



OKALOOSA TRANSIT COOPERATIVE



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Drew Palmer
Paul Mixon

Jean Hood
Vice-Chair

AGENDA

Thursday, March 19, 2026 @ 10:00 a.m. CST
Okaloosa County Board Chamber
1250 N. Eglin Parkway, Shalimar, FL 32579

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chair

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Attached January 15, 2026 Meeting Minutes

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

For those wishing to speak, please fill out a speaker request form and indicate the agenda item(s) you would like to address. You will be called by the chairman at the appropriate time. If you would like to address an item not on the agenda, there will be an opportunity at the end of the meeting (Item VIII Public Forum) to speak.

V. ACTION ITEMS

None

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 1. EC Rider Updates – Okaloosa County Staff**
- 2. MV Transportation Updates – John Bohannon, MV Transportation**



Okaloosa Transit Cooperative
Staffed by the Emerald Coast Regional Council

Okaloosa Transit Cooperative Meeting Agenda Continued

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

The next Okaloosa Transit Cooperative meetings are scheduled for:

- *Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 10:00 a.m*
- *Thursday July 16, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.*

in the Okaloosa County Board Chambers – 1250 N. Eglin Parkway, Shalimar, Florida.

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

1. Public – For those wishing to speak, please fill out a speaker request form.
2. Any additional items for discussion – Co-Op, Okaloosa County Staff, MV Transportation, ECRC Staff

IX. ADJOURNMENT

EC Rider website: ecrider.org

Okaloosa Transit Cooperative information can be found on the ECRC website at:

<http://www.ecrc.org/programs/okaloosa-transit-cooperative>

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations to access meeting, and for limited English proficiency, are available upon request. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services should contact our [Marketing Team](#) toll-free at 800-226-8914 or TTY 711, at least 48 hours in advance.

Parainformacion en espanol, puede llamar a Ada Clark al 850-332-7976, ext. 278 o TTY 711. Sinecesita acomodaciones especiales, por favor llame 48 horas de antemanos.

Participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons who believe they have been discriminated against on these conditions may file a complaint with the [Title VI Coordinator](#), 850-332-7976, ext. 220.

CONSENT AGENDA

OKALOOSA TRANSIT COOPERATIVE *DRAFT MEETING MINUTES*
EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL (Designated staff)
Okaloosa County Board Chamber
1250 N. Eglin Parkway, Shalimar, FL 32579
January 16, 2025

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Drew Palmer, Chair	Commissioner, Okaloosa County
Jean Hood, Vice-Chair	Mayor, Cinco Bayou Mayor
Shannon Hayes	Councilmember, City of Crestview
Doug Stauffer	Councilmember, City of Niceville

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Bobby Wagner	Mayor, City of Destin
Payne Walker	Mayor, City of Fort Walton Beach

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Paul VanRisseghem	
Tyrone Parker	Okaloosa County
Sheila Fitzgerald	Okaloosa County
John Bohannon	MV Transportation
Howard Vanselow	ECRC staff

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Palmer called the meeting to order.
Thanked the Board members for attending.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Palmer moved for approval of the agenda

Councilmember Hayes moved to approve the agenda. Mayor Hood seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the November 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Mayor Hood moved to approve the minutes. Councilmember Stauffer seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ACTION ITEMS

1. By-Laws Review – Howard Vanselow, ECRC

Mr. Vanselow provided an overview of the By-Laws.

Mayor Hood moved to approve with no changes. Councilmember Hayes seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

2. Election of Vice-Chair

Councilmember Stauffer nominated Mayor Jean Hood as Vice-Chair. Councilmember Hayes seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Okaloosa County Updates – Mr. Tyrone Parker, Okaloosa County

- Request for Proposal process is complete pending Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) direction and approval.
- Award Service Development grant for additional service in Crestview. Will be reaching out to the City Manager for target service area and service input.

Councilmember Hayes stated he was glad to about the Crestview service and asked if there was an update on service to the airport.

Mr. Parker stated the BOCC pause the service at this time but hoping to revisit in the spring.

Councilmember Hayes said he feels it is important to make sure we continue to strive for the service.

Mr. Parker continues with his updates:

- Grants have been applied for and we are scheduled to receive 8 vehicles, which should be arriving in the next few weeks. The vehicles are part of the replacement plan based on miles and age of the vehicles.

- Working on a project to replace bus stop signs. Will be starting the replacement in the next 30-45. The new signs have the bus that services the stop, phone number, and website information.

Mayor Hood said she has noticed the current signs are faded and she is glad to see the new signs.

2. MV Transportation Updates – Mr. John Bohannon

- Currently we have 47 drivers.
- Looking to hire 3 more.
- Fixed route met is on time performance goal for 2025 with 89%.
- In 2025 we had 8 preventable and 9 non-preventable accidents.
- 2026 retention goal for drivers is 58% for new hires.
- A new pay scale was introduced and will increase again in 2027.
- Zero accidents for December.
- MV has been active with community involvement to include One Hopefully Place and the Destin Seafood Festival.
- Recently completed four audits.
- Continue to work on driver engagement and moral.

Councilmember Haynes asked why drivers are terminated and is it difficult to hire drivers.

Mr. Bohannon said termination varies from medical, other jobs, and safety violations. Hiring can be challenging with drug screening requirements, and background checks. But we have a process in place to help find the right fit. Some drivers even drive from Pensacola to work here. Drivers need to be dedicated to work with the public.

Councilmember Haynes commended Mr. Bohannon for his commitment and continuity of service.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Next meetings will be:

- March 19, 2026, at 10:00 am
- May 21, 2026 at 10:00 am

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Paul VanRissegham

- Cheerlead for service to the airport

- VPS website only talks about private shuttles and there is no price structure which can cause higher prices due to supply and demand, and lack of availability. He also stated most of these vehicles are not ADA compliant.
- It may be helpful to have sidewalks to Niceville
- Asked if the BOCC could re-address this issue and maybe at least have Bus 14 stop at the airport 4 times a day.

IX. Additional Comments

None.

X. Adjournment

Seeing no other business, Chair Palmer adjourned the meeting.

Approved by Okaloosa Transit Cooperative
DATE: _____
SIGNED: _____