



Nathan Boyles
Chairman

Anthony Vallee
Vice Chairman

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**MEETING OF THE OKALOOSA-WALTON
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

Thursday, February 15, 3:00 p.m.

Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) – 9:30 a.m.

Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) – 1:30 p.m.

Chautauqua Hall, 95 Circle Drive, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE – *Chairman Nathan Boyles*

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Any new action items to be added to the agenda must be approved by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the TPO members present.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Only in-person participants will be able to speak during the public forum portion of the meeting. Please obtain a speaker request form from ECRC staff. Speakers are asked to limit their remarks to three (3) minutes. Community members participating via phone will be muted during the meeting and are only able to listen. Comments can be provided in the chat box, digital comment form, by email, or by phone.

FDOT UPDATE:

1. **FDOT Update** - *Bryant Paulk, AICP, or Christy Johnson, AICP, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Urban Liaisons*

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **ALL COMMITTEES:** Approval of November 2023 Meeting Minutes

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **ENCLOSURE A - ALL COMMITTEES** - Consideration of Resolution O-W 24-01 Requesting AMTRAK to Restore Stations and Passenger Service in Northwest Florida
– *Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff*



Okaloosa-Walton TPO
Staffed by the Emerald Coast Regional Council

2. **ENCLOSURE B - ALL COMMITTEES** – Consideration of Resolution O-W 24-02 Approving the Evaluation Criteria for Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) Staff Ranking of Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Projects - *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*
3. **ENCLOSURE C - ALL COMMITTEES** - Request to Proceed with Amending the Okaloosa-Walton 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan to Include (1) Destin Cross-Town Connector in the Cost Feasible Plan, (2) West 98 Collector in the Needs Plan, (3) JW Hollington Connector Road in the Needs Plan, (4) Mack Bayou to Sandestin Lane Connector Road in the Needs Plan, (5) CR 3280 Extension in the Needs Plan, and (6) Freeport Waterfront Improvements in the Needs Plan - *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*

PRESENTATIONS:

1. **ENCLOSURE D - ALL COMMITTEES** – Schedule for Development of the Okaloosa-Walton TPO FY 2026-2030 Project Priorities - *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES -TPO ONLY - *Tiffany Bates, ECRC Community Liaison*

INFORMATION ITEMS (no presentation necessary):

1. TCC and CAC November 2023 Meeting Minutes
2. O-W TPO November 2023 Actions Report
3. Amendment to the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Letter
4. U.S. 98 "Around the Mound" Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study
5. City of Destin Request for Inclusion of the "Cross-town Connector" Project in the Long-Range Transportation Plan Letter
6. Florida Commerce Signed Letter for OW TPO TIP for FY 2023/2024 – 2027/2028
7. Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Educational Workshop Agenda
8. 2024 OW TPO Meeting Schedule

OTHER BUSINESS: The next O-W TPO meeting will be held on April 18, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. The CAC will meet at 9:30 a.m. and the TCC will meet at 1:30 p.m. All meetings will be held at the **Okaloosa Admin Building**, 1250 N. Eglin Pkwy., Shalimar, FL 32579.

ADJOURNMENT:

Stay up to date with TPO events and activities on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/EmeraldCoastRegionalCouncil or by subscribing to the Okaloosa-Walton TPO Interested Parties list : <http://eepurl.com/dqlsyH>



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.

FDOT UPDATE

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

OKALOOSA – WALTON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MEETING MINUTES
OKALOOSA ADMIN BUILDING, 1250 N. Eglin Pkwy, Shalimar, FL, 32579
November 16, 2023

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Anthony Vallee, VICE-CHAIR	City of DeFuniak Springs
J.B. Whitten	City of Crestview
Joe Blocker	City of Crestview
Tracey Dickey	City of Freeport
Dick Rynearson	City of Fort Walton Beach
Bill Schaetzle	City of Niceville
Christine Wasdin	City of Valparaiso
Carolyn Ketchel	Okaloosa County Commission
James T. Wood	Midbay Bridge Authority

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Nathan Boyles, CHAIR	Okaloosa County Commission
Andrew Rencich	City of Crestview
Torey Geile	City of Destin
Bobby Wagner	City of Destin
Travis Smith	City of Fort Walton Beach
Jan Lipscomb	City of Mary Esther
Mel Ponder	Okaloosa County Commission
Paul Mixon	Okaloosa County Commission
Tony Anderson	Walton County Commission
Danny Glidewell	Walton County Commission
William "Boots" McCormick	Walton County Commission

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bryant Paulk	FDOT
Christy Johnson	FDOT
Scott Davidson	Hurlburt Field
Carla Hodges	FDOT
Mark Martin	Freeport
Matt Vera	Hurlburt Field
Gloria DeBerry	Fort Walton Beach City Council
Jack Kiger	Eglin Airforce Base
Mark D Hensley	People Protecting Poquito Bayou
Shirley A Godbold	People Protecting Poquito Bayou
Cory Wilkinson	HDR
Tim Smith	FDOT
Mark Brock	FDOT

Yvonne Earle	OW CAC Member
Samantha Cutsinger	Okaloosa County Admin
Dale Marks	Eglin
Gabe Myers	Eglin
Dustin Taylor	FDOT
David Deitch	City of Niceville
Seth Luttrell	FWB Chamber
Allison Sullivan	Okaloosa County
Leigh Moore	Scenic Walton
Judy Lorenze	Okaloosa County

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF:

Austin Mount
Mary Beth Washnock
Leandra Meredith
Rae Emary
Tiffany Bates
Tammy Neal
Gary Kramer
Virtual Attendance
Gabrielle McVoy
Jill Nobles
Angela Bradley

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE

Vice Chair Vallee chaired the meeting in the absence of Chairman Boyles and called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mary Beth Washnock stated that there were a few corrections to the minutes and some minor typos to the agenda.

Councilman Blocker moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mayor Rynearson seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Shirley Godbold asked about a traffic study done by Kimly Horn Engineering for Legendary Cove to be built on Sunset Lane. Shirley Godbold stated that the study was not conducted during the peak hours for that area and suggested a new study be conducted. Shirley Godbold discussed North Poquito Road and asked that a traffic light be installed.

Commissioner Ketchel stated that this is an FDOT issue and that hopefully someone from the Department will get with her regarding this issue.

Fort Walton City Beach Councilmember Gloria DeBerry spoke regarding concerns at the intersection of Lewis Turn Boulevard and Hospital Drive. Councilmember DeBerry stated that there have been two major accidents at the intersection from people turning right on Lewis Turner Blvd. Councilmember DeBerry stated that a lot of issues are with the entrance turning right out of Eliza Jackson Charter School. Councilmember DeBerry suggested that a no right turn on red off Hospital Drive be added to that intersection. Mary Beth Washnock stated that this was discussed in the CAC meeting and that Christy Johnson with FDOT directed CAC member Yvonne Earle to get in touch with Gretchen Peoples who is over the Community Traffic Safety Team for District 3.

Mark Hensley stated that he is part of a group petitioning Okaloosa County Growth Management to direct Kimley-Horn Engineering to reroute the main entrance to the Legendary Cove subdivision north to Lewis Turner Blvd. Mark Hensley recommended placing the northern entrance in place of the HOA park and putting the HOA park where the original entrance is located, which would, in his opinion, alleviate the increase of traffic along Sunset Lane and North Poquito Road. Mark Hensley stated that the construction of Legendary Cove will only increase traffic in this area and cause more of an issue. Mark Hensley discussed the horrible traffic conditions in that area.

Leigh Moore with Scenic Walton stated that her organization focuses on public landscaping, pedestrian/bicyclist facilities, and underground utilities all in the interest of improving safety and beautification. Leigh Moore spoke regarding overpasses and underpasses for pedestrians and cyclists and stated that her organization was integral in getting the Inlet Beach at 30A and 98 one funded, and that they anticipate completion in January. Since the process takes so long to play out, Leigh Moore recommended that the TPO start looking at other areas along US 98 that might need such treatments. Austin Mount stated that SunTrail might be a good opportunity for funding projects like this and to keep that in mind moving forward.

FDOT UPDATES:

Bryant Paulk informed the board that FDOT was able to program \$200,000 to update the O-W TPO's Master Bike Pedestrian Plan.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. ALL COMMITTEES: Approval of August 2023 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Ketchel moved to approve the August 2023 O-W TPO meeting minutes. Commissioner Wasdin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **ENCLOSURE A - ALL COMMITTEES - Consideration of Resolution O-W 23-22 Accepting the FDOT FY 2025-2029 Tentative Work Program - *Carla Hodges, FDOT District 3 Work Program Office, Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT, or Christy Johnson, AICP, FDOT***

Carla Hodges presented the Tentative Work Program for FY 2025-2029.

Commissioner Ketchel moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 23-22 accepting the FDOT FY 2025-2029 Tentative Work Program. Councilmember Schaetzle seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

2. **ENCLOSURE B - ALL COMMITTEES - ROLL CALL VOTE - Consideration of Resolution O-W 23-26 Amending the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Design Phase for 6th Avenue from SR 85 (Eglin Parkway) to 11th Street Sidewalk Project in FY 2023/2024 at a Total Cost of \$111,000 -*Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT Urban Liaison Christy Johnson, AICP, FDOT***

Bryant Paulk presented the TIP amendment.

Commissioner Ketchel moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 23-22 amending the FY 2024-2028 TIP. Councilmember Blocker seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

Councilmember Vallee	Yes
Mayor Whitten	Yes
Councilmember Blocker	Yes
Commissioner Dickey	Yes
Mayor Rynearson	Yes
Councilmember Schaetzle	Yes
Councilmember Wasdin	Yes
Commissioner Ketchel	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

3. **ENCLOSURE C - ALL COMMITTEES - Consideration of Resolution O-W 23-23 Adopting Targets for Safety Performance Measures - *Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff***

Gary Kramer presented and stated that this action is recommended to comply with the February 27, 2024, deadline to remain in compliance with the federal and state regulations for transportation planning. Mayor Whitten stated that he does not support this because it is not a realistic goal. There was a discussion about creating safer bike lanes and crossings and creating goals to have safer streets.

Mayor Rynearson moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 23-23 adopting statewide “Vision Zero” targets for Safety Performance Measures. Councilmember Schaetzle seconded the motion, and it was approved with Mayor Whitten opposed.

4. ENCLOSURE D - ALL COMMITTEES- Consideration of Resolution OW 23-24 Adopting the Rankings of SUN Trail (Shared Use Non-Motorized) Projects - *Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff*

Gary Kramer presented the rankings of the SUN Trail projects and stated that this action is recommended so FDOT can use the SUN Trail rankings as a guide for funding SUN Trail projects in the FDOT Work Program. Mary Beth Washnock stated that projects can still be submitted through the GAP website through December 20th. There was discussion about the amount of funding left for these types of projects. ECRC staff encouraged TPO members to have their municipalities submit projects. There was lengthy discussion about the opportunity for trails in the area and the need for these projects on Highway 98.

Councilmember Blocker moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution OW 23-24 adopting the SUN Trail Project rankings. Commissioner Ketchel seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mayor Rynearson moved to approve the subsequent ranking of additional projects in the order they are submitted if submitted to the TPO by the deadline. Councilmember Blocker seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

5. ENCLOSURE E - ALL COMMITTEES - Consideration of Resolution O-W 23-25 Adopting the Congestion Management Process Plan (CMPP) Minor Update- *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*

Jill Nobles presented the CMPP minor update.

Councilmember Blocker moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 23-25 adopting the Congestion Management Process Plan Minor Update. Commissioner Ketchel seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

6. ENCLOSURE F – TPO ONLY– Appointment of Okaloosa-Walton TPO Board Member and Alternate to the MPOAC Governing Board for Calendar Year 2024 - *Mary Beth Washnock, ECRC Transportation Director*

Mary Beth Washnock stated that each year the MPOAC asks each MPO to elect a representative and an alternate to serve on the MPOAC Governing Board for the next calendar year. The current member is Mayor Dick Ryneerson, Fort Walton Beach, and the alternate is Mayor J.B. Whitten, Crestview. Councilmember William Schaetzel nominated himself to serve as the primary member. Chair Vallee stated that maybe in the future a rotation be created so that multiple members are able to serve on the MPOAC. Councilmember William Schaetzel changed his nomination for himself to serve as the alternate. Mayor Dick Ryneerson said he would like to continue to serve as the primary member.

