussed the mission impact and why it is significant for Hurlburt Field. Colonel Wood discussed the three missions of Hurlburt Field within the special operations wing, campaigning against great power operations, contingency operations, and crisis response missions.

Colonel Wood discussed the crisis response mission and the importance of the efficient movement of traffic. Colonel Wood stated that Hurlburt Field members can be called out at a moment's notice to support a soft ground element to either save Americans from bad places or kill bad guys that are threatening Americans. Colonel Wood stated that the concern with traffic is that they need to be able to get forces out to Hurlburt Field to generate aircraft, to marshal cargo, to process personnel, and to get them out the door and off the ramp in a speedy fashion. Colonel Wood discussed the traffic on Highway 98 and how it is a major concern. Colonel Wood stated that Hurlburt Field wants to help be part of the solution and is willing to do what they need to support traffic relief on Highway 98.

Hurlburt Field Civil Engineer Matt Vera presented the TPO with two letters of support that would help secure grants to help with traffic and discussed the AFSOC Roundtable outcome. Chair Wright asked if in the future someone from Santa Rosa County could attend Hurlburt Field's Traffic/Road Capacity Work Group meetings that work to collectively develop a way ahead to address the issue of traffic between Hurlburt Field and Navarre.

PUBLIC FORUM

Chris Frances with SRF Consulting Group out of Tallahassee spoke and stated that they are supporting FDOT in advancing automated vehicle technologies and to learn more about the TPO's plans to take automated traffic management to the next level. Chris Frances stated that he was looking forward to learning more about the traffic signal operations contract presence and hoped to work with the TPO in the future.

Rodriquez Kimbrough thanked the TPO for their support of ECAT and asked that the TPO sign a letter of support to approve a letter to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in support of Escambia County Area Transit's (ECAT) application to the FY2024 Bus and Bus Facilities Discretionary Program and the Low or No Emissions Bus Discretionary Grant Program for their new facility and electric bus project. Rodriquez Kimbrough stated that ECAT is looking for more money and more support so that public transit service in the county can continue to grow.

Romi White thanked Colonel Wood for the update, then made a public request of TPO staff for all expenditures from the most recent regional TPO workshop events that occurred in February 2024. Romi White also discussed the traffic problems on US 90 in Milton at the Blackwater Bridge despite the Myovision being in place.

FDOT/ALDOT/ UPDATES:

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

Bryant Paulk informed the board of a virtual project update for an off-system bridge replacement on Klondike Road in Escambia County and stated that plans, drawings, and maps would be made available on FDOT's website later in the day.

Commissioner Parker asked about the ability to flush traffic out on Highway 90. Bryant Paulk replied that the county oversees the signal operations in the city.

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

Mary Beth Washnock gave the ALDOT update in Vince Beebe's absence. Mary Beth Washnock gave an update on the "Waterways" project south end and stated that ongoing work includes clearing and grubbing, pile driving / jetting, forming and pouring footings, columns, and caps, and erosion control items. The anticipated completion date is set sometime in 2026. Mary Beth Washnock stated that the north portion of the project has a current anticipated construction letting date on May 2024.

Mary Beth Washnock gave an update on the SR-180 at SR 161 intersection improvement project. PE is ongoing and a public involvement meeting is to be scheduled sometime in the near future. Mary Beth Washnock gave an update on the 4 laning of SR 180 from Beaver Creek Lane to FBE. The goal of this project is to have it completed through construction when the new Waterways Bridge opens in 2026.

CONSENT:

- 1. ALL COMMITTEES: Approval of February 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes**
- 2. ENCLOSURE A - ALL COMMITTEES - Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 24-12 Adopting the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan Public Involvement Plan**
- 3. ENCLOSURE B - TPO ONLY - Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 24-19 Amending the FY 2023-FY2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to De-Obligate PL Funds, SU Funds, and CM Funds**

4. **ENCLOSURE C – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 24-14 Approving a Letter of Support for Designating SR 87N as a Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Facility and the Proposed SR 87 Connector as a Military Access Facility with Any Changes, Pending FDOT Review**
5. **ENCLOSURE D – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 24-15 Adopting the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 – FY 2026 Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**
6. **ENCLOSURE E – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 24-18 Issuing a Letter of Support for Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Prioritization Process Pilot Program (PPPP) Discretionary Grant Application**

Commissioner Barry moved to approve the consent agenda items. Mayor Fitch seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

ACTION:

1. **ENCLOSURE F – ALL COMMITTEES – ROLL CALL VOTE – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 24-13 Amending the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Construction Costs for North Hayne Street from East Cervantes Street to East Blount Street, Multi-Use Path Project for Financial Identification (FPID) Number 4517242 in FY 2024/2025 at a Total Cost of \$575,500 – *Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT***

Bryant Paulk presented the TIP amendment.

Commissioner Parker moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 24-13 amending the FY 2024-2028 TIP. Mayor Fitch seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Colten Wright	Yes
Commissioner Steven Barry	Yes
Commissioner Mike Kohler	Yes
Mayor Cherry Fitch	Yes
Council Member Roxanne Meiss	Yes
Council Member Charles Bare	Yes
Council Member Delarian Wiggins	Yes
Commissioner James Calkins	Yes
Commissioner Sam Parker	Yes
Commissioner Kerry Smith	Yes

The motion was unanimously approved.

2. ENCLOSURE G – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Approval to Issue a Request for Qualifications for the Signal Operations Contract – *Jill Nobles, TPO Staff*

Jill Nobles presented the draft RFQ and informed the board that issuing this RFQ is recommended so the TPO can continue being the lead agency in the efforts for the full build out of the Regional ATMS and RTMC. The TPO board will be asked to approve the final consultant selection in June.

