



# **2026 Certification Report**

**Navarre-Miramar Beach-Destin  
TMA**

**Okaloosa-Walton TPO**

Prepared by:

**Federal Highway Administration**

**Florida Division**

**Federal Transit Administration**

**Region 4**

**March 2026**

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## Executive Summary

Federal Law requires the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to jointly certify the transportation planning processes of Transportation Management Areas (TMAs) at least every four years (a TMA is an urbanized area, as defined by the US Census, with a population over 200,000). A certification review generally consists of four primary activities: a site visit, a review of planning documents (in advance of the site visit), the development and issuance of a FHWA/FTA certification report and a certification review closeout presentation to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) governing board.

As a part of the TMA certification review process, FHWA and FTA utilize a risk-based approach containing various factors to determine which topic areas required additional evaluation during the certification review. The certification review process is only one of several methods used to assess the quality of a regional metropolitan transportation planning process, compliance with applicable statutes and regulations, and the level and type of technical assistance needed to enhance the effectiveness of the planning process. This certification review was conducted to highlight best practices, identify opportunities for improvements, and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

Transportation planning for the Navarre-Miramar Beach-Destin TMA is conducted by the Okaloosa-Walton TPO. The Federal Review Team conducted a site visit for the current review of the Okaloosa-Walton TPO on November 18, 2025. The Federal Review Team issues three commendations, identifies no corrective actions, and offers six recommendations the MPO should consider for improving their planning processes. More information related to these findings can be found in the Findings/Conclusions section of this report.

Based on the overall findings of the certification review, the FHWA and FTA jointly certify that the transportation planning process of the (Navarre-Miramar Beach-Destin TMA), which is comprised entirely by the Okaloosa-Walton TPO, substantially meets the federal planning requirements in 23 CFR 450 Subpart C. This certification will remain in effect until **March 2030**.

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# Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization

## Section I. Overview of the Certification Process

Under provisions of 23 CFR 450.336(b) and 49 CFR 613.100, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) must jointly certify the planning process of Transportation Management Areas (TMAs) “not less often than once every four years.”

The primary purpose of a certification review is to formalize the continuing oversight and evaluation of the planning process. The FHWA and the FTA work cooperatively with the TMA planning staff on a regular basis. By reviewing and approving planning products, providing technical assistance, and promoting best practices, the formal assessment involved in a certification review provides an external view of the TMA’s transportation planning process.

A certification review generally consists of four primary activities. These activities include: 1) a “desk audit” which is a review of the TMA’s planning documents (e.g. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP); 2) a “site visit” with staff from the TMA’s various transportation planning partners (e.g. the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), local/regional transit service provider, and other participating State/local agencies), including opportunities for local elected officials and the general public to provide comments on the TMA planning process; 3) a Certification Report, which the Federal Review Team prepares, to document the results of the review process; and, 4) a formal presentation of the review findings at a future Okaloosa-Walton TPO Board Policy meeting.

Certification of the planning process is a prerequisite to the approval of Federal funding for transportation projects in metropolitan areas. The certification review also helps ensure that the major issues facing a metropolitan area are being addressed. The review process is individually tailored to focus on topics of significance in each metropolitan planning area. Since 2018, to initiate the TMA certification review process, the Federal Review Team has utilized a risk-based approach containing various factors to determine which topic areas required additional evaluation during the certification review.

The review for the Okaloosa-Walton TPO was held November 18, 2025. During this site visit, the Federal Review Team met with the staff of the Okaloosa-Walton TPO, FDOT, Okaloosa County, committee representatives, other partnering agencies, and the public. See **Appendix A** for a list of review team members and site visit participants, and **Appendix B** for the TMA Certification Meeting Agenda.

The purpose of the public engagement process is to inform the public of the Federal transportation planning requirements and allow the public an opportunity to provide input

on the transportation planning process to the Federal Review Team. A public meeting for this certification review was held on November 18, 2025. For those that could not attend the public meeting or who did not want to speak during the public meeting, contact information for the Federal Review Team was provided. Members of the public were given 30 days from the date of the public meeting to mail, fax or email their comments and/or request a copy of the certification review report. No additional comments were received by FHWA and FTA during the 30-day comment period.

A copy of the public engagement notices can be found in **Appendix C**. Screenshots of public input, minutes from the public meeting, including a listing of commenters and a summary of the public comments is provided in **Appendix D**.