Vice-Chair Vallee suggested having a small workshop for interested parties prior to the meeting and letting them come up with a recommendation for the primary and alternate members.

Councilmember Schaetzle moved to appoint himself as the alternate to the MPOAC Governing Board. Commissioner Ketchel seconded the motion, and it was unanimously with two opposed.

Mayor Ryneerson moved to appoint himself as the primary member to the MPOAC Governing Board. Mayor Whitten seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Austin Mount stated that on February 3rd, the MPOAC is holding their weekend training institute in Destin and that all TPO members are invited to attend. Costs will be covered by ECRC. Austin Mount added that there will be a regional TPO meeting on February 2nd that the MPOAC will host and will discuss legislative changes that are occurring moving forward. Austin Mount stated that ECRC is also announcing a major announcement about changes coming to ECRC on the evening of February 3rd.

PRESENTATIONS:

Due to time, Chair Vallee requested that Enclosure J be presented before the other presentation items.

ENCLOSURE J – TPO ONLY – Eglin AFB Support of Transportation Planning Organization's (TPO) SR 85 Projects- *Dana McIntyre, Eglin AFB*

Dana McIntyre gave a presentation on Eglin AFB's support of the TPO's SR 85 projects and stated that improvements to SR 85 are of great interest to Eglin. Dana McIntyre reported that one of the major and long-standing challenges for Eglin AFB is the increased traffic congestion experienced daily by the workforce commuting from the north end of Okaloosa County, including the Crestview area. Eglin AFB's weapons research and development mission continues to grow in both scope and pace and this growth unsurprisingly translates to additional personnel and their families living in northwest Florida. As such, the traffic congestion currently overloading SR 85 during ever-increasing peak hours continues to negatively impact the ability of military personnel to dependably meet both mission requirements at the installation as well as family responsibilities at home.

1. ENCLOSURE G - ALL COMMITTEES – FDOT District Three Transportation Alternatives (TA) Application Process - *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*

Jill Nobles presented the TA application process and stated that the projects located within Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization will need to be prioritized by the TPO and that applications are due in GAP by Friday, January 19, 2024.

2. ENCLOSURE H - ALL COMMITTEES – FDOT District Three Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Application Cycle - *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*

Jill Nobles presented and informed the board that applications are due in GAP by Friday, January 19, 2024, for ECRC prioritization.

3. ENCLOSURE I - ALL COMMITTEES – Draft Update to Evaluation Criteria for Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) Staff Ranking of Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Projects- *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*

Jill Nobles presented the draft update to evaluation criteria for ECRC staff ranking of TSM projects. Adoption will be requested in February 2024.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES -TPO ONLY

INFORMATION ITEMS (no presentation necessary):

1. TCC and CAC August 2023 Meeting Minutes

O-W TPO Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2023 (Page 8 of 8)

2. O-W TPO August 2023 Actions Report
3. Amendment to the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Letter

OTHER BUSINESS: None

The meeting was adjourned.

ACTION ITEMS

ENCLOSURE A

ENCLOSURE A ALL COMMITTEES

SUBJECT: Consideration of Resolution O-W 24-01 Requesting AMTRAK to Restore Stations and Passenger Service in Northwest Florida

ORIGIN OF SUBJECT: MPOAC

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTION NEEDED: None

BACKGROUND: The MPOAC announced on November 9, 2023 that the Passenger Rail Priorities Program (PRPP) is accepting project applications for the 2023 Pilot Program through December 8, 2023. The TPO staff coordinated with the MPOAC's consultant, FDOT, and the cities of Crestview and DeFuniak Springs on the attached submittal package.

The goal is for AMTRAK, through FDOT/MPOAC, to consider the TPO's PRPP package for funding. The package was submitted to the MPOAC's consultant on December 8, 2023, and the consultant recommended that the TPO's 2008 resolution in support of restoration of AMTRAK service through Northwest Florida be updated to reflect the TPO's continued support of the project. MPOAC's Passenger Rail Priorities were discussed by the MPOAC Policy Board on January 25, 2024.

Attached are the following:

- Resolution O-W 24-01
- MPOAC Passenger Rail Submittal Package

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval of a motion authorizing the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 24-01 requesting AMTRAK to restore stations and passenger service in Northwest Florida.

This action is recommended to update Resolution O-W 08-27 for AMTRAK's consideration to advance this project. Please contact Gary Kramer, ECRC staff, at (800) 226-8914, Ext. 219 or gary.kramer@ecrc.org if additional information is needed.

RESOLUTION OW 24-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE OKALOOSA-WALTON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION REQUESTING AMTRAK TO RESTORE STATIONS AND PASSENGER SERVICE IN NORTHWEST FLORIDA

WHEREAS, the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is the organization designated by the governor of Florida as being responsible for carrying out the continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process for the Okaloosa-Walton TPO planning area; and

WHEREAS, prior to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, AMTRAK operated the three-day a week Sunset Limited passenger service between New Orleans and destinations in Florida; and

WHEREAS, AMTRAK discontinued operation of the Sunset Limited service between New Orleans and Florida due to partial destruction of the CSX Railroad caused by Hurricane Katrina, and

WHEREAS, AMTRAK has not resumed the Sunset Limited service between New Orleans and destinations in Florida; even though the CSX damaged rails have been repaired and freight rail traffic is again utilizing the line; and

WHEREAS, rail passenger service will become an even more important alternative transportation mode with the increased emphasis on carbon reduction and climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council's Passenger and Rail Committee has requested MPO's to submit Passenger Rail Priorities Program project submission forms for FDOT consideration;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE OKALOOSA-WALTON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION THAT:

The TPO requests AMTRAK to restore stations and passenger service in Northwest Florida.

Passed and duly adopted by the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization on this 15th day of February 2024.

**OKALOOSA- WALTON TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

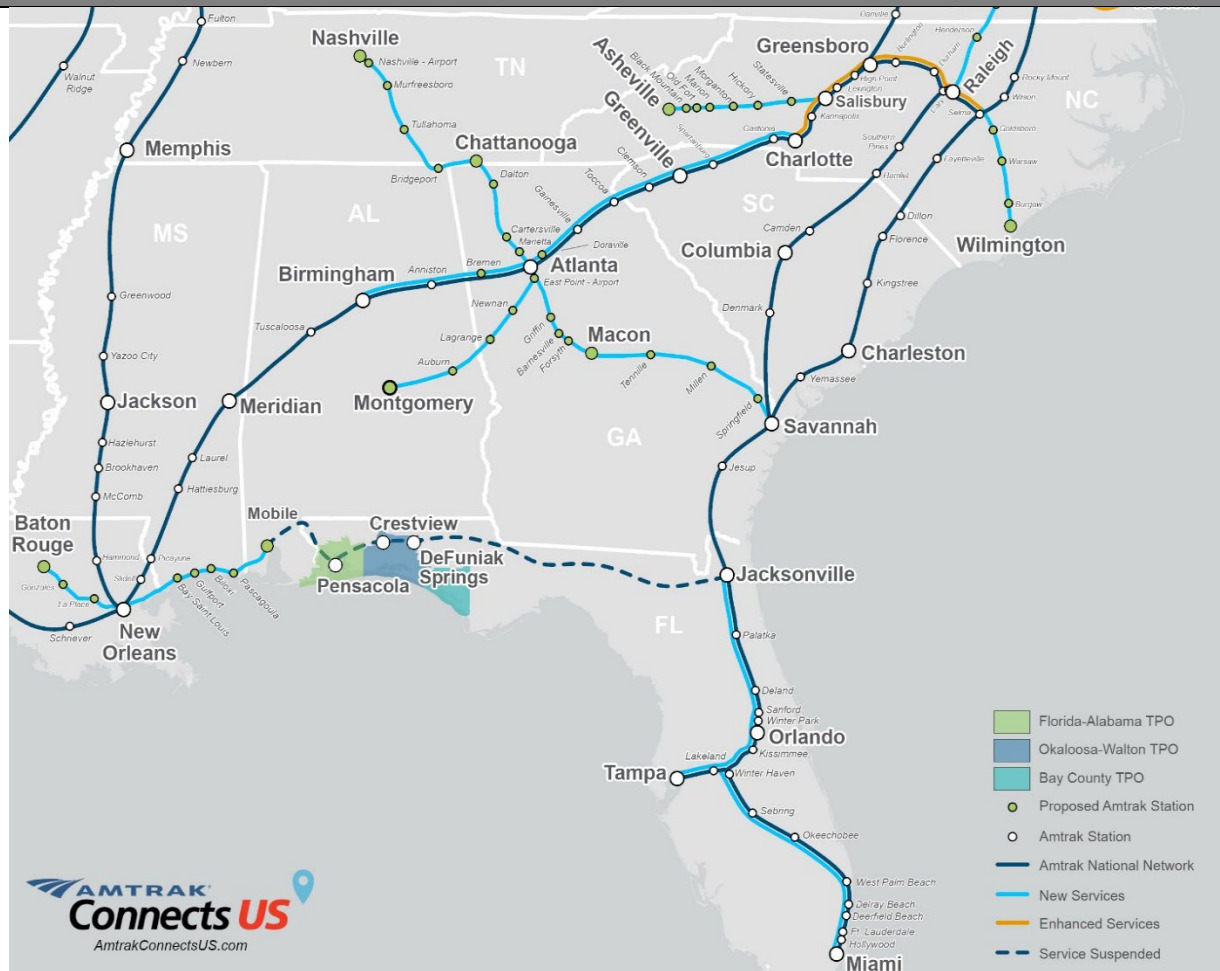
BY: _____
Nathan Boyles, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

PASSENGER RAIL PRIORITIES PROGRAM PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION	
Project Name:	Restore AMTRAK Service in the Okaloosa-Walton TPO Area
Project Sponsor:	City of Crestview and/or City of DeFuniak Springs
Sponsoring MPO:	Okaloosa-Walton TPO
FDOT Coordinator:	Ray Corbitt Ray.Corbitt@dot.state.fl.us
Project Description:	The short-term goal is to procure funding to construct an AMTRAK Station in either Crestview or DeFuniak Springs. The Long-term goal is to restore for service between Mobile and Jacksonville at reasonable hours for the traveling public. This priority request is for the short-term goal.
Purpose and Need Statement:	AMTRAK service in northwest Florida was discontinued in 2005 by the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina. The rail line has been restored, but the passenger rail service has not. Tourism in Florida has nearly reach the pre-pandemic levels as per the U.S. News and World Report. Airplane enplanements have also reached the pre-pandemic levels as mentioned in Bloomberg.com. According to the FHWA Monthly, Vehicle Miles of Traveled have rebounded to nearly pre-pandemic levels. Therefore, with the increased emphasis on carbon reduction and climate change, providing an alternative to these other modes of travel is needed for the traveling public to meet the intent of carbon reduction and climate change.
Project Type (Select One):	Restore Former Services
Passenger Rail Service Type (Select One):	Amtrak
Define the Project Limits (e.g., area, corridor, grade crossing, milepost, etc.):	West end of the Okaloosa-Walton TPO area to the east end of the of the Okaloosa-Walton TPO area.
List the Counties involved in the Project:	Okaloosa and Walton
Provide a Map showing the location of the Project (URL/Link):	The location of the project is shown in the blue shaded area in the map below.

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION



Total Estimated Project Costs: **\$1,233,000 in 2023 dollars**

Total Estimated Unfunded Costs: **\$473,000 in 2023 dollars (Annual operating cost per station for one round trip train between New Orleans and Orlando)**

Total Requested Amount: **\$760,000 (for AMTRAK station in Crestview or DeFuniak Springs in 2023 dollars)**

List any other MPOs involved in the Project: **Florida-Alabama TPO**

List any Private Partners (e.g., railroads, private companies, public authorities involved in transportation, other municipal jurisdictions, etc.) involved in the Project:

Crestview and DeFuniak Springs.

Is this Project identified in an Existing Transportation Plan or Study?
(Choose all that apply)

- ☒ FDOT State Rail Plan
- ☐ FDOT SIS Plan
- ☐ MPO Transportation Plan
- ☒ Amtrak Plan/Study
- ☐ Transit Development Plan
- ☐ Other Transportation Plan/Study
- ☐ No, Requesting Funds for a Plan/Study

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

- ☐ Miami – Orlando
- ☐ Orlando – Tampa
- ☐ Miami – Tampa
- ☐ Jacksonville – Orlando
- ☐ Jacksonville – Miami
- ☒ Jacksonville – Mobile – New Orleans
- ☐ Jacksonville – Macon – Atlanta
- ☐ Amtrak Long-Distance (Silver Meteor)
- ☐ Amtrak Long-Distance (Silver Star)
- ☐ Amtrak Long-Distance (Auto Train)
- ☐ Orlando – Gainesville
- ☐ Miami – Naples – Tampa
- ☐ Undefined, Potential New Corridor

List any previous Federal Grant Applications submitted on behalf of this Project:

N/A

PROJECT SCREENING

Eligibility Criteria:
(Select all that apply)

- ☒ Documented in an Existing Transportation Plan or Study
- ☒ Connects at least two Major Metropolitan Areas
- ☐ Has Support from Railroad Owners and Operators
- ☒ Includes Total Project Cost and Funding Request
- ☒ Identifies Operations & Maintenance Financial Support

Project Elements (Select all that apply based on Project Type):

Enhance Former Services

- ☒ Accessibility
- ☐ Connectivity
- ☐ Efficiency
- ☒ Frequency
- ☒ Reliability
- ☐ Safety
- ☐ Technology

Restore Former Services

- ☐ Passenger Service on a current Freight Line
- ☒ Discontinued Amtrak Service
- ☐ Former Railroad ROW for Passenger Operations
- ☒ Reopen a Station

Develop New Services

- ☐ Corridor
- ☒ Station
- ☒ Rolling Stock
- ☐ Safety Improvements

Upload a Link to any previous Plans or Studies that identify the Project (URL/Link):

[Florida Rail System Plan - October 2023 - Executive Summary \(windows.net\)](#) page 2.

[Amtrak Proposed Expansion Maps & Routes \(l.com\)](#) Southeast Map.

[Gulf Coast Working Group - Report to Congress \(dot.gov\)](#) p.14.

\$7,800,00 for 12 stations between Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. Using inflation rate 2.342 percent annually for 7 years equals approximately \$9,100,000 in 2023 dollars $\$9,100,000 / 12 = \$760,000$ per station.

https://railroads.dot.gov/sites/fra.dot.gov/files/fra_net/17156/2017-07-17_Gulf%20Coast%20Working%20Group%20Report%20to%20Congress%20%28Main%20Section%29-%20Final.pdf

Table 4 page 19 projected restoration cost Pensacola Station total cost \$623,521.

Table 4 page 19 projected restoration cost Crestview Station total cost \$472,156.

Figure 4 page 14. 19 stops between New Orleans and Orlando. 1 round trip train per day page ES-1.

Estimate operating need \$5.48 million in 2016 dollars which is \$288,421 per station. Using inflation rate 2.342 percent annually for 7 years equals approximately \$473,000 per station in 2023 dollars.

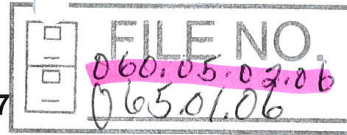
Upload Letters of Support for the Project (URL/Link):

[Mayor Campbell hopes Amtrak will get on-board with stop at DeFuniak Springs depot – The Defuniak Herald & Beach Breeze](#)

[Amtrak, Southern Rail Commission bring inspection train to Crestview \(houmatoday.com\)](#)

See OW Resolution 08-27 listed below.

PROJECT SCREENING



RESOLUTION O-W 08-27

A RESOLUTION OF THE OKALOOSA-WALTON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION REQUESTING AMTRAK TO RESTORE SUNSET LIMITED RAIL PASSENGER SERVICE IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is the organization designated by the Governor of Florida as being responsible for carrying out the continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process for the Okaloosa-Walton Metropolitan Planning Area; and

WHEREAS, prior to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Amtrak operated the three-day-a-week Sunset Limited rail passenger service between New Orleans and destinations in Florida; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak discontinued operation of the Sunset Limited service between New Orleans and Florida due to partial destruction of the CSX railroad caused by Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak has not resumed the Sunset Limited service between New Orleans and destinations in Florida, even though the CSX damaged rails have been repaired and freight rail traffic is again utilizing the line; and

WHEREAS, rail passenger service will become an even more important alternative transportation mode to the private automobile as our nation moves toward reducing our dependency on foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, intermodal connections with rail passenger service are important for the future of railroad infrastructure;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE OKALOOSA-WALTON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION THAT:

The TPO requests AmTrak to restore Sunset Limited rail passenger service between New Orleans and destinations in Florida.

Passed and duly adopted by the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization on this 18th day of September 2008.

**OKALOOSA-WALTON TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

(Seal)

ATTEST:

BY:

William H. Garvie
William H. Garvie, Chairman

Identify Potential Applicable Funding Sources
(Select all that apply):

- ☒ Federal
- ☒ State
- ☒ Local
- ☒ Public Financing

PROJECT SCREENING

☒ Private Funds

☒ Private Financing

Does the Project have a Financial Sponsor committed to Operations & Maintenance?

No

Define the Action Requesting Financial Support:

- ☐ Construction for Safety Improvement
- ☐ Construction for New Track/Restored Track
- ☒ Construction for New Station/Existing Station Improvements
- ☐ Passenger Rail Corridor Feasibility Study
- ☐ Passenger Rail Service Plan
- ☐ PD&E
- ☐ PE
- ☐ ROW Acquisition
- ☐ Rolling Stock Acquisition
- ☐ Scope of Work
- ☐ Other (Describe):

Identify the Florida State Rail Plans goal(s) supported by the Project:
(Select all that apply)

- ☒ Safety and Security for all Residents, Visitors, and Businesses
- ☒ Agile, Resilient, and Quality Transportation Infrastructure
- ☒ Connected, Efficient, and Reliable Mobility for People and Freight
- ☒ Transportation Choices that Improve Accessibility and Equity
- ☒ Transportation Solutions that Strengthen Florida's Economy
- ☒ Transportation Systems that Enhance Florida's Communities
- ☒ Transportation Solutions that Enhance Florida's Environment

Provide a Brief Statement explaining how the Project supports the State Rail Plan goal(s): **The project will reduce incidents, accidents, and fatalities which supports Goal 1 Safety and Security for Residents, Visitors, and Businesses. The project will Increase the resilience of infrastructure which supports Goal 2 Agile, Resilient, and Quality Transportation Infrastructure. The project will improve rail system connectivity which supports Goal 3 Connected, Efficient, and Reliable Mobility for People and Freight, The project will increase alternatives to single occupancy vehicles and increase access to jobs, education, health, and other services for all residents which support Goal4 Transportation Choices that Improve Accessibility and Equity. The project will Invest in rail improvement projects that support job creation and economic development which supports Goal 5 Transportation Solutions that Strengthen Florida's Economy. The project will support job creation and economic development which supports Goal 6 Transportation Systems that Enhance Florida's Communities. The project will decrease transportation-related air quality pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions which supports Goal 7 Transportation Solutions that Enhance Florida's Environment.**

ENCLOSURE B

ENCLOSURE B ALL COMMITTEES

SUBJECT: Consideration of Resolution O-W 24-02 Approving the Evaluation Criteria for Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) Staff Ranking of Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Projects

ORIGIN OF SUBJECT: Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Task 3: Data Development and Management

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTION NEEDED: None

BACKGROUND: The purpose of TSM planning is to identify operational improvements to enhance the capacity of the existing system. Through better management and operation of existing transportation facilities, techniques are designed to improve traffic flow, air quality, and movement of people and goods, as well as enhance system accessibility and safety. Transportation systems management strategies are lower cost but effective in nature. Techniques include, but are not limited to, intersection and signal improvements, freeway bottleneck removal programs, data collection to monitor system performance, and special events management strategies.

As per the UPWP, ECRC staff is reevaluating the adopted evaluation criteria used to rank candidate projects. Comments will be collected through January 19, 2024.

Attached are the following:

- Resolution O-W 24-02
- Current Adopted Evaluation Criteria
- Draft Proposed Evaluation Criteria

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Approval of a motion for the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 24-02 approving the evaluation criteria for the ECRC staff ranking of TSM projects.** This action is recommended to keep the TSM evaluation criteria current for the next priorities cycle. Please contact Jill Nobles, ECRC staff, if additional information is needed at jill.nobles@ecrc.org or (850) 332-7976, ext. 212.

RESOLUTION O-W 24-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE OKALOOSA-WALTON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADOPTING THE EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF RANKING OF TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM MANAGEMENT (TSM) PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is the metropolitan planning organization designated by the governor of Florida as being responsible for carrying out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process for the Okaloosa-Walton Metropolitan Planning Area; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation System Management (TSM) planning is outlined in the TPO's Unified Planning Work Program to identify operational improvements to enhance the capacity of the existing system; and

WHEREAS, Emerald Coast Regional Council staff ranks candidate TSM projects;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE OKALOOSA-WALTON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION THAT:

The evaluation criteria for Emerald Coast Regional Council staff ranking of Transportation System Management projects is hereby adopted.

Passed and duly adopted by the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization held on this 15th day of February 2024.

**OKALOOSA-WALTON TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

BY: _____
Nathan Boyles, Chair

ATTEST: _____

CURRENT CRITERIA

Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Priority Selection Criteria

Criteria	Score
A. Level of Service (LOS) Issue Addressed	
Current Deficiency	5 Points
Five Year Deficiency	3 Points
Ten Year Deficiency	1 Point
Not deficient	0 Points
B. Regional Significant Roadway (defined as a roadway that is included in the model for the metropolitan area's transportation network)	
Yes	2 Points
No	1 Point
C. Crash Rate	
Safety Ratio Greater than 2.00	3 Points
Safety Ratio from 1.00 to 2.00	2 Points
Safety Ratio less than 1.00	1 Point
D. Has an existing TPO priority	
Yes	2 Points
No	1 Point
E. Significant Freight Corridor	
Designated NHS Intermodal Connector or Truck Traffic more than 10% Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT)	3 Points
Truck Traffic 8-10% AADT	2 Points
Truck Traffic 5-7.99% AADT	1 Point
F. Local Project Support	
Wide Support = Resolutions of support from 2 local governments + 2 letters of support from community organizations	5 Points
Moderate Support = Resolutions of support from 2 local government <i>or</i> 1 local government resolution + 1 letter of support from community organization	4 Points
No demonstrated support beyond 1 local government sponsor resolution	3 Points

Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Priority Selection Criteria

Criteria	Score
A. Level of Service (LOS) Issue Addressed	
Current Deficiency	5 Points
Five Year Deficiency	3 Points
L RTP Year Deficiency	1 Point
Not Deficient	0 Points
B. Regional Significant Roadway (defined as a roadway that is included in the model for the metropolitan area's transportation network)	
Yes	2 Points
No	1 Point
C. Crash Rate	
Safety Ratio Greater than 2.00	3 Points
Safety Ratio from 1.00 to 2.00	2 Points
Safety Ratio less than 1.00	1 Point
D. Has an existing TPO priority	
Yes	2 Points
No	1 Point
E. Significant Freight Corridor	
Designated NHS Intermodal Connector or Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) Truck Traffic > 10%	3 Points
AADT Truck Traffic 8-10%	2 Points
AADT Truck Traffic 5-7.99% AADT	1 Point
F. Local Project Support	
Wide Support = Resolutions of support from 2 local governments + 2 letters of support from community organizations	5 Points
Moderate Support = Resolutions of support from 2 local government or 1 local government resolution + 1 letter of support from community organization	4 Points
No demonstrated support beyond 1 local government sponsor resolution	3 Points

ENCLOSURE C

ENCLOSURE C ALL COMMITTEES

SUBJECT: Request to Proceed with Amending the Okaloosa-Walton 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan to Include (1) Destin Cross-Town Connector in the Cost Feasible Plan, (2) West 98 Collector in the Needs Plan, (3) JW Hollington Connector Road in the Needs Plan, (4) Mack Bayou to Sandestin Lane Connector Road in the Needs Plan, (5) CR 3280 Extension in the Needs Plan, and (6) Freeport Waterfront Improvements in the Needs Plan

ORIGIN OF SUBJECT: Okaloosa County, Walton County, and the City of Freeport

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTION NEEDED: None

BACKGROUND: The Okaloosa-Walton TPO's 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) was adopted on December 9, 2021. This LRTP Plan amendment request is for West 98 Collector, JW Hollington Connector Road, Mack Bayou to Sandestin Lane Connector Road, and CR 3280 Extension.

Public Participation Plan (PPP) Requirements for Long Range Transportation Plan Amendments (Adopted June 17, 2021)

Administrative modifications to the PPP, LRTP, TIP or UPWP are minor revisions and do not require public review but must be included in the public notice for the TPO board meeting when the modification is presented for review and adoption.

Amendments are revisions that may involve the addition or deletion of a major project, a major change in project cost, or a major change in design concept or design scope. Amendments require a formal public review and comment period. A 30-day formal comment period will be implemented for major LRTP amendments and the public participation procedures may vary based on the nature of the amendment. TPO board staff, with TPO board consultation, will make this determination based on the project, the nature of the change, the number of counties affected, and the impact on the planning process. Because of the wide variability in what an amendment can include, the TPO reserves the right to determine what participation techniques are appropriate, recognizing that outreach measures should fit the amendment content. Always, the public, interested parties, policy makers, and partners can obtain full information about each project change. Review and adoption of amendments to core documents by the TPO board, will be noticed in the Florida Administrative Register.

Below are some of the steps utilized for amendments to major documents or plans:

- Provide a 30-day public review and comment period for the draft document or plan.
- Include in the public notice of the TPO board meeting when the draft document or plan is to be presented for review and adoption.
- Provide the public with an opportunity to comment during public forum when the draft document or plan is presented for review and adoption.
- Publish adopted document on website at www.ecrc.org, a print copy of amendments are available upon request.

Destin Cross-town Connector (See attached map for location)

The Destin Cross-town Connector will provide two lanes of enhanced capacity between US 98 and

Main Street (Destin Harbor District). In late 2023, FDOT completed a PD&E study for the 6-laning of HWY 98. While it was determined that more capacity is required, the project was cost-prohibitive due to the amount of land acquisition needed. This project will serve as an alternative to US 98, giving people an option for east-west travel and thereby relieving the pressures on US 98. This project will include bicycle lanes, sidewalks, and green space, as it also overlays with the Florida Sun Trail Network.

This project is currently in the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan as a committed project. Due to increased costs, the project was never completed. This amendment adds the remaining unfunded portion of the construction phase to the Cost Feasible Plan. This amendment has been requested by the City of Destin.

<u>PD&E Study</u>	<u>PE/Design</u>	<u>ROW</u>	<u>Construction</u>
Complete	Complete	Complete	\$5,999,717 (local funds)
			\$3,632,811

West 98 Collector (See attached map for location)

The West 98 Collector will run parallel to SR 30/US 98 to support and alleviate traffic off US 98. The purpose is to provide residents with an option of travel by bicycle or car that does not involve turning onto and off of US 98 while minimizing flooding between the corridors. The proposed overall study consists of construction of an approximate 3-mile roadway that runs parallel to US 98, west of Hurlburt Field and north of Florosa Elementary, and the Florosa Fire Station.

This project is not currently in the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Needs Plan or Cost Feasible Plan. This amendment adds the locally funded phases in the Cost Feasible Plan and the unfunded phases to the Needs Plan. This amendment has been requested by Okaloosa County.

JW Hollington Connector Road (See attached map for location)

This project is a new roadway connecting JW Hollington Road to US 331. It consists of a new two-lane road with Complete Streets elements such as paths and bicycle lanes.

This project is not currently in the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Needs Plan or Cost Feasible Plan. This amendment adds the costs to the Needs Plan only. This amendment has been requested by Walton County.

Mack Bayou to Sandestin Lane Connector Road (See attached map for location)

This project is a new roadway connecting Mack Bayou Road to Sandestin Lane. It consists of a new two-lane road with Complete Streets Elements such as paths or flex lanes.

This project is not currently in the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Needs Plan or Cost Feasible Plan. This amendment adds the costs to the Needs Plan only. This amendment has been requested by Walton County.

CR 3280 Extension (See attached map for location)

This project is a new roadway connecting Black Creek Boulevard to SR 20. It consists of a new two-lane road with Complete Streets Elements such as a path and bike lanes.

This project is not currently in the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Needs Plan or Cost Feasible Plan. This amendment adds the costs to the Needs Plan only. This amendment has been requested by Walton County.

Freeport Waterfront Improvements (See attached map for locations)

- Four Mile Bridge Boat Ramp Refurbishment
 - Issue: The boat ramp is being undermined by barge/tugboat motor turbidity around the ramp.
 - Proposed Retrofit: a) Construct 80 SY AL Class 3 Riprap over D-2 filter fabric; b) Construct 65 linear feet steel sheet pile retaining wall around existing boat ramp and loading docks.
- Four Mile Creek Turn Basin Mooring Field
 - Issue: Alleviate vessel congestion for fueling and state of emergency-named storms for vessel mooring for evacuation from the coast.
 - Proposed Solution: Construction of seven (7) boat slips
- Marse Landing Off-Loading Bulkhead Extension
 - Issue: Circulation issues for truck pick-up of off-loaded materials. Port Authority has been deactivated and must be reinstated.
 - Proposed Retrofit: a) extend bulkhead 200' north of existing bulkhead and provide loading areas for off-loaded materials, and b) pursue reactivation of Port Authority

This project is not currently in the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Needs Plan or Cost Feasible Plan. This amendment adds the costs to the Needs Plan only. This amendment has been requested by the City of Freeport.

2045 LRTP Modifications

The following projects in the 2045 LRTP have been requested to be modified by Walton County to align with the Walton County Mobility Plan/LRTP. The TPO's 2045 LRTP can be accessed at <https://www.ecrc.org/OW2045LRTP>.

LRTP Map ID	Project Name	From	To	Improvement	Modification
A-002	Black Creek Road <u>CR 3280</u>	US 331 (SR 83)	SR 20	Provide 2 lanes new/improved capacity	Rename
A-043	US 331	US 90 (SR 10)	Alabama State Line <u>Paxton Bypass Road (Conceptual)</u>	Provide 4 lanes of capacity	Revise limits
A-054	Chat Holley Road Connector	Nellie Drive	US 98	Provide 2 lanes of new capacity	Remove due to duplicate project A-121 Nellie Road.
A-056	Walton County Improvements <u>Walton Road Improvements</u>	20 th Street	SR 83	Provide additional capacity	Rename
A-057	1st Street Alternate – Option 4	SR 83 (US 331)	Bay Avenue	Construct new road	Remove
A-061	Water Tower	Business	US 331	Construct new	Rename

	Road Connector Road <u>North Freeport Connector Road</u>	331		road	
A-062	Marquis Way East West Connector Road	Shipyard Road	Marquis Way	Construct new road	Rename. A-063 is Marquis Way East Connector Road.
A-075	Blue Ridge Parkway Extension	Lagrange Landing <u>SR 20</u>	<u>Marquis Way</u>	Road upgrades and construction of new road	Revise limits
A-104	CR 393	US Hwy 98	30A	Road Upgrades	Remove due to project being complete.
A-131	US 98	Mack Bayou Road	Sandestin Boulevard	Road Upgrades and Safety Enhancements	Remove due to project being underway/complete.
A-145	US 98	Sandestin Boulevard	Okaloosa County Line	Road Upgrades, Safety Improvements, and Complete Streets Elements	Remove due to project being complete.
B-08	CR 883 Madison Street <u>Business 331 (CR 883)</u>	SR 20	Freeport Village <u>US 331</u>	Sidewalks	Revise project name and limits.
B-39	20 th Street	US 331 <u>Walton Road</u>	US 90	Sidewalk Extension	Revise limits.
B-42	Baldwin Avenue	US 90 <u>West</u>	18th Street <u>11th Street</u>	Sidewalk Extension	Revise limits.
B-43	Baldwin Avenue	18th Street <u>11th Street</u>	1 st Street	Sidewalk Rehabilitation	Revise limits.
B-47	19 th Street	Hedger Street	<u>Bob Sikes Road</u>	Proposed Sidewalk Extension	Revise limits.

Proposed Schedule

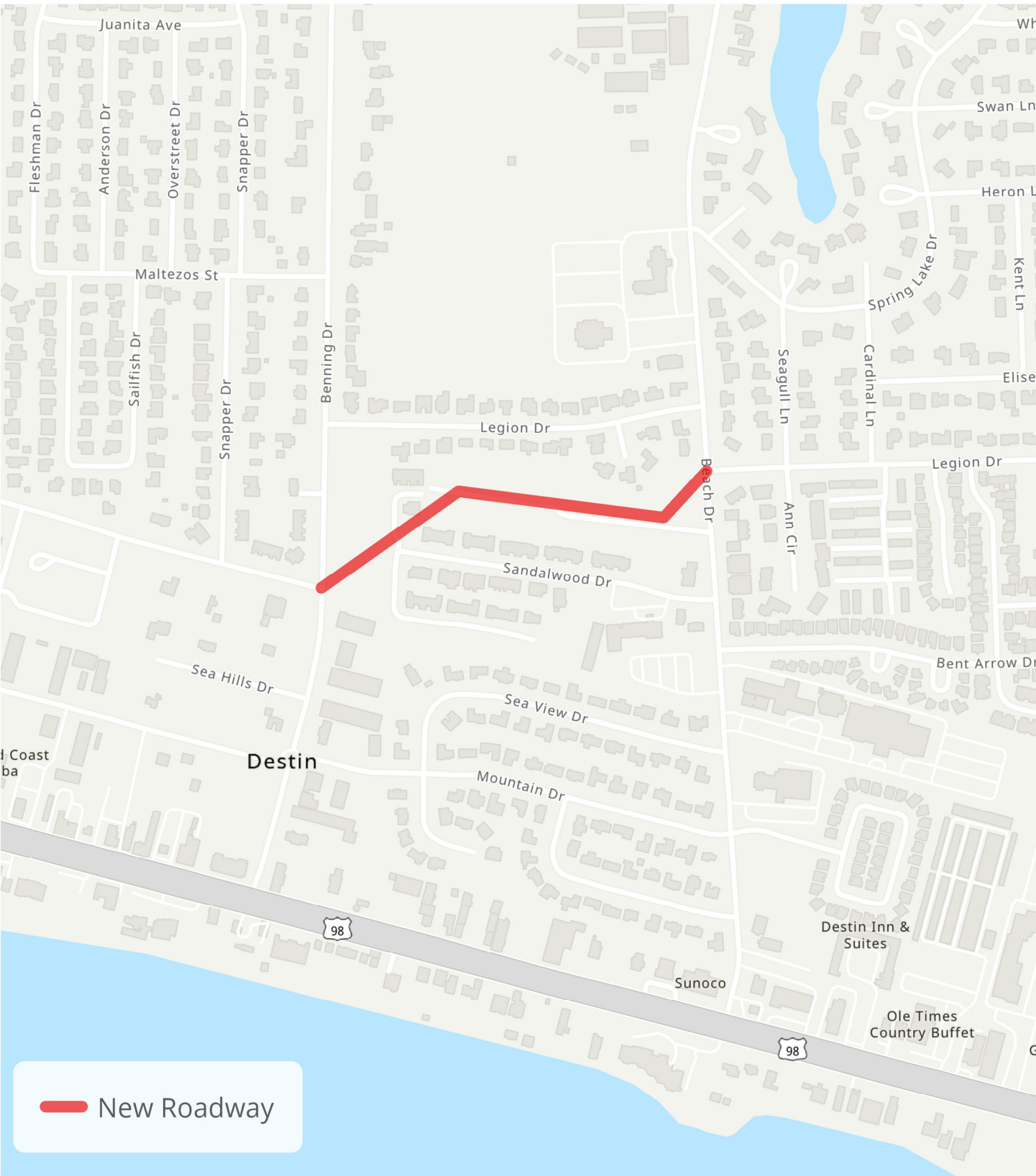
- February 15, 2024 - Authorization by the TPO to proceed with amending the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Needs Plan
- February 2024 - Post proposed Long Range Transportation Plan amendment online
- April 11, 2024 – Public workshops
- April 18, 2024 - TCC and CAC review and recommend approval of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan amendment
- April 18, 2024 - TPO approval of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan amendment

Attached are the following:

- Location Maps of Proposed Amendment Projects

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval of a motion authorizing the ECRC staff to proceed with the process to amend the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Cost Feasible and Needs Plan for the Destin Cross-Town Connector, West 98 Collector, JW Hollington Connector Road, Mack Bayou to Sandestin Lane Connector Road, and CR 3280 Extension. Please contact Jill Nobles, ECRC staff, with any questions at 850-332-7976, extension 212 or via email at jill.nobles@ecrc.org.

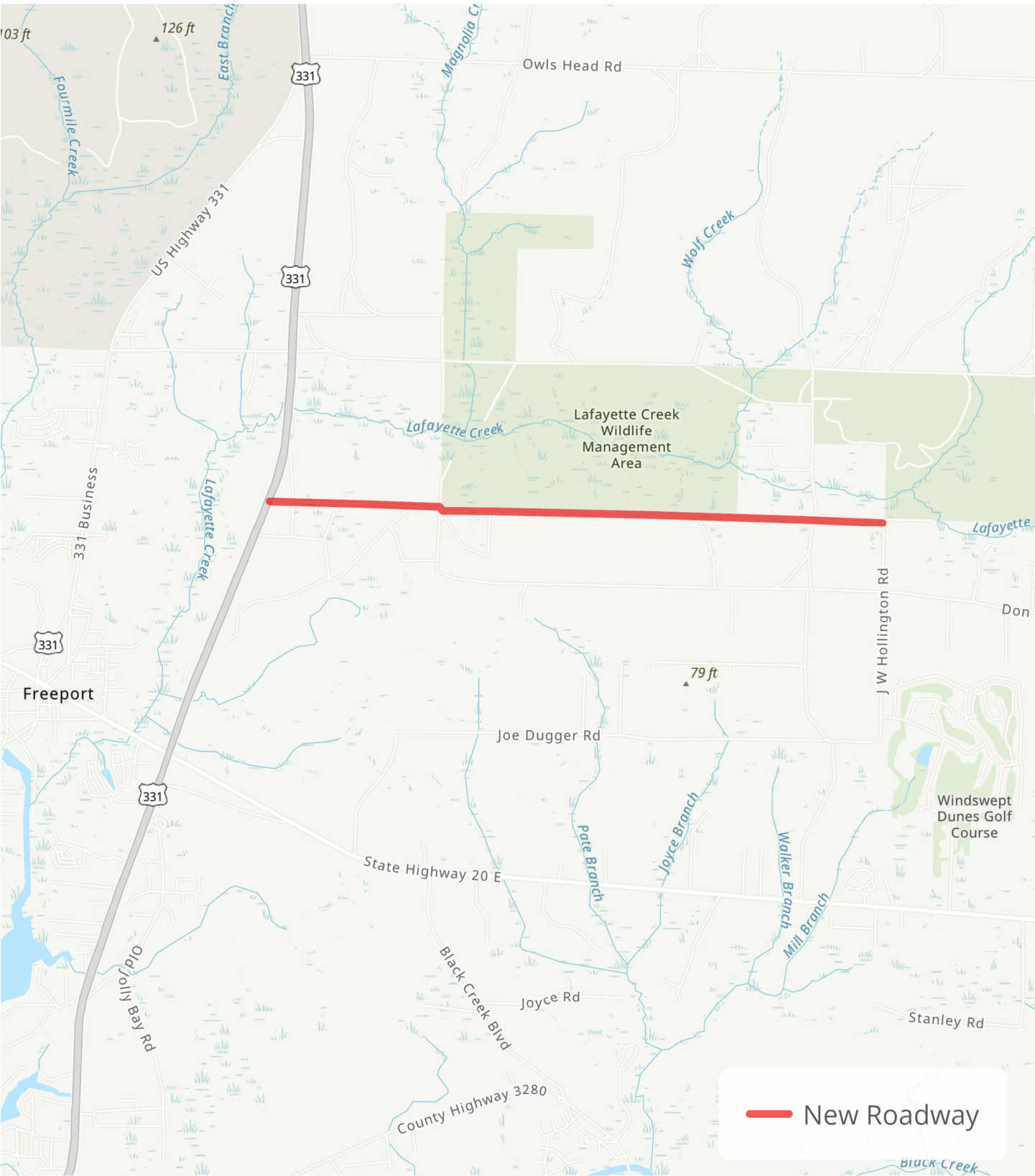
Proposed LRTP Amendment - Destin Cross-Town Connector



Proposed LRTP Amendment - West 98 Collector



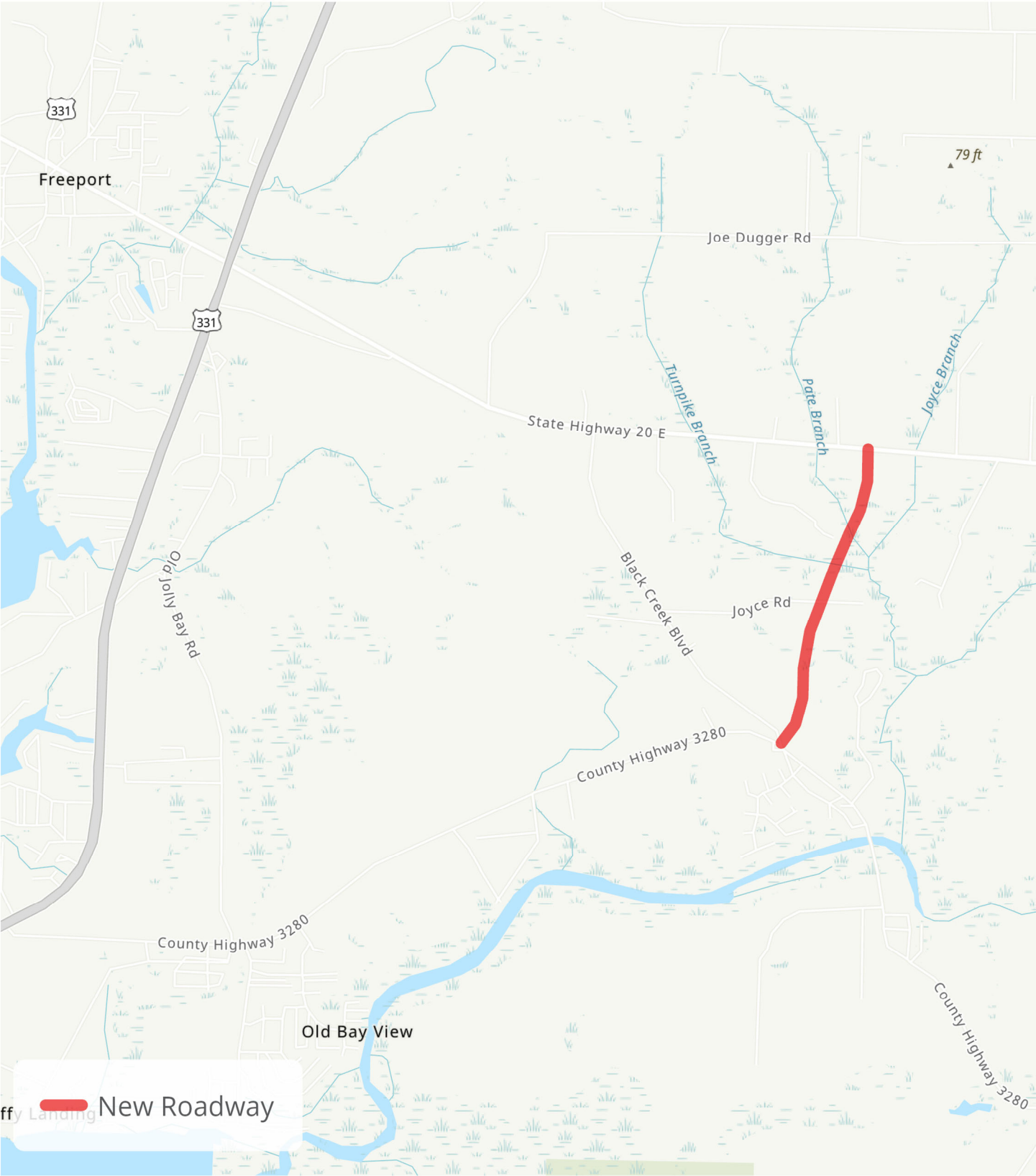
Proposed LRTP Amendment - JW Hollington Connector Road



Proposed LRTP Amendment - Mack Bayou to Sandestin Lane Connector Road

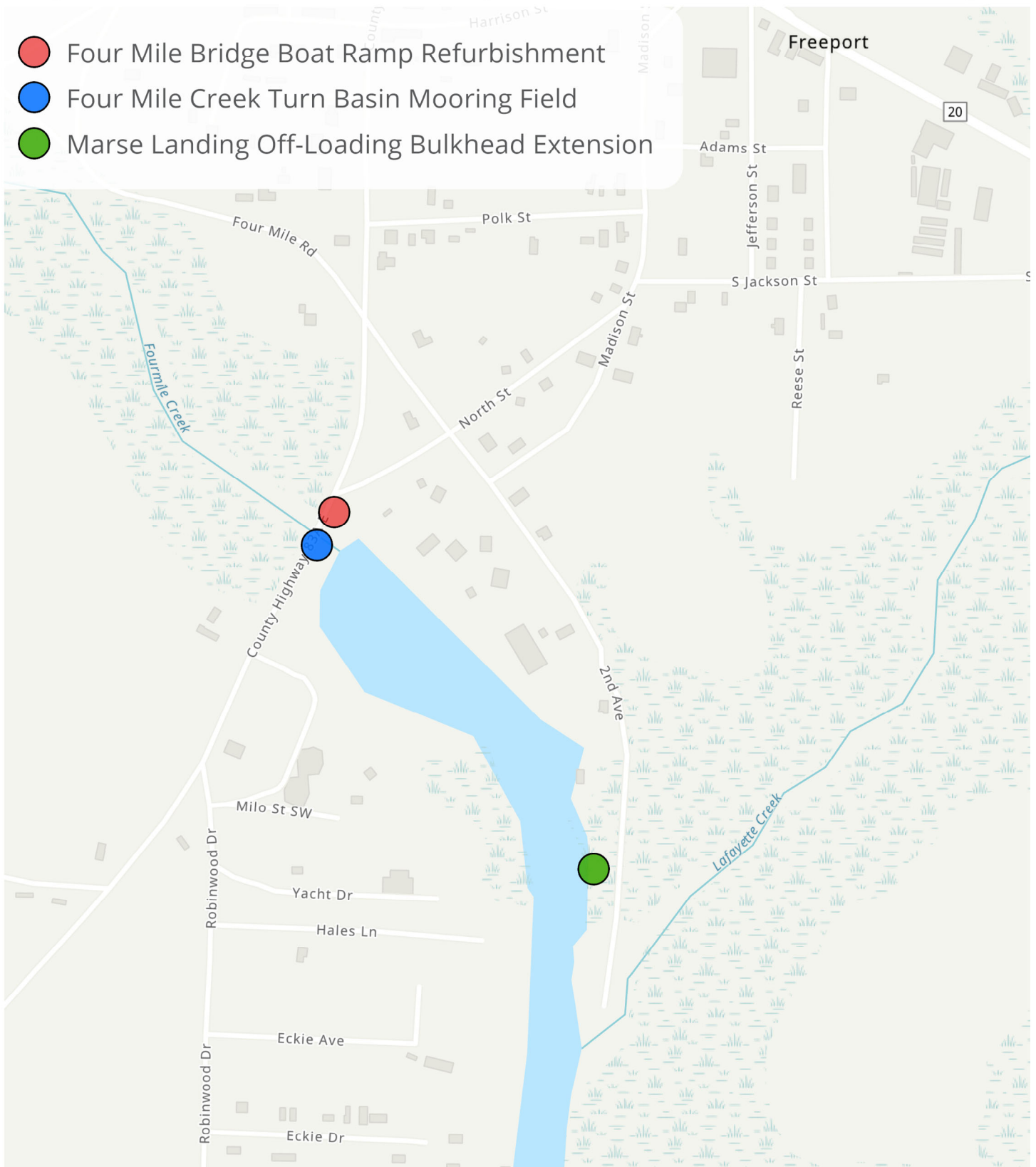


Proposed LRTP Amendment - CR 3280 Extension



Proposed LRTP Amendment - Freeport Waterfront Improvement Projects

- Four Mile Bridge Boat Ramp Refurbishment
- Four Mile Creek Turn Basin Mooring Field
- Marse Landing Off-Loading Bulkhead Extension



PRESENTATIONS

ENCLOSURE D

ENCLOSURE D

ALL COMMITTEES

SUBJECT: Schedule for Development of the Okaloosa-Walton TPO FY 2026-2030 Project Priorities

ORIGIN OF SUBJECT: 23 Code of Federal Regulations Section 134(j), Chapter 339.175 (8)(b) Florida Statutes, Okaloosa-Walton TPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Task 4: Short Range Transportation Planning

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTION NEEDED: None

BACKGROUND: The TPO reviews and adopts transportation project priorities each August for submittal to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) by October 1st. This document is part of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development process. Its purpose is to ensure that transportation projects programmed by FDOT in the Five-Year Work Program are consistent with local needs and plans for the TPO planning area.

