

**OKALOOSA – WALTON TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Chautauqua Hall, 95 Circle Drive, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435**  
**May 15, 2025**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Amy Jamieson, Chair  
Yvonne Earle  
Don Cleveland  
Yvonne Shanklin  
Mike Panarisi  
Michelle Kitch  
*Virtual Attendance*  
Robert Rennie, Vice Chair

**MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:**

Alexander Barthe  
Matthew Cox  
Steven Czonstka  
Harrison Harsch  
Neill O'Connell

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Bryant Paulk	FDOT
Cassidy Haney	FDEP Greenways and Trails
Kristen Shell	City of Niceville
Anthony Vallee	DeFuniak Springs Citizen
<i><u>Virtual Attendance</u></i>	
J.B. Whitten	Mayor, City of Crestview

**EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF:**

Tiffany Bates  
Rae Emary  
Leandra Meredith  
Gary Kramer  
Jill Nobles  
Tammy Neal  
*Virtual Attendance*  
Gina Watson

**CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE**

Chair Jamieson called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**TPO Only**

**PUBLIC FORUM** – There were no speakers.

**FDOT UPDATES:**

Christy Johnson announced that the Danny Weurffel Way resurfacing project will be let for bid later in May and the resurfacing of Eglin Parkway will follow in a few months. Christy Johnson also announced an upcoming public meeting for the planned 4.4 mile SunTrail project.

Cassidy Haney introduced herself as an advisor from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Greenways and Trails Department.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **ALL COMMITTEES: Approval of February 2025 Meeting Minutes**
2. **ALL COMMITTEES: Consideration of Resolution O-W 25-06 Adopting the FY 2025 – FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Year 2 (FY 2026) Amendment**

**Mike Panarisi moved to approve the February 2025 CAAC meeting minutes and to recommend that the TPO approve the remaining consent agenda. Don Cleveland seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. **ENCLOSURE A – ALL COMMITTEES – ROLL CALL VOTE** - Consideration of Resolution O-W 25-08 Amending the FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) to add the Right-of-Way Phases for SR 85 (South Ferdon Boulevard) from Live Church Road to PJ Adams Parkway Capacity Project for Financial Project Identification (FPID) Number 2201717 in FY 2024/2025 and FY 2025/2026 at a Total Cost of \$23,100,003
2. **ENCLOSURE B – ALL COMMITTEES – ROLL CALL VOTE** - Consideration of Resolution O-W 25-09 Amending the FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Railroad Utility Phase for the Wilson Street Railroad Crossing Project for Financial Project Identification (FPID) Number 4565681 in FY 2024/2025 at a Total Cost of \$287,343

Christy Johnson explained both requested amendments and noted that the right-of-way phase for the SR 85 project is being advanced due to it being donated. The project is being completed through a LAP agreement.

Don Cleveland noted that the name of the road referenced in Enclosure A is Live Oak Church Road and asked that this be corrected on all documentation. Staff agreed.

**Mike Panarisi moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 25-08 and Resolution O-W 25-09 amending the FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program. Yvonne Earle seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

- 3. ENCLOSURE C - ALL COMMITTEES – ROLL CALL VOTE AND PUBLIC HEARING -** Consideration of Resolution O-W 25-03 Adopting the Okaloosa-Walton TPO FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Gary Kramer explained the TIP's role in the process of development of transportation projects from conception to construction, then noted that the complete draft plan, along with comments received during the public input period, were sent to the committee members earlier in the month.

**Michelle Kitch moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 25-03 adopting the Okaloosa-Walton TPO FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program. Don Cleveland seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

- 4. ENCLOSURE D - ALL COMMITTEES –** Consideration of Resolution O-W 25-04 Adopting the Okaloosa-Walton TPO FY 2027 – FY 2031 Project Priorities

Jill Nobles provided a PowerPoint presentation and explained the project priorities development cycle and where it fits into the overall development of transportation projects from concept to construction. Jill Nobles then explained the types of projects in the priorities and highlighted public comments that were received, specifically changes that were requested by local governments. There was a lot of support for moving the Around the Mound and the PJ Adams Pkwy./Antioch Rd. at Crab Apple Avenue intersection realignment and signalization project up in the ranking.

