



## OKALOOSA TRANSIT COOPERATIVE



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**Carolyn Ketchel**  
Chair

**Jean Hood**  
Vice-Chair

### AGENDA

**Tuesday, July 29, 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 May 15, 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  
Staffed by the Emerald Coast Regional Council

## *Okaloosa Transit Cooperative Meeting Agenda Continued*

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

#### **VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

The next Okaloosa Transit Cooperative meetings are scheduled for:

- **Thursday September 18, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Thursday November 13, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** (Originally scheduled for Nov 20<sup>th</sup>)

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 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**

**May 15, 2025**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Cayolyn Ketchel, Chair

Jean Hood, Vice-Chair

Ryan Bullard

Commissioner, Okaloosa County

Mayor, Cinco Bayou Mayor

Councilmember, City of Crestview

**MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

Doug Stauffer

Bobby Wagner

Payne Walker

Councilmember, City of Niceville

Mayor, City of Destin

Councilmember, City of Fort Walton Beach

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Tyrone Parker

Sheila Fitzgerald

John Bohannon

Steven Keehn

Shannon Bihamta

Howard Vanselow

Okaloosa County

Okaloosa County

MV Transportation

Okaloosa County

Okaloosa County

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. Councilmember Bullard seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of the March 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes

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

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **V. ACTION ITEMS**

None.

#### **VI. INFORMATION ITEMS:**

##### **1. MV Transportation Updates – Mr. John Bohannon**

- Peak season will be in full swing Memorial Day.
- Need 46 drivers, currently have 45. Working on recruitment, the qualification process is very thorough and takes about 3 to 4 weeks.
- Looking for new operations Manager, currently have 3 candidates.
- Looking for 1 Road Supervisor, trying to hire from within.
- Just hired a new Dispatcher.
- Yesterday, May 14<sup>th</sup> was a Cooperate Safety Stand Down. Focused on wheelchair securement. It was a great day of training and recertification even Corporate Directors received the training.

Councilmember Bullard asked if there was a bonus or something to attract new employees.

Mr. Bohannon stated not at this time, but we do have safety and attendance bonuses. Also added it is tough to find the right fit for these jobs, the personality assessment we use as part of the hiring process helps.

Chair Ketchel said what do school bus drivers make, they are probably one of the biggest competitors for hiring drivers. She also asked if random drug test are conducted?

Mr. Bohannon said he is unsure about the school bus drivers pay but yes, we do random drug test which is also part of the Federal Transit Administration audit.

##### **2. EC Rider update – Mr. Tyrone Parker, Okaloosa County**

- County Transit staff are also in the random drug pool.

Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA)

- Phase started March 17<sup>th</sup> Fort Walton routes

90-Day Pilot Program for a proposed Airport/Tourism Route (Phase 3 of COA)

- Express North and South route to service the airport
- Proposing July 1, 2025 start date
- Possible 4 additional drivers needed
- Cost estimate for 90 days is \$78,000

Mr. Parker asked if the board would consider recommending the service to the Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).

Chair Ketchel concerns about cost with the changes in Legislation but if no cut occur it is a good idea to take to the BOCC.

Mayor Hood said we definitely need to try for this service if the dollars are there. She asked if there has been a decision on using Tourism Development Department (TDD) dollars?

Chair Ketchel said they are having a special session and this will be discussed.

Councilmember Bullard said it is important for the 90 day Pilot Program to get the word out. He also said we need to be creative about revenue, maybe commercial advertising, TDD logo, and maybe local municipalities help.

Chair Ketchel asked when are you thinking of presenting this item to the BOCC?

Shelia Fitzpatrick said no later than the June 10, 2025 meeting. Working on securing advertising, if there is a short fall to ask the County to fill the delta. Long term goal is to get tourism dollars if the ridership supports.

Chair Ketchel suggested if we need to move forward we need to have advocates in front of the BOCC.

**Councilmember Bullard moved to recommend to the BOCC the 90-Day Pilot Program for Airport/Tourism Route . Mayor Hood seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

Mr. Parker continued with the EC Rider update

- Working with Mayor Wagner and Destin staff for Mobility On Demand service
- Currently we have 4 Audits at this time: FTA Triannual, State CTD, FDOT, and County internal review. All impact grant funding.
- Working to install new bus stop signs.

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Next meetings will be:

July 17, 2025, at 10:00 am

September 18, 2025, 10:00 am

**VIII. PUBLIC FORUM**

**IX. Additional Comments**

**X. Adjournment**

Seeing no other business, Chair Ketchel adjourned the meeting.

Approved by Okaloosa Transit Cooperative

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

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