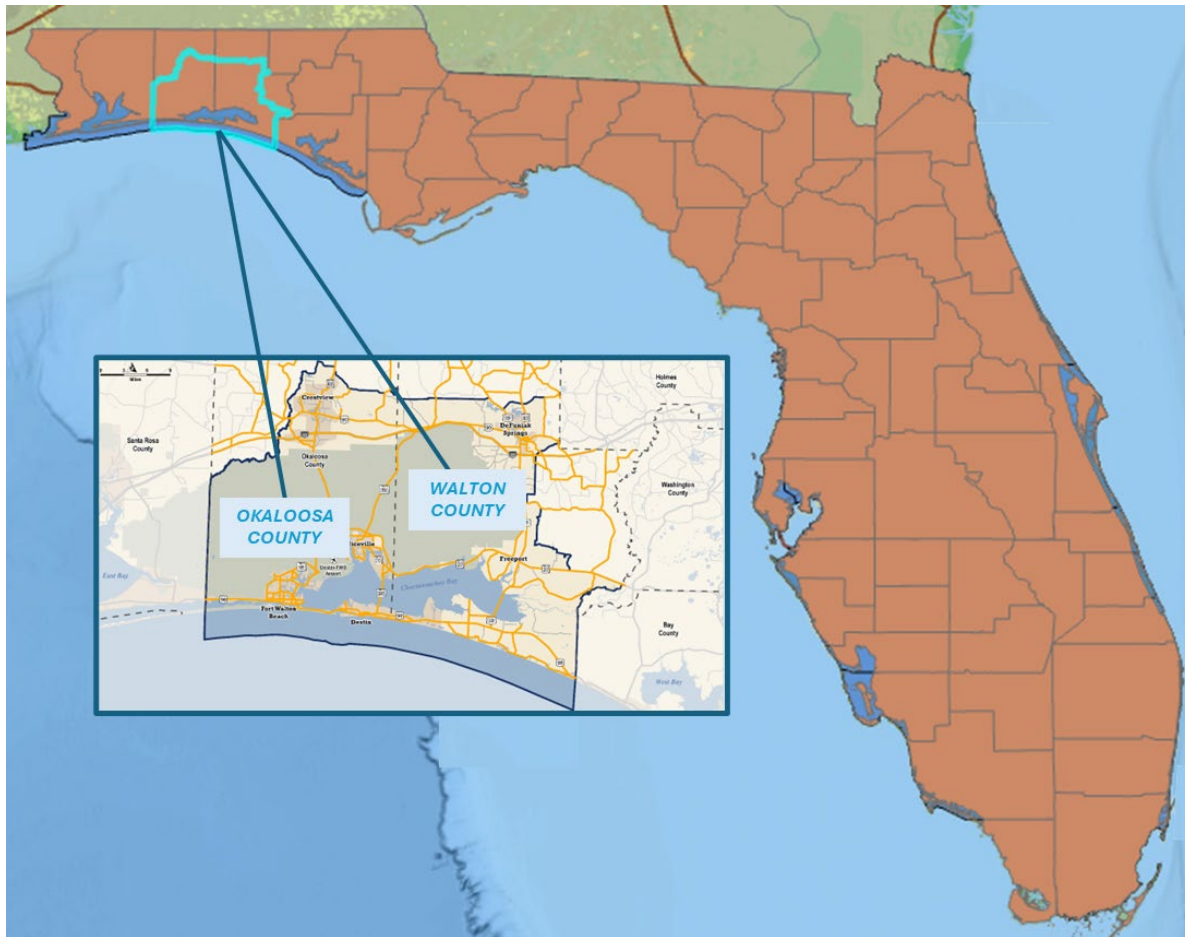
An explanation of planning acronyms can be found in **Appendix E**.

## **Section II. Boundaries and Organization (23CFR 450.310, 312, 314)**

### **A. Description of Planning Area**

Observations: The Okaloosa-Walton TPO is located in northwest Florida. The planning area boundary includes the southern portions of Okaloosa and Walton Counties and the cities of Crestview, Fort Walton Beach, Destin, Niceville, DeFuniak Springs, Valparaiso, Freeport City and Mary Esther City, which are within census defined urbanized areas. The Navarre-Miramar Beach-Destin, FL Urban Area extends in the southern portion of Santa Rosa County to the Gulf Islands National Seashore. For administrative purposes the Okaloosa-Walton TPO and The Florida-Alabama TPO boundaries remain on the Santa Rosa-Okaloosa County Line. The planning area is bounded on the south by the Gulf of Mexico, on the west by the Santa Rosa County, and on the east by Bay County.

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO planning boundary is visually depicted in the following maps:



## **B. Metropolitan Planning Organization Structure**

Observations: The Okaloosa-Walton TPO Policy Board is comprised of 19 voting members:

- Four (4) members from Okaloosa County Commission
- Three (3) members from Walton County Commission
- Three (3) members from Crestview City Council
- Two (2) members from Fort Walton Beach City Council
- Two (2) members from Destin City Council
- One (1) member from Niceville City Council
- One (1) member from DeFuniak Springs City Council
- One (1) member from Valparaiso City Council
- One (1) member from Freeport City Council
- One (1) member from Mary Esther City Council

Okaloosa County Commissioners serve as representation for the public transportation since services are provided by the County.

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO also has three Advisory Committees that help provide meaningful public input to the MPO Policy Board on transportation planning decisions:

- Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)
- Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC)
- Freight Advisory Committee (FAC)

Finding: The MPO's boundaries and organization substantially satisfy the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.310 and 312.

## **C. Agreements**

Current Agreement(s)/Date(s) Adopted:

The Interlocal Agreement for Creation of the Okaloosa-Walton TPO (February 19, 2015)

The Intergovernmental Coordination and Review (ICAR) Agreement (May 21, 2020, updated February 2026)

The Agreement for Professional Staff Services by and between the West Florida Regional Planning Council (Emerald Coast Regional Council) and the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization for the Fort Walton Beach-Navarre-Wright, Florida Urbanized Area (February 19, 2015)

Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization and Advisory Committee Bylaws, Policies and Procedures (February 15, 2024)

Florida Department of Transportation/ Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreement (July 7, 2025)

Observations: The agreements are up to date with the exception of the Agreement for Professional Services.

Finding: The MPO’s agreements substantially satisfy the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.314.

**Recommendation:** The Federal Review Team offers one recommendation regarding Agreements. For more details about this recommendation, please see Section XI.

### **Section III. Transportation Performance Planning (23 CFR 450.306(a), 306(d), 314(h), 324(f), 326(c), 326(d))**

Observations: The MPO set all of their targets for safety, bridge, pavement, and system performance and for Transit Asset Management (TAM)/Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) within the prescribed timeframes. They documented the setting of their targets through supporting the adoption of FDOT’s safety targets by Resolution on December 12, 2024. The FDOT’s Bridge and Pavement targets and System Performance targets were set April 20, 2023, adjusted by FDOT in 2024, and adopted by the TPO by Resolution on December 12, 2024. FDOT’s pavement targets were adopted on April 20, 2023. The Transit Asset Management targets were set and adopted by the TPO on September 20, 2018, and annually by the Transit Provider and referenced annually in the TIP.

The MPO has written provisions for cooperatively developing and sharing information related to transportation performance data, selection of performance targets, reporting of targets, reporting of performance to be used in tracking progress toward attainment of critical outcomes and reporting of data. These were documented through a “Transportation Performance Measures Consensus Planning Document” Resolution 2020-05-6A adopted, May 19, 2020, with FDOT and MPOAC.

In the development of the LRTP, the MPO included a description of the performance measures and targets to assess the transportation system performance. They integrated the FDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program, Strategic Highway Safety Plan, Asset Management Plan and Freight Plan goals, objectives, measures and targets directly into the LRTP. They also included a system performance report and evaluated the condition and performance of the transportation system with respect to the federally required performance targets, including progress achieved by the MPO in meeting the performance targets in comparison with system performance recorded in previous reports and baseline data. However, the PTASP targets were incomplete and do not appear to be updated as part of the LRTP Amendment, dated April 2024.

In the development of the TIP, the MPO designed their TIP to make progress toward achieving the targets and described how they linked their project selections and investments to anticipate target achievement. Specifically, the MPO’s TIP includes projects selected through a system that supports the Okaloosa-Walton TPO’s goal and objectives and is consistent with FDOT’s Five Year Work Program, geared toward achieving performance targets. One Okaloosa-Walton TPO goal is for “A multi-modal transportation system that is safe.” To achieve this, the TPO has an objective to

improve access management to reduce accidents, install variable message signs for real-time hazard warnings, and expand infrastructure for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users. Another TPO goal for “A transportation system that is maintained and operated efficiently” has an objective to replace structurally deficient facilities (such as, roads, bridges and transit) that emphasize preservation of the existing system.

Finding: The MPO’s transportation performance planning activities substantially satisfy the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.306, 314, 324, and 326.

**Recommendation:** The Federal Review Team offers one recommendation regarding Transportation Performance Planning. For more details about this recommendation, please see Section III.

## **Section IV. Scope of the Planning Process (23 CFR 450.306)**

### **A. Transportation Planning Factors**

Observations: 23 CFR 450.306 requires that the metropolitan transportation planning process explicitly consider and analyze a number of specific planning factors that reflect sound planning principles. The degree of consideration for planning factors is based on complexity of issues in geographic area.

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO appropriately addresses the required planning factors throughout the planning process and in the development of transportation planning products such as the LRTP, TIP and UPWP. The planning factors are also incorporated into the Goals, Objectives and Policies of the LRTP.

Finding: The MPO’s planning process substantially satisfies the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.306(b).

### **B. Air Quality**

Finding: The Okaloosa-Walton TPO is currently designated as an attainment area for all National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

### **C. Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Activities**

Current Document Title: Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan Addendum

Date Adopted: March 2012

Observations: The bicycle and pedestrian modes are considered throughout the MPO’s transportation planning processes. The Okaloosa-Walton TPO includes representatives of bicycle and pedestrian users in developing and updating the LRTP, includes bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the LRTP and related improvement projects in the TIP.

Finding: The MPO’s bicycle and pedestrian planning activities substantially satisfies the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.306(b), 324(f), and 326.

## **D. Transit**

### Observations:

Transit services in the Okaloosa-Walton TMA is provided by Emerald Coast Rider (EC Rider), which offers deviated fixed route bus and paratransit services Monday through Friday during the day, excluding holidays, provides service for primarily in Fort Walton Beach and Destin areas. GoWal provides service to Walton County with the Jumper route. Headways vary from 30 minutes to 4 hours on routes, with increased frequency on beach routes in the summer. Paratransit fares range from \$3 to \$6 for the transportation disadvantaged population and have a private pay option of \$2.40 per mile. The system is primarily intended to provide basic transportation for transit dependent riders. In 2019, the system had 181,624 unlinked passenger trips, with 99,456 fixed route trips and 82,168 demand response trips. Okaloosa County receives formula funding through FTA's 5307 Urbanized Formula Program, as well as the 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Formula Program.

The coordination between the West Florida Regional Planning Council (Emerald Coast Regional Council) and the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization, promotes a planning process that is continuous, comprehensive, and cooperative, and inclusive of multimodal transportation priorities in the region. The Okaloosa Transit Cooperative is in place in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that includes Okaloosa County and participating transit jurisdictions.

Finding: The MPO's transit activities substantially satisfy the federal requirements as outlined in 49 CFR 613.100 as well as the transit supportive elements outlined in 23 CFR 450.

**Recommendation:** The Federal Review Team offers one recommendation regarding Transit. For more details about this recommendation, please see Section XI.

## **E. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)**

Current Document Title: Florida's District 3 ITS Architecture

Date Adopted: October 2020

Observations: Through the development of the LRTP and TIP, the Okaloosa-Walton TPO implements a process where projects are consistent with the regional ITS architecture. The Okaloosa-Walton TPO also appropriately considers ITS technologies during the congestion management process.

Finding: The MPO's ITS activities substantially satisfy the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.306, 322, and 23 CFR 940.

## **F. Freight Planning**

Observations: The Okaloosa-Walton TPO collaborates with freight shippers and providers of freight transportation services when updating and developing the LRTP and TIP and addresses the accessibility and mobility for freight commensurate with the scope and impact of freight on the planning area.

Finding: The MPO's freight planning activities substantially satisfy the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.306, 316, 324, and 326.

### **G. Security Considerations in the Planning Process**

Observations: The Okaloosa-Walton TPO incorporates security measures into the LRTP which consists of priorities, goals, and projects that address security. The Okaloosa-Walton TPO considers security planning and review processes, plans, and programs in its transportation planning processes. The Okaloosa-Walton TPO has a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and has tested and/or activated the plan during the last four years. Processes were reviewed and updated as needed after each test or activation.

Finding: The MPO's security planning activities substantially satisfy the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.306, 324(f), 324(h), and 326.

### **H. Safety Considerations in the Planning Process**

Observations: The Okaloosa-Walton TPO incorporates components of the SHSP priorities, goals, countermeasures, and strategies and the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan into the LRTP, includes safety projects in the TIP, and includes safety in project prioritization processes.

Finding: The MPO's safety planning activities substantially satisfy the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.306, 324(h), and 326.

**Commendation:** The Federal Review Team recognizes one noteworthy practice regarding Safety Consideration in the Planning Process. For more details about this commendation, please see Section XI.

## **Section V. Unified Planning Work Program (23 CFR 450.308)**

Current Document Title: Unified Planning Work Program Fiscal Years 2024/25-2025/26  
Date Adopted: May 2024, Revision 2: May 15, 2025

Observations: The Okaloosa-Walton TPO's above noted UPWP covers transportation planning activities/products for two fiscal years and contains sufficient description of the costs and activities the MPO plans to undertake to complete their planning responsibilities.

Finding: The MPO's UPWP substantially satisfies the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.308.

## **Section VI. Interested Parties (23 CFR 450.316)**

### **A. Outreach and Public Participation**

Current Document Title: Okaloosa-Walton TPO Public Participation Plan

Date Adopted: June 17, 2021

Observations: The Okaloosa-Walton TPO's Public Participation Plan (PPP) provides reasonable opportunities for citizens, affected public transportation employees, freight shippers and providers of freight transportation services, public ports, private providers of transportation, representatives of users of public transportation, representatives of users of pedestrian and bicycle facilities, representatives of the disabled, and other interested parties to participate in all transportation processes.

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO electronically provides documentation related to transportation planning processes on their website. The MPO effectively employed visualization techniques in all documents demonstrating transportation planning processes such as the LRTP, TIP, STIP, and UPWP satisfying federal requirements.

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO uses the PPP, demonstrates public participation and considers the input throughout the development of the LRTP and the TIP. The Okaloosa-Walton TPO also considers the traditionally underserved communities, including minority and low-income households, and coordinates with FDOT. The Okaloosa-Walton revisits the PPP to ensure that they maintain a full and open participation process.

Additionally, the Okaloosa-Walton TPO utilized social media outlets to further inform the public about meeting times and locations to all transportation planning processes such as developing and amending the LRTP and the TIP.

Finding: The MPO's outreach and public participation activities substantially satisfy the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.316.

**Commendations:** The Federal Review Team recognizes two noteworthy practices regarding Outreach and Public Participation. For more details about these commendations, please see Section XI.

### **B. Tribal Coordination**

Finding: There are no tribal lands within the MPO's planning boundaries requiring the MPO to provide tribal coordination.

### **C. Title VI and Related Requirements**

Current Document Title: Title VI Nondiscrimination Policy Plan

Date Adopted: August 17, 2023

Observations: The Okaloosa-Walton TPO has a coordinator assigned to Public Involvement and Title VI, who has direct, independent access to the MPO's Executive

Director. The MPO has developed and executed a nondiscrimination policy, assurance, complaint filing procedure and 4-factor Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan, all of which are broad enough to cover Title VI classifications and those defined by other federal and state authorities. The MPO reviews its plans, programs and services at least triennially to determine nondiscrimination and equitable distribution of benefits and burdens and collects/analyzes demographic data of those impacted by its transportation decisions.

The MPO provides reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in providing access to its plans, programs and services. The MPO-posted nondiscrimination policies and complaint filing procedures specifically enumerate disability as a protected classification. The MPO ensures that its plans and activities include input by and consideration of those with disabilities or their service providers. The MPO has a program access plan as described by 28 CFR 35.150(a) (and the Department of Justice Title II Technical Assistance Manual) that covers both program and facilities access.

Finding: The MPO's Title VI and related activities substantially satisfy the federal requirements as outlined in 49 CFR 21, 49 CFR 27, 23 CFR 200, 23 CFR 450.316 and 336(a).

## **Section VII. Linking Planning and NEPA (23 CFR 450.318, 320, 324(f)(10), 324(g))**

Current Document Title: Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization Long Range Transportation Plan

Date Adopted: December 9, 2021

Observations: The MPO's 2045 LRTP includes a discussion of types of potential environmental mitigation activities and potential areas to carry out these activities. The discussion focuses on policies, programs and strategies for future project development. The MPO developed the discussion in consultation with applicable Federal, State, wildlife, and regulatory agencies.

For the adopted LRTP, the MPO also consulted with appropriate state and local agencies responsible for land use management, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation and historic preservation by comparing their LRTP with State conservation plans and maps and a comparing the LRTP to inventories of natural or historic resources.

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO has not developed programmatic mitigation plans as part of their planning process.

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO has undertaken several multimodal, systems-level corridors planning studies in coordination with FDOT and public transit operators. The Okaloosa-

Walton TPO utilized the results in the decision-making processes for project development purposes by identifying purpose and need statements, general travel corridor or modes, preliminary screening of alternatives, providing basic environmental setting descriptions, and preliminarily identifying environmental impacts and environmental mitigation, and providing the public a reasonable opportunity to review necessary documentation.

Observations: A review based on the 2018 FHWA/FTA LRTP Expectations Letter was conducted during the desk audit.

Finding: The MPO's linking planning and NEPA activities substantially satisfy the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.318, 320, 324(f)(10), and 324(g).