Commissioner Parker moved to approve the TPO issuance of the Request for Qualifications for signalization consultant continuing services. Commissioner Barry seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

3. ENCLOSURE H – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 24-11 Adopting the Florida-Alabama TPO 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Goals and Objectives – *Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff*

Cory Wilkinson with HDR presented the FL-AL TPO 2050 LRTP Goals and Objectives, which 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.

Commissioner Barry moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 24-11 adopting the FL-AL TPO 2050 LRTP Goals and Objectives. Councilmember Meiss seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

4. ENCLOSURE I – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 24-16 Adopting the 2024 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Ranked Projects for FDOT District 3 Fiscal Year 2026 – 2030 Tentative Work Program – *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*

Jill Nobles presented the 2024 TA set-aside ranked projects for FY 2026 and stated that the final priority ranking is due to FDOT on April 26th. ECRC staff will submit the final ranking from the TPO to FDOT.

Councilmember Bare moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 24-16 adopting the 2024 TA Set-aside ranked projects. Mayor Fitch seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

5. ENCLOSURE J – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 24-20 Issuing a Letter of Support for Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Intelligent Transportation System Demonstration Discretionary Grant Application – *Austin Mount, ECRC Staff*

Austin Mount presented a letter of support for the FHWA SS4A ITA Demonstration Discretionary Grant application and informed the board that the FL-AL TPO is now eligible to apply for and receive a potentially large federal grant to continue the advancement of ITS technology infrastructure for the US29/"W" Street corridor, which is one of, if not the highest, fatality corridors in the district. Commissioner Calkins stated that he doesn't want his name on a carbon reduction plan.

Commissioner Barry moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolutions FL-AL 24-20 issuing a letter of support for the FHWA SS4A ITS Demonstration Discretionary Grant application. Councilmember Bare seconded the motion, and it was approved with Commissioner Calkins opposed.

6. ENCLOSURE K – ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution FL-AL 24-17 Amending the Florida-Alabama TPO, TCC, and CAC Bylaws – *Austin Mount, ECRC Staff*

Austin Mount presented the recommended changes to the FL-AL TPO and advisory committees' bylaws. The most recent update was a change to the TPO's quorum requirement, and it occurred on January 13, 2021. Chair Wright stated that section M on page 80 discussed that planning for all future joint TPO meetings shall include the TPO chairs.

Commissioner Calkins moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution FL-AL 24-17 amending the FL-AL TPO, TCC and CAC Bylaws. Councilmember Bare seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

7. ADD ON ITEM:

Amber Borden presented and asked the TPO to approve a letter to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in support of Escambia County Area Transit's (ECAT) application to the FY2024 Bus and Bus Facilities Discretionary Program and the Low or No Emissions Bus Discretionary Grant program for their new facility and electric bus project.

Commissioner Barry moved to approve a letter to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in support of Escambia County Area Transit's (ECAT) application to the FY2024 Bus and Bus Facilities Discretionary Program and the Low or No Emissions Bus Discretionary Grant program for their new facility and electric bus project. Councilmember Bare seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

PRESENTATIONS: (no action necessary)

1. ENCLOSURE L – ALL COMMITTEES – Introductory Presentation for the Smart Regions Master Plan – *Terry Shaw, P.E., Kimley-Horn*

Terry Shaw presented the Smart Regions Master Plan.

2. ENCLOSURE M – ALL COMMITTEES – Introductory Presentation for the Carbon Reduction Strategy – *Kristina Whitfield, P.E., AICP, Kimley-Horn*

Kristina Whitfield presented the Carbon Reduction Strategy.

3. ENCLOSURE N – ALL COMMITTEES – Florida Greenways and Trails (FGT) Presentation –*Jessica Walton, ECRC Staff*

Jessica Walton presented the FGT presentation and stated that the original prioritization of regional trails was completed by the Council and provided to the Department of Transportation in March 2016. At the time, only seven regional trails were identified within the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS). Currently, there are 14 regional trails identified within the FGTS. Because of the additional statutory language, the Council will be developing a prioritized/reprioritized list of the current regional trails. Jessica Paul informed the board that ECRC presented two proposed trail projects to be ranked by the Florida Greenways and Trails Council on March 27, 2024. The Great Northwest Coast Connector and the US 90 Trail Corridor.

4. ENCLOSURE O – ALL COMMITTEES – Review of Draft FL-AL TPO FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program –*Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff*

Gary Kramer presented the draft FL-AL TPO FY 25-29 TIP. Gary Kramer said that this item will be up for adoption in June.

5. ENCLOSURE P – ALL COMMITTEES – Review of Draft FL-AL TPO FY 2026-2030 Project Priorities –*Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff*

Gary Kramer presented the draft FL-AL TPO FY 26-30 Project Priorities. This item will be up for adoption at the June TPO meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS (no presentation necessary)

1. TCC and CAC February 2024 Meeting Minutes
2. Joint TPO February 2, 2024 Workshop Summary
3. FL-AL TPO February 2024 Actions Report
4. TIP Amendment Letter to FDOT – I-10
5. TIP Amendment Letter to FDOT – Sorrento Road
6. TIP Amendment Letter to ALDOT – Regional Traffic Operations Program
7. TIP Amendment Letter to ALDOT – SR 180
8. TIP Amendment Letter to ALDOT – CR 99
9. 2024 FL-AL TPO Schedule

OTHER BUSINESS- The next FL-AL TPO meeting will be held on June 12, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. The TCC and CAC meetings will be held on April 09, 2024. The TCC will meet at 10:00 a.m. and the CAC will meet at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT