

OKALOOSA – WALTON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MEETING MINUTES
Niceville Community Center, 204-C Partin Dr N, Niceville, FL 32578
February 20, 2025

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Anthony Vallee, CHAIR	DeFuniak Springs
Bobby Wagner, Vice Chair	Destin
J.B. Whitten	Crestview
Doug Capps	Crestview
Shannon Hayes	Crestview
Travis Smith	Fort Walton Beach
April Sutton	Mary Esther
James T. Wood	MidBay Bridge Authority
Drew Palmer	Okaloosa County Commission
Carolyn Ketchel	Okaloosa County Commission
Trey Goodwin	Okaloosa County Commission
Paul Mixon	Okaloosa County Commission
Christine Wasdin	Valparaiso
Donna Johns	Walton County Commission
Tony Anderson	Walton County Commission

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Torey Geile	Destin
Dick Rynearson	Fort Walton Beach
Tracey Dickey	Freeport
Bill Schaetzle	Niceville
Danny Glidewell	Walton County Commission

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bryant Paulk	FDOT
Christy Johnson	FDOT
Allison Sullivan	Okaloosa County
Kirby Locklear	CDC
Kristen Shell	Niceville
Chelsey Sharon	Okaloosa County
Lindsay Slautterback	Kimley Horn
Judy Lorenz	Okaloosa County
<u>Virtual Attendance</u>	
Colby Cleveland	FDOT
Mark Brock	FDOT
Cory Wilkinson	HDR
Terry Shaw	Kimley Horn

Gary Huston
Bruce Barnhart

ECRC Legal Council
Citizen

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF:

Kandase Lee
Tiffany Bates
Annie Arguello
Rae Emary
Leandra Meredith
Jill Nobles
Tammy Neal
Virtual Attendance
Gabrielle McVoy
Gina Watson
Gary Kramer
Howard Vanselow
Renee quick

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Vallee stated that there was a request to add consideration of an additional CAC applicant and asked for a motion that it be added to Enclosure A.

Councilmember Sutton moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Johns seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Mark Hensley expressed concerns about the intersections of North Poquito Road & SR 189 (Lewis Turner Blvd) and Hwy 85 North & Sunset Lane. Mark Hensley stated that on September 14, 2024, a 76-year-old Fort Walton Beach woman died at the scene during a crash on State Road 189 in Okaloosa County. She had stopped at a stop sign on Poquito Road and attempted to cross Lewis Turner Boulevard. She pulled into the path of a vehicle heading towards Eglin AFB on Lewis Turner. Mark Hensley stated that he started a petition on Change.org titled: "Traffic Light at the North Poquito Road & Lewis Turner Blvd (State Road 189)". The narrative read: "We are requesting the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to install a traffic light at the intersection of North Poquito Road and Lewis Turner Blvd. (SR 189). Mark Hensley informed the board that as of this morning, the petition had 133 signatures and urged FDOT to explain what other safety measures can be implemented to help reduce future accidents and fatalities if a stop light cannot be installed.

Bryant Paulk stated that FDOT studied that location a little over a year ago and at that time, it did not meet any of the signal warrants, but FDOT has committed to taking another look at it for potential added safety improvements. Bryant Paulk stated that as that study is complete, FDOT will notify the TPO as well as Mark Hensley.

Commissioner Ketchel stated that asphalt being laid on the four-mile multi-use path connecting Brooks and Marler bridges features photoluminescent technology as a safety feature. The path will be unveiled sometime between April and June of this year.

FDOT UPDATES:

Bryant Paulk gave an update on the multiuse project on US 90 in the Holt community. Bryant Paulk stated that the project is currently in the PD&E phase, and the virtual project update has just been opened. The project goes from Cooper Lane to Summertime Drive and is about 2.4 miles. This project was funded through the Sun Trail program.

Chair Vallee address safety concerns in terms of signage for ongoing road work on US 90 and US 331 as well as at the I-10/ US 331 exist in DeFuniak Springs. Chair Vallee stated that there have been many public concerns and complaints about the lane modifications while road work is being done. Chair Vallee stated that the concern is that there is not enough signage on the road work being done and FDOT would reach out to the contractors involved to look at that segment.

There was discussion about several areas of concern in the TPO region. Bryant Paulk stated that he would get back to the TPO board members with answers to their inquiries.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. ALL COMMITTEES: Approval of December 2024 Meeting Minutes

Mayor Wagner moved to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Capps seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. ENCLOSURE A – TPO BOARD AND CAC ONLY – Consideration of Citizens’ Advisory Committee (CAC) Application from Kirby Locklear – *Leandra Meredith, ECRC Staff*

ADD ON ITEM: Consideration of Citizens’ Advisory Committee (CAC) Application from Michael T. Panarisi

Leandra Meredith presented the applications from Kirby Locklear and Michael Panarisi. Kirby Locklear and Michael Panarisi both addressed the board and gave a brief introduction.

Commissioner Ketchel moved to approve Kirby Locklear and Michael Panarisi as a member of the Okaloosa-Walton County Transportation Planning Organization Citizens' Advisory Committee. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

2. ENCLOSURE B - ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution O-W 25-01 Accepting the Smart Regions Master Plan – *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*

Terry Shaw presented the comprehensive Smart Regions Master Plan and stated that the plan aims to identify lifesaving technology concepts across the ECRC and the TPO areas. This plan is simply a resource for improvements and concepts should a local government wish to implement.

Commissioner Mixon moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 25-01 accepting the Smart Regions Master Plan. Mayor Pro Tem Sutton seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

3. ENCLOSURE C - ALL COMMITTEES – Consideration of Resolution O-W 25-02 Adopting the 2025 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Ranked Projects for FDOT District 3 Fiscal Year 2027 – 2031 Tentative Work Program – *Roshita Taylor, ECRC Staff*

Roshita Taylor presented the 2025 TA Set-Aside Ranked Projects for FDOT District 3 Fiscal Year 2027 – 2031 Tentative Work Program. Roshita Taylor stated that the following projects were submitted to be ranked and submitted to FDOT: (1) City of Niceville-Palm Boulevard Multi-Use Trail (from Partin Drive to College Avenue and from 27th Street to SR 20); (2) Okaloosa County-4th Avenue Sidewalk Addition (from 2nd Street to 12th Street); (3) Walton County-Walton Road Multi-Use Path (from US 331 to 20th Street); (4) Okaloosa County-Valley Road Sidewalk Addition (from US 90/E James Lee Boulevard to Stillwell Boulevard). Only the top three projects will be submitted. Roshita Taylor stated that the final priority ranking is due to FDOT on April 25, 2025. ECRC staff will submit the final ranking approved by the TPO to FDOT.

Mayor Pro Tem Sutton moved to authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 25-02 adopting the 2025 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-aside ranked projects. Mayor Wagner seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION ITEMS:

1. ENCLOSURE D - ALL COMMITTEES – Schedule for Development of the Okaloosa-Walton TPO FY 2027-2031 Project Priorities – *Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff*

Jill Nobles presented the OW TPO FY 27-31 Project Priorities. Jill Nobles stated that the Priorities will be presented for adoption in May.

INFORMATION ITEMS (no presentation necessary):

1. TCC and CAC December 2024 Meeting Minutes
2. 2025 O-W TPO Schedule

OTHER BUSINESS: The next Okaloosa Walton Transportation Planning Organization meeting will be held on May 15, 2025, 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 Chautauqua Building, 95 Circle Drive in DeFuniak Springs.

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.