### **Section VIII. Congestion Management Process (CMP) (23 CFR 450.322)**

Current Document Title: Congestion Management Process Plan

Date Adopted: June 2021, minor update December 12, 2024

Observations: The Okaloosa-Walton TPO developed a congestion management process that was developed and implemented as part of the planning process, included coordination with system management and operation activities, and resulted multimodal system performance measures and strategies which are reflected in the LRTP and the TIP. The MPO's CMP includes the following: methods to monitor and evaluate performance, defines congestion management objectives and appropriate performance measures for assessing congestion and evaluation of strategies, a coordinated program for data collection and system performance monitoring, and the identification and evaluation of performance and benefits from the process. The MPO has also periodically assessed the effectiveness of the implemented strategies and used the assessment results when selecting effective strategies for future implementation. The MPO last assessed the process in December 2024.

In accordance with 23 CFR 450.322(h), the Okaloosa-Walton TPO developed a congestion management plan (CMP) that includes projects and strategies that are incorporated into the TIP and consists of regional goals to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) during peak commuting times in densely populated areas; identifies transportation services that support access to jobs in the region; and identifies future projects and programs to reduce congestion and increased access to job opportunities.

Finding: The MPO's congestion management process substantially satisfies the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.322.

**Recommendation:** The Federal Review Team offers one recommendation regarding Congestion Management Process. For more details about this recommendation, please see Section XI.

## Section IX. Long Range Transportation Plan (23 CFR 450.324)

Current Document Title: Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization Long Range Transportation Plan

Date Adopted: December 9, 2021

### A. Scope of LRTP

Observations: The Okaloosa-Walton TPO's LRTP addresses a 20-year horizon period and includes long-range and short-range strategies that provide for the development of an integrated multimodal transportation system. The plan includes current and projects transportation demand, existing and proposed facilities, operational and management strategies, assessment of strategies to preserve existing infrastructure, transportation and transit enhancement activities, and a financial plan that demonstrates how the adopted plan can be implemented.

Observations: A review based on the 2018 FHWA/FTA LRTP Expectations Letter was conducted during the desk audit.

Finding: The general scope of the MPO's LRTP substantially satisfies the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.324.

**Recommendations:** The Federal Review Team offers two recommendations regarding Scope of LRTP. For more details about these recommendations, please see Section XI.

### B. Travel Demand Modeling/Data

Observations: The Okaloosa-Walton TPO validated and updated the data used in preparing the adopted LRTP. The MPO based the LRTP on the latest available estimates and assumptions for population, land use, travel, employment, congestion, and economic activity. The MPO Board approved the plan contents and supporting analysis when it was adopted.

Finding: The MPO's travel demand modeling processes substantially satisfy the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.324(e).

### C. LRTP Financial Plan/Fiscal Constraint

Observations: FDOT provides an estimate of federal and state revenue available over the life of the plan, as well as an estimate of administrative, operations and maintenance costs over the life of the plan for the MPO to use. For the adopted LRTP, the revenue estimates are included in an appendix to the plan. Fiscal constraint is demonstrated using a narrative. The plan identifies funding revenue sources, project costs and project phases for projects from the effective date of the plan through the plan's horizon year. Year of Expenditure costs are used in the plan. The LRTP is fiscally constrained.

Observations: A review based on the 2018 FHWA/FTA LRTP Expectations Letter was conducted during the desk audit.

Finding: The financial plan/fiscal constraint of the MPO's LRTP substantially satisfies the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.324(f)(11).

## **Section X. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (23 CFR 450.326, 328, 330, 332, 334)**

Current Document Title: Okaloosa-Walton TPO FY2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program

Date Adopted: May 15, 2025

Observations: The Okaloosa-Walton TPO ensures that the TIP includes all proposed federally and non-federally funded regionally significant transportation projects including intermodal facilities. The TIP is fiscally constrained by year and consistent with the LRTP.

Finding: The MPO's TIP substantially satisfies the federal requirements as outlined in 23 CFR 450.326,328, 330, 332, and 334.

## **Section XI. Findings/Conclusions**

The following items represent a compilation of the findings that are included in this 2026 certification review report. These findings, which are identified as commendations, corrective actions, and recommendations, are intended to not only ensure continuing regulatory compliance of the Okaloosa-Walton TPO's transportation planning process with federal planning requirements, but to also foster high-quality planning practices and improve the transportation planning program in this TMA. Corrective actions reflect required actions for compliance with the Federal Planning Regulations and must be completed within the timeframes noted. Recommendations reflect national trends or potential risks and are intended to assist the Okaloosa-Walton TPO in improving the planning process. Commendations highlight efforts that demonstrate innovative ideas or noteworthy practices for implementing the planning requirements.

