

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

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Scott Bitterman Chair	Okaloosa County
Latilda Hughes-Neel Vice Chair	Freeport
Kyle Lusk	Crestview
Chris Wallace	DeFuniak Springs
Jeff Cozadd	Destin
Tim Gibson	Fort Walton Beach
Scott Davidson	Hurlburt Field
Kristin Shell	Niceville
Joseph J. Fulghum	Okaloosa County
Chance Powell	Walton County
Anna Hudson	Walton County
Michelle B. Doggett	Walton County School District
Jack Kiger	Eglin Airforce Base

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Jayce Vanderford	Crestview
Beckie Williams	Florida Department of Children and Families
Chris Frasseti	Fort Walton Beach
Robert Herbsteith	Mary Esther
Van Fuller	Mid-Bay Bridge Authority
Johnathan Laird	Niceville
Abra McGill	Okaloosa County
Tracy Stage	Okaloosa County Airports
Roger Rogers	Okaloosa County Airports
Bill Smith	Okaloosa County School District
Joel Paul	Tri-County Community Council
Joseph Preston	Walton County
Jim Hicks	Walton County School District

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bryant Paulk	FDOT
Denise Kania	City of DeFuniak Springs
Cory Wilkinson	HDR
Bill Schaetzle	City of Niceville
Councilman Anthony Vallee	DeFuniak Springs

Virtual Attendance:

Terry Shaw

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 TPO Only

PUBLIC FORUM: There were no speakers.

FDOT UPDATES:

Bryant Paulk reported that the PD&E study for the Marler Bridge as well as for the expansion of US 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.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. ALL COMMITTEES: Approval of April 2024 Meeting Minutes

Mary Beth Washnock stated that it was brought to her attention that "SOF" should be an acronym for Special Operation Forces and asked that the minutes be amended to reflect it.

Joseph J. Fulghum moved to approve the minutes as amended. Chris Wallace 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.

Kyle Lusk moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 24-10 amending the FY 2024-2028 TIP. Latilda Hughes-Neel 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.

Latilda Hughes-Neel moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 24-09 adopting the FY 2025-2029 TIP. Chance Powell 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. Chance Powell asked if it was possible to see where the participants live in the county. Leandra Merdith stated that she could provide their zip code.

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 NON SIS #14, US 90 Complete Streets. The next recommended change was to add the new TSM project, US 98 eastbound off-ramp extension at Cody Avenue. The final recommended change was to add new SunTrail projects. Jill Nobles stated that the CAC voted to recommend all the changes be approved by the TPO.

For the SunTrail project, Anna Hudson stated that Okaloosa County recommends adding a PD&E study for the US 98 pedestrian overpass in Miramar Beach at the intersection of Scenic Gulf Drive, US98, and connection to the Silver Sands Outlet Mall. Anna Hudson stated that the county also recommended US 331 South Trail PD&E be added. It was determined that the US 331 south trail is part of the Florida Greenways and trails master plan so would not need to be included in the SunTrail priorities.

Anna Hudson also recommended adding two TSM projects. The first of which was to construct a traffic signal at US 98 and Thompson Road. The second request was to construct a westbound turn lane on SR 20 at CR 83A East which is East Bay Loop.

The TCC discussed recommending the following changes –

- Move 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
- Add new #1 TSM project: US 98 at Cody Avenue eastbound off-ramp extension
- Add new #2 TSM project: SR 20 at East Bay Loop westbound left turn lane
- Add new TSM project to the bottom of the TSM list: new traffic signal at US 98 at Thompson Road
- 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)

Chance Powell 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 recommended changes. Kyle Lusk 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) SR 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 the additional segment of Redwood Avenue to the Bayshore Drive project, completing the loop back to SR 20.

Latilda Hughes - Neel 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. Anna Hudson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

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

Latilda Hughes Neel was nominated to serve as Chair for FY 2025 and current Chair Scott Bitterman was nominated to be Vice Chair.

Kristen Shell moved to elect Latilda Hughes-Neel as the TCC chair and Scott Bitterman and the Vice Chair of the OW TCC for FY 2025. Kyle Lusk 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.