As stated in the TPO Public Participation Process Plan dated April 2021, the Project Priorities result from the Long-Range Transportation Plan's Cost Feasible Plan and are reviewed with the public and the TPO Board and advisory committees annually. Once adopted by the TPO board, the Project Priorities are given to FDOT to develop the Five-Year Work Program. From the Five-Year Work Program, the TPO develops the TIP which contains all transportation programs and projects scheduled during the next five years. The TIP is revised annually and is available, in interactive format, on the TPO's website.

The Project Priorities and TIP must be developed by the TPO in consultation with all interested parties and, at a minimum, describe explicit procedures, strategies, and desired outcomes for the following, as outlined by the Code of Federal Regulation (CFR 450.316) and the MPO Handbook:

- Provide reasonable public access to technical and policy information used.
- Provide adequate public notice of public involvement activities and time for public review and comment at key decisions, such as but not limited to the approval of the TIP/Project Priorities
- Demonstrate explicit consideration and response to public input received during plan development process.
- Make the TIP and Project Priorities drafts and final documents available on the TPO website at www.ecrc.org, a print copy of the current plan is available upon request.
- Hold public meetings at convenient times and accessible locations.
- Seek out and consider the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems, including but not limited to, low-income and minority households.
- Coordinate with the statewide transportation planning public involvement and consultation processes under 23 C.F.R. Subpart B, as described in the FDOT MPO Program Management Handbook.
- Periodically review the effectiveness of the procedures and strategies contained in the participation plan.
- When significant written and oral comments are received on a draft TIP or Project Priorities as a result of public involvement, a summary, analysis, and report on the disposition of comments shall be made part of the final documents.
- If the final Project Priorities/TIP differ significantly from the one made available for public comment or raises new material issues, an additional opportunity for public comment must be made available.

- When the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) includes Indian Tribal Lands, the TPO shall appropriately involve the Indian Tribal Government(s).
- When the MPA includes federal public lands, the TPO shall appropriately involve the federal government.

General techniques proven effective include:

- Provide a 30-day public review and comment period for the draft Project Priorities documents.
- Promote development of the Project Priorities and TIP through news releases and social media, and eblast to TPO board and advisory committees, partners, stakeholders, community groups, and interested parties. (subscribe online at www.ecrc.org)
- Hold public workshop(s) and implement additional project-specific outreach, as needed, to special populations during the Project Priorities process.
- Coordinate public outreach to community groups (with emphasis on the underserved).
- Include public input collected at workshops in the draft Project Priorities and TIP.
- Include in the public notice of the TPO board meeting when the draft Project Priorities and TIP are to be presented for review and adoption.
- Provide the public with an opportunity to comment during public forum when the draft Project Priorities and TIP are presented for review and adoption to the TPO board and advisory committee meetings.
- Publish adopted Project Priorities and TIP interactive site (provided by FDOT) on website at www.ecrc.org, a print copy of the current plan is available upon request.

TPO responsibilities require that all modes of transportation be addressed in the Project Priorities. The following categories of projects are included in the Priorities:

1. Long-Range Transportation Plan Capacity Projects
2. Transportation Systems Management Projects
3. Transportation Alternative Projects
4. Public Transportation Projects
5. Aviation Projects

The draft Project Priorities for FY 2026-2030 project schedule is listed below:

- March 21, 2024 – TPO/TCC/CAC Committee Workshop #1 1:00 p.m. **(Virtual only)**
- April 18, 2024 – TCC, CAC, and TPO meetings to present draft FY 2026-2030 Project Priorities
- Public Outreach
- June 13, 2024 – Hybrid Public Workshop followed by a Hybrid TPO/TCC/CAC Committee Workshop #2
- June 20, 2024 – TCC and CAC meetings to recommend approval of FY 2026-2030 Project Priorities
- June 20, 2024 – TPO meeting approving the FY 2026-2030 Project Priorities

RECOMMENDED ACTION: This item is for review this month and adoption in June. Please contact Jill Nobles, ECRC staff, if additional information is needed at jill.nobles@ecrc.org or (850) 332-7976 Ext. 212.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES TPO ONLY

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. TCC and CAC November 2023 Meeting Minutes
2. O-W TPO November 2023 Actions Report
3. Amendment to the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Letter
4. U.S. 98 "Around the Mound" Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study
5. City of Destin Request for Inclusion of the "Cross-town Connector" Project in the Long-Range Transportation Plan Letter
6. Florida Commerce Signed Letter for OW TPO TIP for FY 2023/2024 – 2027/2028
7. Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Educational Workshop Agenda
8. 2024 OW TPO Meeting Schedule

INFORMATION ITEMS

OKALOOSA – WALTON TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TCC)
MEETING MINUTES
OKALOOSA ADMIN BUILDING, 1250 N. Eglin Pkwy, Shalimar, FL, 32579
November 16, 2023

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Scott Bitterman, Chair	Okaloosa County
Latilda Hughes-Neel, Vice Chair	City of Freeport
Kyle Lusk	City of Crestview
Chris Wallace	City of DeFuniak Springs
Chris Frasseti	City of Fort Walton Beach
Tim Gibson	City of Fort Walton Beach
Scott Davidson	Hurlburt Field
Kristen Shell	Walton County
Joe Bodi	Alternate for the City of Destin

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Jayce Vanderford	City of Crestview
Jeff Cozadd	City of Destin
Robert Herbstreith	City of Mary Esther
Johnathan Laird	City of Niceville
Joel Paul	Tri-County Community Council
Beckie Williams	Florida Department of Children and Families
Van Fuller	Mid-Bay Bridge Authority
Bill Smith	Okaloosa County School District
Abra McGill	Okaloosa County
Tracy Stage	Okaloosa County Airports
Roger C. Rogers	Okaloosa County Airports
Dennis "DJ" Fields	Okaloosa County
Joseph Preston	Walton County
Chance Powell	Walton County
Michelle B. Doggett	Walton County School District
Jim Hicks	Walton County School District

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bryant Paulk	FDOT
Christy Johnson	FDOT
Samantha Graves	City of Freeport
Anna Hudson	Walton County
Ahsley Sukalski	Fort Walton Beach
Nicholas Schwendt	City of Crestview
Cory Wilkinson	HDR

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF:

Austin Mount
Mary Beth Washnock
Leandra Meredith
Rae Emary
Tiffany Bates
Tammy Neal
Gary Kramer
Virtual Attendance
Gabrielle McVoy
Jill Nobles
Angela Bradley

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mary Beth Washnock stated that there were a few corrections to the minutes and some minor typos to the agenda.

Kyle Lusk moved to approve the agenda as amended. Latilda Hughes-Neel seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM:

FDOT UPDATES:

Mr. Paulk informed the board that FDOT was able to allocate \$200,000 to the Okaloosa-Walton TPO for a Bike Ped master plan update.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. ALL COMMITTEES: Approval of August 2023 Meeting Minutes

Latilda Hughes-Neel moved to approve the August 2023 O-W TCC meeting minutes. as corrected. Joe Bodi seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. ENCLOSURE A - ALL COMMITTEES - Consideration of Resolution O-W 23-22 Accepting the FDOT FY 2025-2029 Tentative Work Program - *Carla Hodges, FDOT District 3 Work Program Office, Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT, or Christy Johnson, AICP, FDOT***

Bryant Paulk presented the Tentative Work Program for FY 2023-2029. Scott Bitterman asked about the asphalt price increases and asked FDOT to send those prices out.

Chris Wallace moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 23-22 accepting the FDOT FY 2025-2029 Tentative Work Program. Joe Bodi seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

2. **ENCLOSURE B - ALL COMMITTEES - ROLL CALL VOTE - Consideration of Resolution O-W 23-26 Amending the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Design Phase for 6th Avenue from SR 85 (Eglin Parkway) to 11th Street Sidewalk Project in FY 2023/2024 at a Total Cost of \$111,000 -*Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT Urban Liaison Christy Johnson, AICP, FDOT***

Bryant Paulk presented the TIP amendment.

Joe Bodi moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 23-22 amending the FY 2024-2028 TIP. Kyle Lusk seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

3. **ENCLOSURE C - ALL COMMITTEES - Consideration of Resolution O-W 23-23 Adopting Targets for Safety Performance Measures - *Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff***

Gary Kramer presented and stated that this action is recommended to comply with the February 27, 2024, deadline to remain in compliance with the federal and state regulations for transportation planning.

Latilda Hughes-Neel moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 23-23 adopting statewide "Vision Zero" targets for Safety Performance Measures. Kyle Lusk seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

4. **ENCLOSURE D - ALL COMMITTEES- Consideration of Resolution OW 23-24 Adopting the Rankings of SUN Trail (Shared Use Non-Motorized) Projects - *Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff***

Gary Kramer presented the rankings of the SUN Trail projects, stating that this action is recommended so FDOT can use the SUN Trail rankings as a guide for funding SUN Trail Projects in the FDOT Work Program.

Joe Bodi moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 23-24 adopting the SUN Trail Project rankings. Latilda Hughes-Neel seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

- 5. ENCLOSURE E - ALL COMMITTEES - Consideration of Resolution O-W 23-25 Adopting the Congestion Management Process Plan (CMPP) Minor Update- *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff***

Jill Nobles presented the CMPP minor update.

Kyle Lusk moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 23-25 adopting the Congestion Management Process Plan Minor Update. Tim Gibson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

- 6. ENCLOSURE F - TPO ONLY- Appointment of Okaloosa-Walton TPO Board Member and Alternate to the MPOAC Governing Board for Calendar Year 2024 - *Mary Beth Washnock, ECRC Transportation Director***

PRESENTATIONS:

- 1. ENCLOSURE G - ALL COMMITTEES - FDOT District Three Transportation Alternatives (TA) Application Process - *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff***

Jill Nobles presented the TA application process and stated that the projects located within Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization will need to be prioritized by the TPO. Applications are due in GAP by Friday, January 19, 2024.

- 2. ENCLOSURE H - ALL COMMITTEES - FDOT District Three Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Application Cycle - *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff***

Jill Nobles presented and informed the committee that applications are due in GAP by Friday, January 19, 2024, for ECRC prioritization.

- 3. ENCLOSURE I - ALL COMMITTEES - Draft Update to Evaluation Criteria for Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) Staff Ranking of Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Projects- *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff***

Jill Nobles presented the draft update to evaluation criteria for ECRC staff ranking of TSM projects. Adoption will be requested in February 2024.

- 4. ENCLOSURE J - TPO ONLY - Eglin AFB Support of Transportation Planning**

Organization's (TPO) SR 85 Projects- *Dana McIntyre, Eglin AFB*

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES -TPO ONLY - *Tiffany Bates, ECRC Community Liaison*

INFORMATION ITEMS (no presentation necessary):

1. TCC and CAC August 2023 Meeting Minutes
2. O-W TPO August 2023 Actions Report
3. Amendment to the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Letter

OTHER BUSINESS: None

The meeting was adjourned.

