

cOKALOOSA - WALTON TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Chautauqua Hall, 95 Circle Drive, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435
May 15, 2025

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Latilda Hughes-Neal, Chair	Freeport
Chris Wallace	DeFuniak Springs
Cheryl Sawyers	Eglin Air Force Base
Tim Gibson	Fort Walton Beach
Scott Davidson	Hurlburt Field
Kristen Shell	Niceville
Joel Paul	Tri-County Community Council
Roy Petrey	Okaloosa County
Chance Powell	Walton County

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Jayce Vanderford	Crestview
Kyle Lusk	Crestview
Jeff Cozadd	Destin
Chris Frasseti	Fort Walton Beach
Robert Herbsteith	Mary Esther
Van Fuller	Mid-Bay Bridge Authority
Johnathan Laird	Niceville
Abra McGill	Okaloosa County
Joseph J. Fulghum	Okaloosa County
Tracy Stage	Okaloosa County Airports
Robert Rogers	Okaloosa County Airports
Bill Smith	Okaloosa County School District
Joseph Preston	Walton County
Anna Hudson	Walton County
Michelle Dogget	Walton County School District

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bryant Paulk	FDOT
Christy Johnson	FDOT
Scott Bitterman	Okaloosa County
Matt Vera	Hurlburt Field
Cassidy Haney	NW FL Greenways and Trails
Kathy Rudd	Gude
Mary Beth Washnock	Gude
Tyrone Scorsone	Kittelson and Associates
Cory Wilkinson	HDR
Samantha Graves	Freeport

Anthony Vallee

Defuniak Springs Citizen

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF:

Kandase Lee

Tiffany Bates

Annie Arguello

Rae Emary

Leandra Meredith

Gary Kramer

Roshita Taylor

Elizabeth Merino

Jill Nobles

Tammy Neal

Virtual Attendance

Gina Watson

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE

Chair Hughes-Neel called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

TPO Only

PUBLIC FORUM – There were no speakers.

FDOT UPDATES:

Bryant Paulk said the DeFuniak Springs SunTrail project PD&E study is beginning. A virtual project update will be available beginning June 10, to include conceptual drawings and environmental information. Design is funded in FY 30.

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**

Chris Wallace moved to approve the February 2025 TCC meeting minutes and to recommend that the TPO approve the remaining consent agenda item. Tim Gibson 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 BAY 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

Bryant Paulk provided a brief update of the two TIP amendments. The SR 85 project is a right of way acquisition which is advancing faster due to a local government funding contribution.

The Wilson Street railroad crossing will include full replacement of lights, gates, battery back-up, and detection system.

Joel Paul 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. Chris Wallace 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.

Tim Gibson 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. Chance Powell 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.

Kristen Shell asked what methods were used to get that level of input. Rae Emary said there were several. Staff created a convenient media kit and distributed it to area stakeholders and agencies who were able to help spread the survey throughout the TPO's geographical area. Staff also used social media and went out into the community.

Jill Nobles provided the CAC's recommendations, which included the following changes: Move the SIS Priority #4 to #2, move the Non-SIS Priority #12 up in priority, at the TPO's discretion, and move the TSM Priority #9 up in priority, also at the TPO's discretion.

Jill Nobles also noted that staff just received the DeFuniak Springs Airport's priorities and asked that any motion include recommending the TPO accept and include those into the Project Priorities.

Chris Wallace expressed concern about moving #12 up because it could adversely affect the ranking of projects in Walton County. Chair Hughes-Neel agreed with this concern and suggested recommending the TPO ask its Okaloosa County members which of their projects in the top eleven they would like to swap with #12.

Scott Davidson spoke to the mission critical need of the US 98 widening project and asked that the TCC leave it as #1 in their recommendation to the TPO.

Chris Wallace moved to recommend that the TPO add the Perry Avenue one-way study to the Non-SIS Priority #2, Transportation Planning Studies, to keep the current SIS Priority #1, US 98 in the #1 position, to incorporate the DeFuniak Springs Airport priorities as submitted, and if changing the priority of any SIS projects, that such changes should only have an impact on projects within the same county. Joel Paul 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 TCC 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.

Roy Petrey 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 to appointment of Latilda Hughes-Neel, Cheryl Sawyers, Chris Wallace, and Scott Davidson to the Steering Committee membership. Joel Paul 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

Chair Hughes-Neel asked for volunteers. Kristen Shell agreed to chair the TCC if it was agreeable to the other committee members. Chair Hughes-Neel said she would agree to be vice-chair.

Tim Gibson moved to elect Kristen Shell to serve as TCC chair for FY 2026, and Latilda Hughes-Neel to serve as vice chair. Chris Wallace seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS - None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.