



OKALOOSA TRANSIT COOPERATIVE



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Carolyn Ketchel
Chair

Jean Hood
Vice-Chair

AGENDA

Thursday, May 15, 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 March 20, 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. Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport update – Tyrone Parker, Okaloosa County**
- 3. EC Rider Updates – Tyrone Parker, Okaloosa County**



Okaloosa Transit Cooperative
Staffed by the Emerald Coast Regional Council

Okaloosa Transit Cooperative Meeting Agenda Continued

4. MV Transportation Updates – *John Bohannon, MV Transportation*

5. Enclosure A – Updated Route Maps

<https://www.ecrider.org/routes/>

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

The next Okaloosa Transit Cooperative meetings are scheduled for:

- *Thursday, July 17, 2025 at 10:00 a.m*
- *Thursday September 18, 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

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

March 20, 2025

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Cayolyn Ketchel, Chair	Commissioner, Okaloosa County
Jean Hood, Vice-Chair	Mayor, Cinco Bayou Mayor
Cathy Alley	Councilmember, City of Niceville
Ryan Bullard	Councilmember, City of Crestview
Dick Rynearson	Mayor, City of Fort Walton Beach

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Bobby Wagner	Mayor, City of Destin
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OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ketchel called the meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Ketchel moved for approval of the agenda

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

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the January 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes

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

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ACTION ITEMS

None.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS:

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

Phase 1 started March 17th to help increase service and efficiency.

- FWB Route 1 will operate on the hour and added stops include Yacht Club Drive and Beal Parkway.
- FWB Route 2 removed stops include Mary Esther Library and Post Office these stops will be serviced by Route 3.
- FWB Route 3 removed stops along Anchors Road, Lewis Street, and Pelham Road.
- FWB Route 4 removed stops include Windam Avenue, 1st Street, 2nd Street, Robinhood Dr., Memorial Parkway, Hollywood Blvd, and Holmes Blvd. Hollywood Blvd. will be serviced by Route 2. Added stops along Eglin Pkwy, and Wright Parkway.
- FWB Route 5 will operate a split service from 7am – 10am and 2pm – 5pm. Removed stops include south of FWB Medical Center and Mar Walt Dr. Stops south of FWB Medical Center will be serviced by Route 3. Added stops include along Eglin Pkwy, and Racetrack Road.

Chair Ketchel asked how many ride from Elders Services and she also stated that the County is looking into moving Elders Services.

Tyrone Parker said he would look into the ridership, he also stated that during the process they did trial runs and looked at the bus stops. Mr. Parker said he will send out the updated routes.

2. MV Transportation Updates – Mr. John Bohannon

MV currently has 41 staff members, 18 of which are fixed route drivers. They also have 4 in training.

Mr. Bohannon said they have lots of applications right now which they are going

through and trying to find the right fit. We try and keep the drivers engaged and try to keep drivers past the first 90 days.

Mr. Bohannon said MV will submit to the upcoming Request for Proposal. He said the Route changes involve lots of work, training, and testing. The drivers really like the new Routes.

Mr. Bohannon said Route 3 is tight and Elder Services is a transfer point.

Chair Ketchel said she does not see the transfer point changes and asked who is the competition for hiring drivers? Is it the school?

Mr. Bohannon said yes but there are others such as Uber. It is tough for drivers because the hours can be difficult.

Chair Ketchel said it takes a certain personality to be a good driver.

Mr. Bohannon said MV has a personality test which is part of the application process.

Councilwomen Alley asked what is the pay? She added MV might need to look at pay at a way of keeping drivers.

Mr. Bohannon stated starting pay is \$16.35 which is part of the collective bargaining agreement.

Mr. Parker added pay is in the operator contract and that transit operators are a special type of person with excellent customer service skills.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Next meetings will be:

July 17, 2025, at 10:00 am

September 18, 2025, 10:00 am

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Paul VanRussegham

- Has been tracking the airport and the need for a bus stop at the airport.
- His last fight in from Cincinnati, he and other returning passengers could not get any transportation from the airport – no taxi, Uber, or rentals. He had to hitchhike.

- He urged the Board to do something we need Public Transportation at the airport. Route 4 from Crestview passes 4 times a day but does not stop. Maybe a bus to service the last scheduled flights.

Mayor Hood added this is not the first time we are hearing about the airport and there has to be a block somewhere.

Chair Ketchel asked if it would be possible to invite someone from the airport.

Mr. Parker said they are in contact with the airport and would look into it.

IX. Additional Comments

Mayor Rynearson stated this would be his last meeting and Fort Walton Beach will be appointing someone new as he has termed out of office.

Chair Ketchel and the Board Members thanked Mayor Rynearson for his work on this Board and for all of his service over the years.

X. Adjournment

Seeing no other business, Chair Ketchel adjourned the meeting.

Approved by Okaloosa Transit Cooperative

DATE: _____

SIGNED: _____

ENCLOSURE A
Updated
Route Maps

FORT WALTON BEACH - ROUTE 1



FORT WALTON BEACH - ROUTE 2



FORT WALTON BEACH - ROUTE 3

**NORTHWEST FLORIDA
STATE COLLEGE/UWF Bus
Transfers to Routes 1**

**WHITE WILSON MEDICAL
CENTER Bus Transfers
to Routes 1 & 5**

**FORT WALTON BEACH MEDICAL
CENTER Bus Transfers to
Routes 1 & 5**

**WAL-MART SUPERCENTER
Bus Transfers to
Routes 1, 4 & 14**

**SANTA ROSA MALL
Bus Transfers
to Route 2**

  **Print Date**
3/20/2025

 **Transit Transfers**

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles
1 inch equals 0.4 miles



FORT WALTON BEACH - ROUTE 4

WAL-MART SUPERCENTER
Bus Transfers to
Routes 1, 3 & 14

ELDER SERVICES Bus
Transfers to Routes
1, 2, 5, 14, 20 & 30

 **Print Date**
3/19/2025

 **Transit Transfers**

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles
1 inch equals 0.4 miles



FORT WALTON BEACH - ROUTE 5