OKALOOSA – WALTON CITIZENS’ ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)
MEETING MINUTES
OKALOOSA ADMIN BUILDING, 1250 N. Eglin Pkwy, Shalimar, FL, 32579
November 16, 2023

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Alexander Barthe, CHAIR
Don Cleveland
Bill Cox
Yvonne Earle
Wanjiku Jackson
Robert J. Rennie
Doug Tolbert
Catherine F. Ward
Megan Harrison
Hunter Harman

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Amy Jamieson, VICE CHAIR
Gary Adams
Matthew Cox
Steven J. Czonstka
Harrison Harsch
Yvonne Shanklin

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christy Johnson	FDOT
Bill Schaetzle	City of Niceville City Council

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF:

Mary Beth Washnock
Leandra Meredith
Rae Emary
Tiffany Bates
Tammy Neal
Gary Kramer
Virtual Attendance
Gabrielle McVoy
Jill Nobles
Angela Bradley

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mary Beth Washnock stated that there were a few corrections to the minutes and some minor typos to the agenda.

Robert Rennie moved to approve the agenda as amended. Yvonne Earle seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM:

FDOT UPDATES:

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. ALL COMMITTEES: Approval of August 2023 Meeting Minutes

Megan Harrison moved to approve the August 2023 O-W TPO meeting minutes as amended. Yvonne Earle seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. ENCLOSURE A - ALL COMMITTEES - Consideration of Resolution O-W 23-22 Accepting the FDOT FY 2025-2029 Tentative Work Program - *Carla Hodges, FDOT District 3 Work Program Office, Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT, or Christy Johnson, AICP, FDOT*

Christy Johnson presented the Tentative Work Program for FY 2023-2029. Chair Barthe discussed the Highway 85 and Highway 90 intersection, and the request for some type of signal indication. Chair Barthe also discussed the blind curve on Antioch Road at Highway 90 westbound, stating that requests continue to be made that those flashing lights be replaced with a better type of signalization. Christy Johnson stated that the material has been ordered for the Highway 85 overpass.

Chair Barthe also discussed safety issues on SR 285. Chair Barthe stated that Brig. Gen. Jeffrey T. Geraghty, the Commander, 96th Test Wing, Air Force Materiel Command, Eglin Air Force Base, wrote a letter stating that the base would like road improvements around the base sooner rather than later as the base continues to develop. General Geraghty wrote that Eglin will donate right of way to facilitate road improvement projects such as passing lanes and safety improvements. Christy Johnson stated that SR 285 was not specifically mentioned in the letter, and that it further details will need to be provided to FDOT.

Chair Barthe also discussed Highway 90 and Hickory Avenue, requesting that FDOT look into turn arrows at that intersection.

Yvonne Earle discussed safety issues regarding U-turns being made at the intersection of Hospital Drive and Lewis Turner Blvd.

Christy Johnson stated that blackout lights have been ordered for the intersection at Racetrack Road and Skipper Road.

Christy Johnson stated that there have been studies done on the intersection for Lewis Turner at the new courthouse entrance and the new Fort Walton Beach golf course. Christy Johnson stated that it was determined that FDOT cannot put a signal in that location but they are looking at installing one a bit from the intersection.

Bill Cox moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chairman to sign Resolution O-W 23-22 accepting the FDOT FY 2025-2029 Tentative Work Program. Doug Tolbert seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

2. **ENCLOSURE B - ALL COMMITTEES - ROLL CALL VOTE - Consideration of Resolution O-W 23-26 Amending the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Design Phase for 6th Avenue from SR 85 (Eglin Parkway) to 11th Street Sidewalk Project in FY 2023/2024 at a Total Cost of \$111,000 -*Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT Urban Liaison Christy Johnson, AICP, FDOT***

Christy Johnson presented the TIP amendment.

Doug Tolbert moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chairman to sign Resolution O-W 23-22 amending the FY 2024-2028 TIP. Yvonne Earle seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

3. **ENCLOSURE C - ALL COMMITTEES - Consideration of Resolution O-W 23-23 Adopting Targets for Safety Performance Measures - *Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff***

Gary Kramer presented and stated that this action is recommended to comply with February 27, 2024, deadline to remain in compliance with the federal and state regulations for transportation planning.

Doug Tolbert moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chairman to sign Resolution O-W 23-23 adopting statewide "Vision Zero" targets for Safety Performance Measures. Wanjiku Jackson seconded the motion, and it was

unanimously approved.

- 4. ENCLOSURE D - ALL COMMITTEES- Consideration of Resolution OW 23-24 Adopting the Rankings of SUN Trail (Shared Use Non-Motorized) Projects - Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff**

Gary Kramer presented the rankings of the SUN Trail projects Gary Kramer stated that this action is recommended so FDOT can use the SUN Trail rankings as a guide for funding SUN Trail Projects in the FDOT Work Program.

Yvonne Earle moved to authorize the TPO chairman to sign Resolution O-W 23-24 adopting the SUN Trail Project rankings. Robert Rennie seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

- 5. ENCLOSURE E - ALL COMMITTEES - Consideration of Resolution O-W 23-25 Adopting the Congestion Management Process Plan (CMPP) Minor Update- Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff**

Jill Nobles presented the CMPP minor update.

Bill Cox moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chairman to sign Resolution O-W 23-25 adopting the Congestion Management Process Plan Minor Update Robert Rennie seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

- 6. ENCLOSURE F - TPO ONLY- Appointment of Okaloosa-Walton TPO Board Member and Alternate to the MPOAC Governing Board for Calendar Year 2024 - Mary Beth Washnock, ECRC Transportation Director**

PRESENTATIONS:

- 1. ENCLOSURE G - ALL COMMITTEES - FDOT District Three Transportation Alternatives (TA) Application Process - Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff**

Jill Nobles presented the TA application process and stated that the projects located within Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization will need to be prioritized by the TPO and that applications are due in GAP by Friday, January 19, 2024.

- 2. ENCLOSURE H - ALL COMMITTEES - FDOT District Three Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Application Cycle - Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff**

Jill Nobles presented and informed the board that applications are due in GAP by

Friday, January 19, 2024, for ECRC prioritization.

3. ENCLOSURE I - ALL COMMITTEES - Draft Update to Evaluation Criteria for Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) Staff Ranking of Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Projects- *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*

Jill Nobles presented the draft update to evaluation criteria for ECRC staff ranking of TSM projects. Adoption will be requested in February 2024.

4. ENCLOSURE J - TPO ONLY - Eglin AFB Support of Transportation Planning Organization's (TPO) SR 85 Projects- *Dana McIntyre, Eglin AFB*

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES -TPO ONLY - *Tiffany Bates, ECRC Community Liaison*

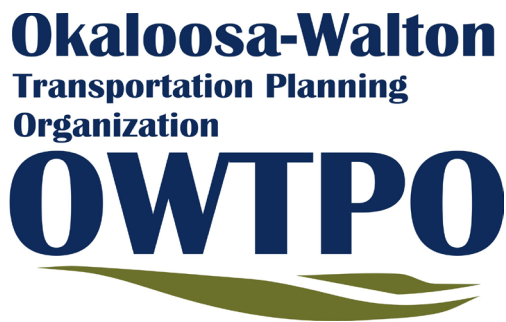
INFORMATION ITEMS (no presentation necessary):

1. TCC and CAC August 2023 Meeting Minutes
2. O-W TPO August 2023 Actions Report
3. Amendment to the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Letter

OTHER BUSINESS:

Yvonne Earle asked if it was appropriate for someone to go to Eliza Jackson school and request that they make safety improvements to their entrance. It was suggested that this item be brought before the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners.

The meeting was adjourned.



Nathan Boyles
Chairman

Anthony Vallee
Vice Chairman

P.O. Box 11399 • 32524-1399 Pensacola, FL • Street Address: 4081 E. Olive Road-Suite A • 32514
P: 850.332.7976 • 1.800.226.8914 • F: 850.637.1923 • www.ecrc.org

DATE: November 17, 2023

TO: Mr. Bryant Paulk, AICP, FDOT Urban Liaison
Ms. Christy Johnson, AICP, FDOT Urban Liaison

COPIES TO: TPO, TCC, and CAC Members

FROM: Jill Nobles, Transportation Planner

RE: TPO Actions Report – November 16, 2023

The following items were discussed and acted upon by the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) at the November 16, 2023, meeting. The TPO requests the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to share this report with the appropriate department directors and to take action if requested by the TPO. Copies are sent to local government representatives for coordination with local plans.

FDOT TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM

The TPO approved Resolution O-W 23-26 accepting the FDOT FY 2025-2029 Tentative Work Program. This action reflects the coordination that has occurred between the TPO and FDOT in the development of the Work Program and funding of the TPO FY 2025-2029 Project Priorities.

SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The TPO approved Resolution O-W 23-23 adopting statewide “Vision Zero” targets for safety performance measures. This action complies with the February 27, 2024, deadline to remain in compliance with the Federal and State regulations for transportation planning.

SUN TRAIL

The TPO approved Resolution O-W 23-24 adopting the ranking of the following SUN Trail (Shared Use Non-Motorized) projects. This action will allow FDOT to use the SUN Trail rankings as a guide for funding SUN Trail projects in the FDOT Work Program. The TPO also approved the subsequent ranking of additional projects in the order they are submitted if submitted to the TPO by November 30, 2023.

- Cross Town Connector from Benning Drive to Legion Drive
- Town Center CRA from Palms Boulevard to Airport Road and Commons Drive
- Marler Bridge Underpass from Harbor Boulevard to Harbor Boulevard

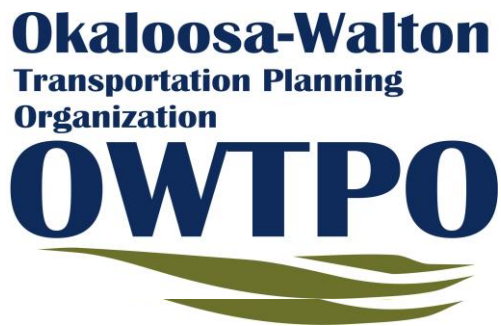
CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS PLAN (CMPP) MINOR UPDATE

The TPO approved Resolution O-W 23-25 adopting the CMPP Minor Update. This action provides an interim update between major updates.

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (MPOAC)

The TPO approved the appointment of Mayor Dick Rynearson to the MPOAC Governing Board and Councilman William Schaetzle as the alternate for the calendar year 2024. This action allows the TPO to participate with other MPOAC members to address transportation issues of common interest to all urbanized areas and MPOs in the state.

The next regular O-W TPO meeting is to be determined and will likely be in February. A special regional TPO meeting will be held February 2, 2024, at Sandestin and invitations will be sent.



Nathan Boyles
Chairman

Anthony Vallee
Vice Chairman

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November 17, 2023

Mr. Mark Brock, Transportation Planning Manager
FDOT District 3 Planning
P. O. Box 607
Chipley FL 32428-0607

RE: Amendment to the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Dear Mr. Brock:

At the November 16th Okaloosa-Walton TPO meeting, the TPO passed Resolution 23-26 to amend the following project in the FY 24-28 TIP.

Adds the Design Phase for 6th Avenue from SR 85 (Eglin Parkway) to 11th Street Sidewalk Project for Financial Project Identification (FPID) number 4538791 in FY 2023/2024 for a total cost of \$111,000.

The signed resolution and the amended TIP page are attached. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Gary Kramer at 1-800-226-8914, ext 219, or gary.kramer@ecrc.org.

With Sincere Appreciation,

Mary Beth Washnock
Transportation Director

Attachments:

1. Resolution 23-26
2. Amended FY 2024-2028 TIP Page

Copies to:

Bryant Paulk, Christy Johnson – Milton Operations Center
Donna Green, FDOT District 3
Jared Kirkland, FDOT District 3
Aleah Smith, FDOT District 3

RESOLUTION O-W 23-26

A RESOLUTION OF THE OKALOOSA-WALTON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 – FISCAL YEAR 2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is the metropolitan planning organization designated by the governor of Florida as being responsible for carrying out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process for the Okaloosa-Walton Metropolitan Planning Area; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is adopted annually by the TPO and submitted to the governor of State of Florida, to the Federal Transit Administration, and through the State of Florida to the Federal Highway Administration; and

WHEREAS, the TIP is periodically amended to maintain consistency with the Florida Department of Transportation Work Program; and

WHEREAS, authorization for federal funding of projects within an urbanized area cannot be obtained unless the projects are included in the TPO's TIP; and

WHEREAS, the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) believes that the amendment listed below will support the performance targets established by the State and supported by the TPO;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE OKALOOSA-WALTON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION THAT:

The TPO amends the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 – FY 2028 Transportation Improvement Program for the addition of the design phase for 6th Avenue from SR 85 (Eglin Parkway) to 11th Street sidewalk project for Financial Project Identification (FPID) Number 4538791 in FY 2023/2024 at a total cost of \$111,000.

