

OKALOOSA – WALTON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MEETING MINUTES
Okaloosa Administration Building 1250 N. Eglin Parkway, Shalimar, FL 32579
June 20, 2024

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Nathan Boyles, CHAIR	Okaloosa County Commission
Anthony Vallee, VICE-CHAIR	DeFuniak Springs
J.B. Whitten	Crestview
Andrew Rencich	Crestview
Bobby Wagner	Destin
Dick Rynearson	Fort Walton Beach
Tracey Dickey	Freeport
April Sutton	Mary Esther
Bill Schaetzle	Niceville
Carolyn Ketchel	Okaloosa County Commission
Mel Ponder	Okaloosa County Commission
Paul Mixon	Okaloosa County Commission
Christine Wasdin	Valparaiso
Donna Johns	Walton County Commission
Danny Glidewell	Walton County Commission
William "Boots" McCormick	Walton County Commission

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Joe Blocker	Crestview
Torey Geile	Destin
Travis Smith	Fort Walton Beach
James T. Wood	Midbay Bridge Authority

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bryant Paulk	FDOT
Cory Wilkinson	HDR
Scott Davidson	Hurlburt Field
Christy Johns	FDOT
Jack Kiger	Eglin Airforce Base
Gloria DeBerry	City of Fort Walton Beach
Kristen Shell	Niceville
Jeff Cozadd	Destin
Tyrone Scorson	Kittleson & Associates
Pamn Henderson	ECRC Board Member
Scott Bitterman	Okaloosa County
Allison Sullivan	Okaloosa County
Jeff Cochran	FWB Chamber

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Jim Bagby	Congressman Matt Gaetz
Anna Hudson	Walton County
Latilda Hughes-Neel	Freeport
Mark Martin	Freeport
Jim Parson	Liberty
Kurvin Qualls	ECRC Board Member
<u>Virtual Attendance</u>	
Mark Brock	FDOT
Colby Cleveland	FDOT
Mary Guiterey	HDR
Terry Shaw	Kimley Horn
Wiley Page	Atkins

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF:

Austin Mount
Mary Beth Washnock
Tiffany Bates
Leandra Meredith
Angela Bradley
Gary Kramer
Jill Nobles
Katie Fults
Tammy Neal
Virtual Attendance
Gabrielle McVoy
Jill Strickler
Gina Watson

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE

Chairperson Boyles called the meeting to order, and the pledge was recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Wagner moved to approve the agenda. Mayor Whitten seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Ted Corcoran spoke in support of the "Around the Mound" Project.

FDOT UPDATES:

Bryant Paulk reported that the PD&E study for the Marler Bridge, as well as the expansion of U.S. 98 along Okaloosa Island are underway. Bryant Paulk stated that FDOT hopes that the next work program cycle allows them 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.

ECRC:

1. ENCLOSURE A - TPO ONLY - ECRC Executive Committee Report – *ECRC Executive Committee*

Kurvin Qualls stated in response to the April 18th Okaloosa Walton TPO meeting, where a resolution was added to the agenda, the TPO requested a report by the ECRC on the February event. Kurvin Qualls stated that the ECRC Board thoroughly went over the February event and came up with some suggestions. ECRC board discussed the ECRC CEO's spending limit of \$150,000 which was necessary to conduct business and that the committee recommended it stay the same and was approved by the board. Kurvin Qualls stated that there was an ECRC Bylaw revision to include budgeted line items for minor events, major events, and to require coordination among the three (3) contiguous TPO chairs and ECRC chair in the planning of joint events. It was determined that any event that cost more than \$35,000 would be considered a major event.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

Mayor Wagner moved to approve the consent agenda with the minutes. Commissioner Mixon seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

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.

Mayor Wagner moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign. Resolution O-W 24-10

amending the FY 2024-2028 TIP. Commissioner Mixon 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. Councilmember Vallee discussed charging stations in Crestview and in DeFuniak Springs and stated that proximity to the highway and the city would provide benefits to local businesses and the local community.

Councilman Vallee moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 24-09 adopting the FY 2025-2029 TIP. Mayor Ryneearson seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Commissioner Boyles
Commissioner Vallee
Mayor Whitten
Council Member Rencich
Mayor Wagner
Mayor Ryneearson
Council Member Dickey
Council Member Sutton
Council Member Schaetzle
Commission Ketchel
Commissioner Ponder
Commissioner Mixon
Councilmember Wasdin
Commissioner Jons
Commissioner Glidewell
Commissioner McCormick

The motion 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 move Non-SIS #12, Park Alternate – Option 3 and replace it with Bob-Sikes #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.

The TPO discussed recommending the following changes –

- Move Non-SIS #12: Park Alternate – Option 3 to the bottom of the Non-SIS list and replace 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)

Jill Nobles stated that the CAC and TCC voted to recommend all the changes.

Commissioner Glidwell moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign. Resolution O-W 24-11 adopting the FY 2026 – FY 2030 Project Priorities with the recommended changes. Mayor Wagner 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. The TCC recommended adding the additional segment of Redwood Avenue to the Bayshore Drive project completing the loop back to SR 20.

Council Member Vallee 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. Commissioner Ponder 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*

Leandra Meredith stated that Walton County Commissioner, Danny Glidewell has appointed Neill O’Connell to the O-W TPO’s Citizens’ Advisory Committee to serve as his appointee.

Commissioner Glidewell moved to approve Mr. Neil O’Connell to the OW CAC. Mayor Wagner 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*

Mary Beth Washnock stated that the O-W TPO bylaw subcommittee held an in-person meeting on May 29th at the City of Destin to review and discuss the proposed bylaw amendments. The recommendations were to approve the proposed amendments prepared for the April 18, 2024 O-W TPO board meeting with the following considerations for inclusion: Pg 3 – 1.04 TPO Board Officers and Elections (4) – addition of language; Pg 16 - 2.12 TCC Subcommittees – deletion of section; Pg 18 - 3.03 CAC Membership (5) – addition of language; and Pg 24 - 3.13 CAC Subcommittees – deletion of section.

The TPO discussed adding a requirement that a TPO member must have served on the board for a minimum of 18 months before qualifying to serve as chair or vice chair.

Commissioner Glidewell moved to recommend the TPO chairman sign Resolution O-W 24-07 amending the OW TPO, TCC and CAC Bylaws to include the following changes – Page 3 – 1.04 TPO Board Officers and Elections (4) – addition of language; Page 16 - 2.12 TCC Subcommittees – deletion of section; Page 18 - 3.03

CAC Membership (5) – addition of language; Page 24 - 3.13 CAC Subcommittees – deletion of section and to add a requirement that a TPO member must have served on the board for a minimum of 18 months before qualifying to serve as chair or vice chair. Mayor Sutton seconded the motion, and it was approved with Mayor Whitten opposed.

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

Mary Beth Washnock informed the board that the CAC elected Amy Jamieson as their chair and Robert Remi as their Vice Chair and that Latilda Hughes- Neel was elected at the TCC Chair and Scott Bitterman as the Vice Chair. Mayor J.B Whitten and Mayor Bobby Wagner were nominated for Vice Chair. A silent vote ensued, and Mayor Wagner was elected.

Mayor Sutton moved to elect Anthony Vallee as the TPO Chair and Bobby Wagner as the Vice Chair. Mayor Wagner 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. Jared Schneider informed the board 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

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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.