



## OKALOOSA TRANSIT COOPERATIVE



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**Robert A. "Trey" Goodwin III**  
**Chair**

**Jean Hood**  
**Vice-Chair**

### AGENDA

**Thursday, July 11, 2024 @ 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 May 14, 2024 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**

1. None

**VI. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Comprehensive Operations Analysis Implementation Updates – *Tyrone Parker, Okaloosa County*
2. EC Rider Updates – *Tyrone Parker, Okaloosa County*

**Okaloosa Transit Cooperative**  
**Meeting Agenda Continued**  
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Okaloosa Transit Cooperative  
Staffed by the Emerald Coast Regional Council

2. **MV Transportation Updates – Lakeshia Brown, MV Transportation**

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

The next Okaloosa Transit Cooperative meetings are scheduled for:

- ***Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.***
- ***Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 1:30 p.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](http://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 antemano.

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**  
**May 14, 2024**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Trey Goodwin, Chair	Commissioner, Okaloosa County
Jean Hood, Vice-Chair	Mayor, Cinco Bayou Mayor
Cynthia Brown	Councilmember, City of Crestview
Dick Ryneerson	Mayor, City of Fort Walton Beach
Doug Stauffer	Councilmember, City of Niceville
Bobby Wagner	Mayor, City of Destin

**MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Tyrone Parker	Okaloosa County
Sheila Fitzgerald	Okaloosa County
Chelsy Sharon	Okaloosa County
Brian Waterman	HDR
Lakeshia Brown	MV Transportation
Tara Jones	MV Transportation
My Duyen Nguyen	MV Transportation
Paul VanRisseghem	Citizen
Howard Vanselow	ECRC staff

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Goodwin called the meeting to order.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Goodwin moved for approval of the agenda

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



### III. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the March 28, 2024 Meeting Minutes

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

### IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

### V. ACTION ITEMS

#### 1. Comprehensive Operation Analysis (COA) – Brian Waterman, HDR

Mr. Waterman thanked the board for the cooperation with the process. The COA is a look under the hood of the transportation system, an outsider looking in to see what possible improvements can be made to meet current and future needs.

##### Goals

- Increase ridership
- Form the foundation for technology integration new modes, funding options and improve the rider experience
- Efficiency, prioritize system efficiency making proper use of both intelligent systems and network design.

##### Public Engagement and Stakeholder Engagement

Key takeaways: Low ridership, System Operations, and Rider experience

System needs: Reliability, Streamline routes, increase ridership and offer options for Mobility on Demand.

Scenarios: Route Improvements, Modeling, Compare, and Identify recommendations.

Look at options and scenario results – Transit Operations to be expanded while streamlining some services and further explore additional options to include Mobility on Demand.

Councilwoman Brown asked going to one destination is that were you would have your hotspots. Mr. Waterman stated yes they would become pulse points and possible implementation with Mobility on Demand.

Mr. Waterman continued, when it comes to major route changes you are required to have public engagement. Over the support for the changes have been positive.

Mobility on Demand ability to book trips online and with cell phones

- Curb to curb service
- Zones
- Opportunity areas such as Destin/Miramar
- Can be popular but also can be costly
- Can use various options such as Uber and Lyft
- Different funding sources such as advertising, local government, and service development grant

Based upon the results of the analysis, public engagement, and Cooperative representation feedback the COA recommends.

- Scenario 1 for implementation.
- Transit Operations should expand to provide additional evening and weekend transit service.
- Mobility on Demand should be explored for future implementation with Destin and Miramar Beach areas.

Implementation schedule

- Summer start Beach route changes
- Fall Fort Walton Beach route changes
- Next year Crestview route
- Then Stage 4 look at how things are performing and make necessary changes.

Important to maximize the resources we have and make it easy to use and grow.

Tyrone Parker said they are phasing in the recommendations and will start as early as next week in the Destin area. Make sure we streamline services.

Mayor Wagner asked does transit offer reduced fares

Mr. Parker said agencies can buy in bulk to hand out as needed but is still the base fare.

Mayor Wagner stated a mother and daughter concerns of public safety while using the transit system.

Mr. Parker stated there are definitely systems in place to handle any negative situations and policy in place to ensure safety and oversight. Road supervisor is available to help with the situation and if unable to handle it they can contact law enforcement to help.

Lakeshia Brown added we make sure the driver understands the issue and make sure everyone is aware and we are here to assist the community and rider safety is a primary concern. They have coaching and counseling for the drivers and there is a way to suspend riders if needed.

Mayor Wagner said Destin is for Mobility on Demand Destin and it is part of their Strategic Plan but how will it work.

Brian Waterman stated make sure Mobility on Demand will fall under the EC Rider system it helps the overall system best to have pulse points, staging areas keeping the zones no more than 2 – 4 miles.

Chairman Goodwin entertained a motion to adopt the COA as recommend.

Mayor Wagner moved to approve the COA as presented and recommended adoption of the COA to the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners. Councilman Stauffer seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

## VI. INFORMATION ITEMS:

### 1. EC Rider Updates – Mr. Tyrone Parker, Okaloosa County

Appreciate the adoption and recommendation to the Board.

Moving forward with Stage 1 and public involvement was complete to make sure all the requirements for the upcoming changes to the transit system starting on Monday.

We will be receiving 5 vehicles through the 5339 grant, and they are part of the Capital Replacement plan.

### 2. MV Transportation Updates – Ms. Lakeshia Brown

Update since the last time we meet we have lost a few drivers but have some drivers in training which should help. We are increasing our recruitment efforts.

Mayor Wagner are we working on a mobile app or option for riders to see where the bus is?

Ms. Brown we are working with Trip Shot to upload the appropriate information and start internal implementation.

Mr. Parker added we are working to get it implemented internally and once we get that working we will try to open up to the public once that is complete.

Commissioner Goodwin are you trying to do something that would show real time data?

Ms. Brown said yes but we want to make sure it is working for staff then implement to the public.

Commissioner Goodwin do all the vehicles have GPS?

Mr. Parker stated yes and we are working to get it to work with our current system

Ms. Brown added just making sure we are hitting the routes and staff able to track everything correctly. Working on one system at a time getting it right before moving forward.

Commissioner Goodwin added he appreciates the efforts and outside the box ideas.

## **VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Next meetings will be:

July 11, 2024 at 10:00 am.

September 10, 2024 at 10:00 am

## **VIII. PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr. Paul VanRisseghem

Need public transportation to help with all the airport traffic and assist workers and passengers to the airport. Route 14 to service the airport

- Look at Vision 2040 Walton County
- Scenic 98 parking lot – so much congestion
- Airport Express bus is needed.
- People pay a bed tax but who controls that, why can't it be used for transit.
- Beach trolley up and down 98 would help tourist and possibility of a great green city.



**IX. Additional Comments**

Mayor Hood concerned about public information reaching the citizens recently at a meeting a number of individuals were not aware of the transit options.

Mr. Parker said they are working with public involvement to help inform the citizens, also working with others to increase the awareness but also to improve the overall perception of the service.

Councilwoman Brown can we get some information on United Way 211?

Mr. Parker stated they would look into that.

**X. Adjournment**

Chairman Goodwin adjourned the meeting.

Approved by Okaloosa Transit Cooperative

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_