Passed and duly adopted by the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization on this 16th day of November 2023.

**OKALOOSA-WALTON TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

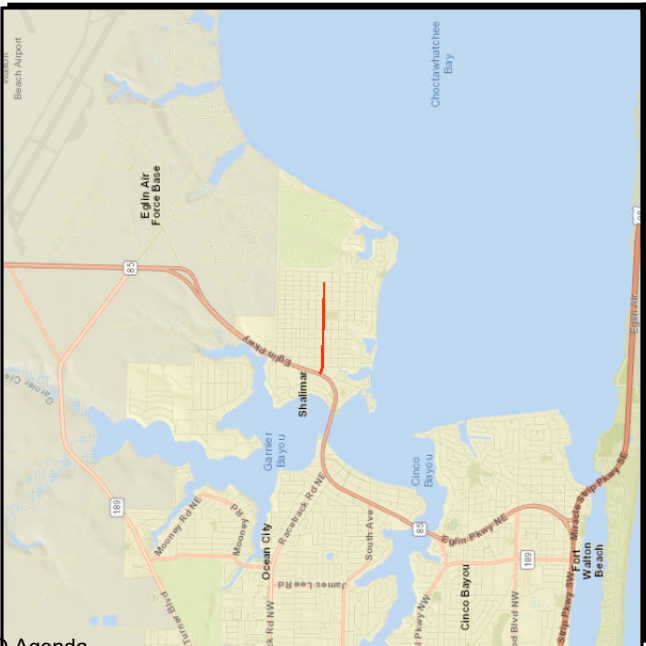
BY:  FOR,
Nathan Boyles, Chairman


ATTEST

0538791

6TH AVENUE

Non-SIS



Work Summary: SIDEWALK

From: SR 85 (EGLIN PARKWAY)

To: 11TH STREET

Lead Agency: FDOT

Length: 0.960 MI

LRTP #: Final Report p. D-6

Phase	Fund Source	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
PE	CARU	111,000	0	0	0	0	111,000
Total		111,000	0	0	0	0	111,000

Prior Cost < 2023/24: 0
Future Cost > 2027/28: 0
Total Project Cost: 111,000
Project Description: Sidewalks on 6th Avenue from SR 85 (Eglin Parkway) to 11th Street.



U.S. 98 "Around the Mound" Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study

State Road (S.R.) 30 (U.S. 98 / Miracle Strip Parkway) from S.R. 189 (Beal Parkway) to West End of Brooks Bridge

Financial Project Identification Number: 220260-3-22-01

HYBRID PUBLIC ALTERNATIVES MEETING

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 5:30-6:30 p.m. (CST)

Destin-Fort Walton Beach Convention Center, 1520 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Fort Walton Beach

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) invites you to attend a hybrid public alternatives meeting for the U.S. 98 "Around the Mound" Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study. This hybrid public alternatives meeting is being held both virtually and in-person to provide interested persons an opportunity to express their views concerning the proposed improvements. Those who are unable to participate virtually may attend the meeting in-person. Interested persons can visit the project website at www.nwflroads.com/calendar and register for one viewing option (virtual or in-person). The same materials will be presented for each format. If you have any questions or issues registering, please contact the FDOT Project Manager.



Maps, drawings, and other project information is available for review online beginning at 12 p.m. (CST), Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at www.nwflroads.com/calendar.

All attendees may call, write, or email comments to the FDOT Project Manager. All comments postmarked on or before Friday, March 1, 2024, will become part of the official record.

PROJECT INFORMATION

The intent of this project is to address existing and future vehicular capacity and safety issues on U.S. 98 as well as the high volumes of regional and commuter traffic traveling through downtown Fort Walton Beach. The PD&E study is consistent with the recommendations of the City of Fort Walton Beach Downtown Master Plan (May 2019) and the FDOT Feasibility Study (August 2020). Two Build Alternatives have been developed and will be presented for public input: Alternative 1A and Alternative 1B. A No-Build Alternative is also being considered. Access Management changes will be required. Right-of-way will be required resulting in business and residential relocations. Future project phases of Right-of-Way, Design, and Construction are not yet funded in the current FDOT Five-Year Work Program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Should you have questions regarding this project or this meeting, please contact:

Brandon Bruner, P.E.

FDOT Project Manager
1282 Office Park Drive, Chipley, FL 32428
Phone: (850) 415-9015
Email: bbruner@hntb.com

Ian Satter

District Three Public Information Director
1074 Highway 90, Chipley, Florida, 32428
Phone: (888) 638-0250, ext. 1205
Email: ian.satter@dot.state.fl.us

Scan the QR code to learn:



- How to Participate
- Project Information
- Non-Discrimination Policy
- How to contact FDOT



Additional Project Information: www.nwflroads.com

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The FDOT does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. For questions or concerns, contact Alicia Brining, District Three Title VI Coordinator, 1074 Highway 90, Chipley, FL 32428, toll-free at (888) 638-0250, ext. 1502, or via email at alicia.brining@dot.state.fl.us.

Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the FDOT Project Manager at least seven days prior to the meeting.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been carried out by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) pursuant to 23 U.S. Code § 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 26, 2022, and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.



Office of the Mayor

4200 Indian Bayou Trail | Destin, FL 32541 | Phone: 850-837-4242 | Fax: 850-837-3267 | www.cityofdestin.com

Date: January 31, 2024

Emerald Coast Regional Council
Okaloosa-Walton TPO
418 East Gregory Street, Suite 100
Pensacola, FL
32502

Re: Request for Inclusion of the “Cross-town Connector” Project in the Long-Range Transportation Plan

Dear Members of the Emerald Coast Regional Council:

On behalf of the City of Destin, I am writing to formally request the reinsertion of the “Cross-town Connector” project into the Long-Range Transportation Cost Feasible Plan. This critical infrastructure project is pivotal for improving the transportation network within our City and for supporting the economic and social well-being of our community.

Incorporating this project back into the plan will not only benefit Destin but also contribute positively to the regional transportation network, facilitating smoother travel between neighboring communities. It aligns with our shared objectives of promoting sustainable growth and addressing the evolving transportation needs of our region.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. We look forward to a favorable response and to the re-establishment of the “Cross-town Connector” as a key component of our region's transportation future.

Sincerely,

Bobby Wagner, Mayor
City of Destin

CC: Louis Zunguze, City Manager
Tamara Young, PhD, Public Information Director
Jeffery Cozadd, Projects/Grants/Contracts Manager
Council

December 22, 2023

The Honorable Nathan Boyles, Chairman
Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization
Emerald Coast Regional Council
Post Office Box 11399
Pensacola, Florida 32524

Dear Chairman Boyles:

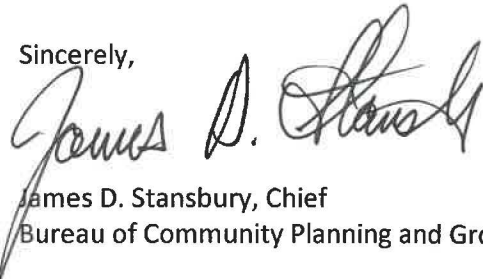
Thank you for submitting the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for fiscal years 2023/2024 through 2027/2028. In accordance with Section 339.175(8)(g), Florida Statutes, the Florida Department of Commerce (FloridaCommerce) reviews each TPO's annual TIP for consistency with the comprehensive plans of affected local governments for the purpose of identifying projects that are inconsistent with those plans.

Consistency of the TIP with local government comprehensive plans is important: transportation projects developed with federal aid require consistency with local plans to the extent feasible; and inclusion of TIP projects in local government comprehensive plans serves as an acknowledgement of those local governments' support for the projects.

Our review of the Okaloosa-Walton TPO TIP indicates that it is consistent with the comprehensive plans for each of the TPO's member local governments.

We appreciate your ongoing efforts to coordinate with your member local governments to ensure that the transportation projects in your TIP are consistent with local government comprehensive plans. Should you have any questions concerning this determination or the review process, please contact Matt Preston, Planning Analyst, by telephone at (850) 717-8490, or by email at matt.preston@commerce.fl.gov.

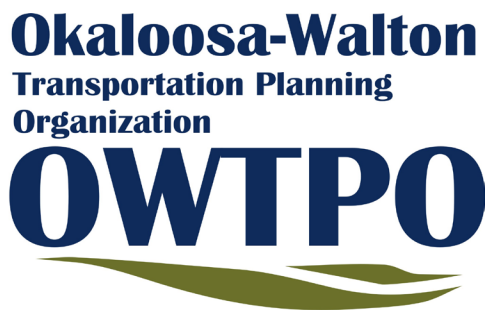
Sincerely,



James D. Stansbury, Chief
Bureau of Community Planning and Growth

JDS/mp

cc: Austin Mount, Chief Executive Officer, Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization



Nathan Boyles
Chairman

Anthony Vallee
Vice Chairman

P.O. Box 11399 • 32524-1399 Pensacola, FL
P: 850.332.7976 • 1.800.226.8914 • F: 850.637.1923 • www.ecrc.org

MEETING NOTICE

MEETING DATE: Thursday, February 22, 2024
FROM: Jill Nobles, TPO Staff
RE: **Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Educational Workshop**

The Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization has scheduled a meeting for the TA Set-Aside Educational Workshop for **Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. via GoToMeeting.**

Agenda

- A. **Introductions and Welcome** – Jill Nobles, TPO Staff
- B. **Overview of TA Program** – Jill Nobles, TPO Staff
- C. **Review of Submitted TA Applications** – Jill Nobles, TPO Staff
- D. **Discussion** – All
- E. **Adjourn**

Meeting access via computer, table, or smartphone:
<https://meet.goto.com/ECRC-PensacolaConference>

Meeting access via phone:
1 (646) 749-3122
Access Code: 860-454-141



Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization OWTPO

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO is staffed by the Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC), a regional entity providing professional planning, coordinating, and advisory services to local governments, state and federal agencies, and the public to preserve and enhance quality of life in northwest Florida.

ECRC is working to ensure transportation planning is successfully advanced through an open, transparent process that offers in-person, and virtual attendee meetings that encourages productive discussion among board members, committee members and the public.

Meeting details are emailed out to board and committee members prior to meeting dates, and are subject to change. For updates and agendas, please visit ecrc.org/OWTPO

If you are in need of special accommodations for meeting access in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act*, please contact Leandra Meredith at Leandra.Meredith@ecrc.org

For more information please contact PublicInvolvement@ecrc.org.

2024

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

MEETING SCHEDULE

MEETING DATES

THURSDAYS

FEBRUARY 15th CHAUTAUQUA HALL

APRIL 18th OKALOOSA ADMIN BLDG

JUNE 20th OKALOOSA ADMIN BLDG

AUGUST 8th (TENTATIVE) CHAUTAUQUA HALL

NOVEMBER 14th OKALOOSA ADMIN BLDG

MEETING TIMES

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CAC 9:30 A.M.

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

TCC 1:30 P.M.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

TPO 3:00 P.M.

MEETING LOCATIONS

OKALOOSA ADMIN BUILDING

1250 N. EGLIN PKWY., SHALIMAR, FL 32579

CHAUTAUQUA HALL

95 CIRCLE DR., DEFUNIAK SPRINGS, FL 32435



**SCAN QR CODE
FOR AGENDAS**



*Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, or family status. Reasonable accommodation will be made for access in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Contact Leandra Meredith at Leandra.Meredith@ecrc.org or call 850-332-7976 or TTY 711, at least 48 hours in advance. Para informacion en espanol, puede llamar a Ada Clark at 850-332-7976, ext. 278 or TTY 711. Si necesita acomodaciones especiales, por favor llame 48 horas de antemano.

OWTPO Agenda
February 2024