

OKALOOSA – WALTON CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Okaloosa Administration Building, 1250 N. Eglin Parkway, Shalimar, FL 32579
June 20, 2024

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Alexander Barthe, Chair
Amy Jamieson, Vice Chair
Robert J. Rennie
Bill Cox
Wanjiku Jackson
Yvonne Shanklin
Yvonne Earle
Matthew Cox
Doug Tolbert
Megan Harrison
Neill O'Connell

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Gary Adams
Don Cleveland
Steven J. Czonstka
Harrison Harsch
Catherine F. Ward
Hunter Harmon

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bryant Paulk	FDOT
Jared Schneider	Kimley-Horn
Neil Oconnell	Walton County
Cory Wilkinson	HDR
Bill Schaetzle	City of Niceville
Councilman Anthony Vallee	DeFuniak Springs
Kristen Shell	Niceville

Virtual Attendance:

Terry Shaw	Kimley Horn
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EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF:

Austin Mount
Mary Beth Washnock
Tiffany Bates
Leandra Meredith
Gary Kramer

Jill Nobles
Katie Fults
Tammy Neal
Virtual Attendance
Gabrielle McVoy
Angela Bradley
Howard Vanselow

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE

Chair Bitterman called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

PUBLIC FORUM: There were no speakers.

FDOT UPDATES:

Bryant Paulk updated the committee on what the FDOT liaisons do for the subcommittees and for the TPOs. Bryant Paulk stated that they can answer any questions about ongoing or active construction projects and planning activities. As a courtesy, FDOT tries to check into as many location-specific areas that the committee brings up, but unfortunately FDOT does not have the staff and ability to be able to check into and do the follow up that's necessary. Bryant Paulk stated that if a committee member has a location-specific concern, the liaison will get the member in touch with the subject matter expert in the district office that they can follow up with regarding their questions and concerns.

Bryant Paulk reported that the PD&E study for the Marler Bridge, as well as for the expansion of U.S. 98 along Okaloosa Island are underway. Bryant Paulk stated that FDOT hopes the next work program cycle allows the Department to program the funds for the bridge replacement project. A project update is scheduled for October of this year and a public hearing is scheduled for late 2025.

Bryant Paulk reported that there will be a public hearing for the U.S 98 Around the Mound PD&E study in March of 2025. Design is funded at \$2.7 million. The current right of way acquisition estimate is over \$250 million and construction and the inspection services come in at about \$80 million.

Bryant Paulk stated that FDOT has heard the concerns for S.R. 85 and the district office in Chipley has committed to doing a corridor study for that segment of 285. It's not likely to qualify for a capacity improvement but there is a possibility to add passing lanes in strategic locations as well as any other traffic improvement opportunities along that corridor.

Amy Jamieson brought up a citizen concern about the Brooks Bridge, stating that she had heard several concerns about people almost being hit head on due to people not staying in

their lanes or going the wrong way due to poor lighting at night. Bryant Paulk stated that the FDOT staff will investigate it.

Yvonne Earle inquired about the status of repaving Eglin Parkway from U.S. 98 to Shalimar. Bryant Paulk stated that the corridor is scheduled for resurfacing, but FDOT does not have the budget or ability to advance the project any quicker than is scheduled.

Matthew Cox asked about the timeline completion of the 85/ I-10 intersection improvements in Crestview. Bryant Paulk stated that he knows that project has been delayed and that he would get that information to Matthew Cox.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **ALL COMMITTEES:** Approval of April 2024 Meeting Minutes

Amy Jamieson moved to approve the minutes as amended. Yvonne Earle seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

2. **ENCLOSURE B – TPO ONLY - Consideration of the Membership Certification for the Okaloosa County and Walton County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards - *Howard Vanselow, ECRC Staff***

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **ENCLOSURE C - ALL COMMITTEES – ROLL CALL VOTE - Consideration of Resolution O-W 24-10 Amending the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for SR 85 at Jones Road Outfall Repair Project in FY 2024/2025 at a Total Cost of \$593,001 – *Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT***

Bryant Paulk presented the TIP amendment and stated that FDOT is planning to start this project as soon as possible.

Matthew Cox moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 24-10 amending the FY 2024-2028 TIP. Robert Rennie seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

2. **ENCLOSURE D - ALL COMMITTEES – ROLL CALL VOTE - Consideration of Resolution O-W 24-09 Adopting the Okaloosa-Walton TPO FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – *Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff***

Gary Kramer presented the TIP for adoption.

Matthew Cox moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign

Resolution O-W 24-09 adopting the FY 2025-2029 TIP. Bill Cox seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

3. ENCLOSURE E - ALL COMMITTEES - ROLL CALL VOTE – Consideration of Resolution O-W 24-11 Adopting the Okaloosa-Walton TPO FY 2026-2030 Project Priorities – *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*

Jill Nobles presented the ranked Project Priorities and the recommended changes from the June 18th workshop. Leandra Meredith presented the public outreach data.

Jill Nobles presented the recommended changes that came from the June 18th workshop. The first recommended change was to replace Non-SIS #12, Park Alternate – Option 3 with Bob SIS #14, US 90 Complete Streets. The next recommended change was to add the new TSM project, U.S. 98 eastbound off-ramp extension at Cody Avenue. The final recommended change was to add new SunTrail projects. Discussion about the presented changes ensued.

The CAC discussed recommending moving Non-SIS #12: Park Alternate – Option 3 to the bottom of the Non-SIS list and replace it with Non-SIS #14: US 90 Complete Streets.

The CAC decided to vote on each table recommendation separately.

Doug Tolbert moved to recommend Non-SIS #12: Park Alternate be moved to the bottom on the list and to move Non-SIS #14: US 90 Complete Streets to Number 13 on the list. Robert Rennie seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Matthew Cox moved to recommend the TPO approve the SIS list as presented. Amy Jamieson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

The CAC discussed adding a new #1 TSM project: US 98 at Cody Avenue eastbound off-ramp extension.

Yvonne Earle moved to recommend the TPO approve adding a new #1 TSM project: U.S. 98 at Cody Avenue eastbound off-ramp extension. Amy Jamieson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Robert Rennie moved to recommend the TPO approve the rest of the TSM list remain the same, shifting the ranking and each project. Matthew Cox seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

The CAC discussed the following recommendations-

- Add the following SUN Trail projects to the bottom of the SUN Trail list:
 - US 90 and Baldwin Avenue Trail (US 90 and Woodyard Road to Baldwin Ave, Baldwin Ave to US 90 E)
 - Old Spanish Trail East (US 90 and Baldwin Ave E to Holmes County Line)
 - Old Spanish Trail West Phase 1 (US 90 and Woodyard Road to Blue Ridge Blvd)
 - Old Spanish Trail West Phase 2 (US 90 and Blue Ridge Blvd to Hinote Road)
 - Old Spanish Trail West Phase 3 (US 90 and Hinote Rd to Okaloosa County Line)
 - Great Northwest Coastal Trail (US 98 and Tango Mar to Mack Bayou) US 98 Over/Underpass (US 98 at Scenic Gulf Drive)

Yvonne Earle moved to recommended adding the recommended SUN Trail projects to the Project Priority list and recommended approval of that SUN trail list to the TPO. Robert Rennie seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Robert Renne moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution OW 24-11 adopting the FY 2026 – FY 2030 Project Priorities with the CAC's recommended changes. Yvonne Shanklin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

4. ENCLOSURE F - ALL COMMITTEES – Request to Proceed with Amending the Okaloosa-Walton 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan to Include (1) Forest Road, (2) SR 85, (3) SR 20 at Government Avenue Intersection, (4) Cedar Avenue, (5) Palm Boulevard, (6) Crossings Boulevard Connector, and (7) Bayshore Drive in the Needs Plan - *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*

Jill Nobles stated that the TPO authorized staff to proceed with amending the Okaloosa-Walton 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan to include the following projects with an additional length to Bayshore Drive: (1) Forest Road Cost Feasible Plan (2) S.R. 85 Cost Feasible Plan (3) SR 20 at Government Avenue Intersection Cost Feasible Plan (4) Cedar Avenue Cost Feasible Plan (5) Palm Boulevard Cost Feasible Plan (6) Crossings Boulevard Connector Cost Feasible Plan (7) Bayshore Drive Needs Plan. Chair Bitterman recommended adding an additional segment of Redwood Avenue to the Bayshore Drive project, completing the loop back to SR 20.