Rae Emary provided further information on the public feedback that was received, including an impressive 421 completed surveys. Tourist impacts, school start and stop times, as well as congestion, specifically during peak hours, were the main areas of commute frustration that were reported. Construction zone delays were not listed very high. Most survey takers gave comments and many of them were about congestion on US 98 and SR 85, needed signal timing improvements, more and safer bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and the need for alternative routes.

Yvonne Earle asked that Around the Mound project be coordinated with the Brooks Bridge improvement and asked that this concern be brought to the TPO.

Yvonne Shanklin asked if the PJ Adams intersection project is being coordinated to align the misaligned road in the area. Mayor Whitten, attending online, agreed with the need to incorporate this project, a major obstacle being that one project is a local project, and the other is an FDOT project. Another obstacle being that FDOT cannot install a traffic signal because the configuration is not a four-way stop.

Christy Johnson said it is an issue of federal approval to construct an interchange at I-10 and Antioch Road. There was general discussion about the need to align Antioch Road with Crab Apple Avenue for the signal installation in order to avoid safety hazards.

The concern for both the Around the Mound/Brooks Bridge and the PJ Adams/Crab Apple/Antioch Road areas was the need for coordination of work in those corridors to avoid prolonged disruptions to the traffic, residents, and businesses there.

There was much discussion about where to recommend the TPO place projects related to Non-SIS Priority #12 (PJ Adams/Antioch at Crab Apple) and SIS Priority #4 (Around the Mound) in the Priorities.

**Yvonne Earle moved to recommend the TPO move SIS Priority #4 to #2. The motion was seconded by Don Cleveland and it was unanimously approved.**

There was then discussion about the Non-SIS Priority #12 project and what the concerns are regarding safety improvement needs there. There was also discussion about what the CAC should request the TPO to do with the ranking of this project.

**Yvonne Shanklin moved to recommend the TPO move the current #12 Non-SIS project higher in priority, at the TPO's discretion. Mike Panarisi seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

Yvonne Earle noted that there is tremendous need for the listed #9 TSM project, the SR 189/Poquito Road intersection traffic signal.

**Yvonne Earle moved to recommend the TPO move the current #9 TSM Priority, SR 189 at Poquito Road, higher in priority, at the TPO's discretion. Don Cleveland seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

**Mike Panarisi moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 25-04 adopting the Okaloosa-Walton TPO FY 2027-2031 Project Priorities with the above recommended changes. Yvonne Shanklin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

- 5. ENCLOSURE E - ALL COMMITTEES** – Consideration of Resolution O-W 25-05 Approving the Scope of Services for the Okaloosa-Walton 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update and Appointment of Steering Committee Members

Jill Nobles asked for CAC volunteers to serve on the steering committee. Online attendance will be allowed for convenience, and the meetings will start within the next couple of months.

**Yvonne Shanklin moved to recommend the TPO authorize the TPO chair to sign Resolution O-W 25-05 approving the scope of services for the Okaloosa-Walton TPO 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan update and appointment of Michelle Kitch, Robert Rennie, and Yvonne Shanklin to the steering committee. Mike Panarisi seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

- 6. ENCLOSURE F - ALL COMMITTEES** – Nomination and Election of TPO Board, TCC, and CAC Chair and Vice Chair for FY 2026

Tiffany Bates asked for volunteers to serve as chair and vice chair for the next fiscal year.

**Yvonne Earle moved to elect Amy Jamieson to serve as CAC chair for FY 2026, and Robert Rennie to serve as vice chair. Michelle Kitch seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Don Cleveland announced that he must resign from CAC due to health issues. Chair Jamieson, the other committee members, and staff thanked Mr. Cleveland for his many years of service to the TPO.

Michelle Kitch said the CAC asked for warning signage at the hill at US90 and U331 and it has not happened. Accidents continue to occur. Christy Johnson said the contractor was asked to put the signage in and sent an email to the FDOT contact to reiterate it.

Michelle Kitch said the No U turn sign at the Lowe's in DeFuniak Springs was pulled out of median and this is causing a safety hazard due to the blind spot. Christie Johnson made note of it and agreed to ask that it be replaced.

Michelle Kitch noted there are new traffic lights coming into DeFuniak Springs along Hwy 90 and stated that the Hwy 90 corridor through the city is extremely congested already. She asked if signal timing will be such that it does not make the stop and go

nature of the traffic worse. Yvonne Earle suggested contacting the Walton County Traffic Engineer, and Michelle Kitch agreed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.