### **A. Commendations**

- 1. Safety Considerations in the Planning Process:** The Federal Review Team commends the Okaloosa-Walton TPO for its crucial role in the planning and success of the Inlet Beach Pedestrian Underpass at County Road 30A and U.S. Highway 98. This project exemplifies strategic safety transportation planning through three key achievements:

- **Design:** The grade-separated design ensures a major improvement in safety and mobility for bicyclists and pedestrians, eliminating conflict with high-speed traffic on Highway 98.
  - **Funding Partnership:** The project successfully utilized an effective public and private funding partnership, demonstrating strong collaboration with local government, FDOT, and community stakeholders.
  - **Aesthetic Integration:** The incorporation of local artwork elevates the underpass, turning it into an attractive, unique gateway that enhances the region's cultural identity and encourages community use.
2. **Outreach and Public Participation:** The Federal Review Team commends Okaloosa-Walton TPO for its proactive use of GIS technology to enhance planning and transparency. By utilizing an interactive dashboard to track and display prioritized projects, the TPO provides clear, centralized view of the region's transportation initiatives. The dashboard is publicly accessible and includes a summary of the TPO Planning Cycle to assist users in understanding the transportation planning process.
  3. **Outreach and Public Participation:** The Federal Review Team commends the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) for establishing and maintaining an exceptionally effective partnership with local military leadership. This collaboration ensures the TPO integrates the critical transportation needs of Eglin Air Force Base and Hurlburt Field directly into the metropolitan planning process.

Through consistent dialogue, the TPO and military jointly prioritize and program projects essential for mission readiness, base access, and force mobility. This proactive integration demonstrates a clear commitment to a regional network that sustains both economic stability and national security.

## B. Corrective Actions

There were no corrective actions identified.

## C. Recommendations

1. **Agreements:** The Federal Review Team recommends the MPO update all Agreements to encompass the full extent of the Navarre-Miramar Beach-Destin Transportation Management Area (TMA), as delineated by the Census Bureau. One such example is the Agreement for Professional Staff Services between the West Florida Regional Planning Council and the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization. This agreement requires revision to reflect the geographic transition from the Fort Walton Beach-Navarre-Wright urban area to the Navarre-Miramar Beach-Destin TMA.

**2. Transit:** The Federal Review Team recommends that the MPO and transit agency explore opportunities to improve transit services by exploring available funding sources, including discretionary programs aimed at planning, capital and route expansion.

**3. Transportation Performance Planning:** The Federal Review Team recommends the TPO ensures the most current and complete PTASP and TAM performance targets are included in future LRTP amendments and/or updates.

**4. Congestion Management Process:** The Federal Review Team recommends that the Okaloosa-Walton TPO strengthen its Congestion Management Process by increasing its focus on two key non-infrastructure strategies: promoting teleworking and enhancing military coordination.

- **Promotion of Teleworking:** Teleworking strategies, even on a part-time basis, can significantly reduce the number of vehicles on the road during traditional peak hours (morning and evening commutes). This immediately alleviates congestion without requiring major infrastructure spending. A reduction in peak demand allows the existing road network to operate more efficiently, especially in areas with natural topographical constraints like the southern part of the Okaloosa-Walton TPO planning region where increasing capacity or roadway widening may not be feasible.
- **Continued Military Collaboration:** The Federal Review Team recommends that the TPO continue its robust collaboration with military staff representatives to address congestion surrounding military bases. Congestion around these military bases is severe, as it involves the concentrated movement of thousands of employees during shift changes, coupled with regular public traffic. Continued collaboration ensures that future transportation solutions (signal optimization, capacity expansion, or alternative route planning) are designed with both military mission requirements and civilian travel patterns in mind. This leads to more effective and sustainable relief than either party could achieve alone.

**5. Long Range Transportation Plan: Scope of LRTP:** The Federal Review Team recommends that the TPO increase its coordination efforts related to housing planning. Considering housing planning is essential because it acknowledges the fundamental link between residential location and travel behavior. By integrating housing initiatives (such as affordable and mixed-use developments), the TPO can more accurately predict commuter patterns, reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) through Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), and promote 'location efficiency' to ease household financial strain.

**6. Long Range Transportation Plan: Scope of LRTP:** The Federal Review Team recommends that the TPO continue to assess the vulnerability of the existing infrastructure to identify potential resilience components for future projects. This should be an ongoing, integrated process that directly informs project development.

This will ensure TPO planning remains proactive against evolving threats like sea-level rise, increased storm intensity, and coastal erosion.

