



## OKALOOSA TRANSIT COOPERATIVE



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**Carolyn Ketchel**  
**Chair**

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

### AGENDA

**Thursday, March 20, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m. CST**  
**Okaloosa County Board Chamber**  
**1250 N. Eglin Parkway, Shalimar, FL 32579**

**I. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Ketchel**

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of the Attached January 16, 2025 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. Comprehensive Operations Analysis Implementation Updates – Tyrone Parker, Okaloosa County**
- 2. EC Rider Updates – Tyrone Parker, Okaloosa County**



Okaloosa Transit Cooperative  
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## Okaloosa Transit Cooperative Meeting Agenda Continued

### 2. MV Transportation Updates – *John Bohannon, MV Transportation*

## VII. OTHER BUSINESS

The next Okaloosa Transit Cooperative meetings are scheduled for:

- **Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 10:00 a.m**
- **Thursday July 17, 2025 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](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.



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# 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**

Cayolyn Ketchel, Chair

Jean Hood, Vice-Chair

Shannon Hayes

Doug Stauffer

Commissioner, Okaloosa County

Mayor, Cinco Bayou Mayor

Councilmember, City of Crestview

Councilmember, City of Niceville

**MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

Dick Rynearson

Bobby Wagner

Mayor, City of Fort Walton Beach

Mayor, City of Destin

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Tyrone Parker

Sheila Fitzgerald

John Bohannon

Howard Vanselow

Okaloosa County

Okaloosa County

MV Transportation

ECRC staff

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Ketchel called the meeting to order.

Thanked the Board members for attending and said she was glad to be back and part of this board.

She asked for a catch up on what has been happening.

Tyrone Parker said they have started implementing the Comprehensive Operations Analysis which was approved by this Board and the Board of County Commissioners. But we were unable to get the Service Development Grant to start additional service in Crestview but will reapply this year.

Chair Ketchel asked how much was needed to start the service.

Mr. Parker said around \$200,000.

There was some discussion about if it would be helpful to try and talk with the State Legislators about the need for this funding.

Shelia Fitzgerald said the Legislators would refer us back to FTA and FDOT for existing transit funds and to continue to apply for the grants and competitive grants such as the service development.

Councilman Hayes asked if the City of Crestview was notified of the funding need?

Tyrone Parker said they have talked with Crestview and the members of this board have been aware of the need unfortunately the Service Development Grant applied for is a competitive grant which was awarded to Orlando, but we will try again this year through the normal process.

Councilman Hayes added it is always good to advocate for our needs and he will continue going forward and encourages us all to do the same.

Mr. Parker added that they are looking at route modifications and adding express routes to increase service. Phase 1 started with Destin and Phase 2 will hopefully be starting in February adding a stop at the airport.

Chair Ketchel said a route that would go back and forth to the airport would be useful with stops at some hotels in Crestview and even a possibility of using tourist development funds to help support the express route. If we could start this as soon as possible it would be a win.

Tryone Parker said they would look into it and also said they have been speaking with the airport to coordinate stops.

## **II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Ketchel moved for approval of the agenda

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

## **III. CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of the November 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes

**Mayor Hood moved to approve the minutes. Councilman 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 and reviewed some of the changes from last year including the quorum requirements.

Councilman Stauffer moved to change the quorum requirement to 3 members, adding it is not always possible for everyone to attend. Mayor Hood seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved with no other changes.

### 2. Election of Vice-Chair

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

## VI. INFORMATION ITEMS:

### 1. Comprehensive Operations Analysis Implementation Updates – Mr. Tyrone Parker, Okaloosa County

As stated earlier we have started Phase 1 and are looking to start Phase 2 in February and will continue to work with the airport and look at the possibility of a direct route from Crestview.

Mr. Parker wanted to introduce the new MV Manager, Mr. John Bohannon

### 2. MV Transportation Updates – Mr. John Bohannon

Started here in Okaloosa on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and have worked transit on the public side. Have worked in Arkansas and in Jacksonville at JTA.

Excited to continue to implement the COA changes and see how the changes can help improve service.

Mr. Bohannon said paratransit is currently staffed with 42 out of 45 positions but working to fill vacancies. Fixed route is fully staffed. There is one utility position vacant at this time.

February 17<sup>th</sup> staff will be competing and attending the Florida Rodeo competition where agencies compete.

Chair Ketchel welcomed Mr. Bohannon and added that there are many challenges in our area with the congested roads, North and South explosion but the County has risen to the challenge. Thank you for coming on board.

Mr. Bohannon said thank you and he is looking forward to serving.

Mayor Hood said transit is a priority for medical, working poor, and fragile members of our community needing public transportation.

Mr. Bohannon said we focus on safety and the drivers take pride in serving our community.

Chair Ketchel said she has observed the drivers and has been very pleased with how they care for the riders.

Councilman Stauffer added since joining the Board he sees buses all the time and appreciates the job they do.

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Next meetings will be:

March 20, 2025, at 10:00 am

**VIII. PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

**IX. Additional Comments**

**X. Adjournment**

Seeing no other business, Chair Ketchel adjourned the meeting.

Approved by Okaloosa Transit Cooperative

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

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