Robert Rennie moved to recommend the TPO authorize ECRC staff to proceed with the process to amend the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Needs Plan for Forest Road, SR 85, SR 20 at Government Avenue Intersection, Cedar Avenue, Palm Boulevard, Crossings Boulevard Connector, and Bayshore Drive and adding the additional segment of Redwood Avenue to the Bayshore Drive project completing the loop back to SR 20. Doug Tolbert seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

5. ENCLOSURE G – CAC AND TPO ONLY – Approval of CAC Application for Neil O’Connell – *Leandra Meredith, ECRC Staff*

Leandra Meredith presented Neil O’Connell’s CAC application. Neil O’Connell introduced himself to the committee.

Megan Harrison moved to recommend the TPO approve of CAC application for Mr. Neil O’Connell. Robert Rennie seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

6. ENCLOSURE H – TPO ONLY– Consideration of Resolution O-W 24-07 Amending the Okaloosa-Walton TPO, TCC, and CAC Bylaws - *Vice Chair Anthony Vallee, Committee Chair*

7. ENCLOSURE I – ALL COMMITTEES - Nomination and Election of TPO Board, TCC, and CAC Chair and Vice Chair for FY 2025

Amy Jamieson was nominated to serve as Chair for FY 2025. There was a silent vote between Bill Cox and Robert Rennie for Vice Chair. Robert Rennie was nominated Vice Chair.

Yvonne Earle moved to elect Amy Jamieson as the CAC chair and Robert Rennie as the O-W CAC Vice Chair for FY 2025. Doug Tolbert seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. ENCLOSURE J - ALL COMMITTEES – Emerald Coast Safety Action Plan for the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant Update – *Jared Schneider, Kimley-Horn*

Jared Schneider gave an update on the Emerald Coast Safety Action Plan for the Safe Streets for All Grant and informed the committee that as a recipient of an SS4A grant, ECRC will produce a Safety Action Plan. The Safety Action Plan will assist the ECRC and the TPO regions in achieving the target of zero fatalities and serious injuries.

2. ENCLOSURE K – ALL COMMITTEES – Smart Regions Master Plan Update – *Terry Shaw, P.E., Kimley- Horn*

Jared Schneider gave an update on the Smart Regions Mater Plan. Jared Schneider stated that the vision of the plan was to leverage smart technologies to enhance the quality of life of residents and visitors.

ENCLOSURE L - INFORMATION ITEMS (no presentation necessary):

1. TCC and CAC April 2024 Meeting Minutes
2. O-W TPO April 2024 Actions Report
3. Documentation RE: Designation of Okaloosa County for 5307 Grant
4. Letter from Niceville/Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce
5. Letter of Support to FDOT for Around the Mound project
6. Letter of Support to FDOT for Destin Crosstown Connector
7. Letter of Support for PPPP Prioritization Grant
8. 2024 O-W TPO Meeting Schedule

OTHER BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, or family status. Reasonable accommodations for access will be made in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act and for languages other than English. Please notify ECRC Public Involvement of any special requirements or requests at publicinvolvement@ecrc.org or email Leandra Meredith at Leandra.Meredith@ecrc.org. You may also call 1800-226-8914 or 1-800-955-8771 for TTY-Florida. All requests should be made at least 48 hours in advance.

Introduzca la participación del público se solicita, sin distinción de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, edad, religión, discapacidad o estado familiar. La OPC hará arreglos razonables para el acceso a esta reunión de acuerdo con el Americans with Disabilities Act, y para los requisitos de idioma que no sea Inglés. Notifique a la Ada Clark (ada.clark@ecrc.org) de los requisitos de acceso o el idioma en el 850-332-7976 ext. 227 o 1-800-955-8771 para TTY-Florida al menos 48 horas de antelación.