We recommend modifying the LRTP's project prioritization framework to explicitly include a resilience evaluation criterion. This criterion should quantify benefits like the reduction of hazard risk and the enhancement of transportation network redundancy. Projects that integrate the necessary resilience components (as identified in the vulnerability assessment) should be incentivized through higher scores ensuring projects located in the highest-vulnerability areas identified in the assessment are prioritized and programmed for funding.

#### **D. Training/Technical Assistance**

At the conclusion of the site visit, the Federal Review Team asked the MPO staff if they had any training or technical assistance needs. The Okaloosa-Walton TPO identified technical assistance requests for the following topical areas: identifying other funding sources including federal discretionary grant programs to leverage state dollars for transportation projects. FHWA and FTA will work with the MPO to provide resources in these areas.

#### **E. Conclusion**

Based on the overall findings of the certification review, the FHWA and FTA jointly certify that the transportation planning process of the Navarre-Miramar Beach-Destin TMA, which is comprised entirely by the Okaloosa-Walton TPO, substantially meets the federal planning requirements in 23 CFR 450 Subpart C. This certification will remain in effect until March 2030.

## Appendix A. Site Visit Participants



Okaloosa-Walton TPO TMA Certification Site Visit  
 Location: Fort Walton Beach Library  
 Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2025  
 Sign-In Sheet

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE	VIRTUAL	NAME	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL
	✓	Dawn Schwartz	ECRC	onfile
	✓	Abby Domand	FHWA	onfile
	✓	Mike Neidhart	office of Policy Planning	onfile
	✓	Jill Strickler	ECRC	onfile
	✓	Christy Johnson	FDOT	onfile
	✓	Tiffany Johnson		onfile
✓	⊗	Nancy D'Vanezelli	ECRC	onfile

## Appendix B. TMA Certification Site Visit Agenda

**Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization  
TMA Certification Review  
November 17- 18, 2025**

Fort Walton Beach Library  
185 Miracle Strip Parkway SE  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

### AGENDA

<b>Federal Certification Team Members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Erika Thompson (FHWA)</li> <li>➤ Dana Knox (FHWA)</li> <li>➤ Aviance Webb (FTA)</li> </ul>	<b>TMA Certification Review Meeting</b> <b>Register via GoToWebinar:</b> <a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/146063973425058391">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/146063973425058391</a>
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Monday		
November 17, 2025		
Day One		
Time	Item	Lead
afternoon	Project site visits	TPO, Federal Team

Tuesday		
November 18, 2025		
Day Two		
Time	Item	Lead
8:30 a.m.	Welcome / Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Roles/Responsibilities/Key Activities of TPO and Transit Agency Staff</li> </ul>	Federal Team, TPO, Transit, FDOT
8:45 a.m.	Site Visit Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Purpose of the Certification Process</li> <li>➤ Discussion of Risk Assessment</li> <li>➤ Review schedule and close-out process</li> </ul>	Federal Team
9:00 a.m.	MPO Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Demographics</li> <li>➤ Boundaries</li> <li>➤ Political</li> <li>➤ Process Changes</li> </ul>	Federal Team, TPO
9:30 a.m.	Share Best Practices and Lessons Learned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What is the TPO most proud of?</li> <li>➤ What challenges have you encountered and addressed?</li> </ul>	MPO
10:15 a.m.	Break	
10:30 a.m.	Technical Topic: Long Range Transportation Plan	Federal Team
11:00 a.m.	Technical Topic: Transportation Improvement Program	Federal Team

11:30 a.m.	<b>Break for Lunch</b>	
1:00 p.m.	Technical Topic: Outreach and Public Participation	Federal Team
1:30 p.m.	Other Technical Topics	Federal Team
2:00 p.m.	Technical Topic: Transit	Federal Team
2:30 p.m.	Technical Assistance & Training ➤ Future Needs Additional Questions ➤ Anything else the TPO would like to share with the Federal Team that hasn't been discussed?	Federal Team, TPO, Transit, FDOT
2:45 p.m.	<b>Break</b>	
3:00 p.m.	Preliminary Findings Discussion Among Federal Team	Federal Team
4:00 p.m.	Preliminary Findings Discussion with TPO staff	Federal Team, TPO, Transit, FDOT
4:30 p.m.	<b>Adjourn Review Meeting</b>	
<b>5:00p.m. - 6:00p.m. TMA Certification Public Meeting</b>		
5:00p.m. - 6:00p.m.	<b>Register via GoToWebinar:</b> <a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1045939473969135449">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1045939473969135449</a>	Federal Team

## Appendix C. Public Engagement Notice

Okaloosa-Walton TPO's website: <https://www.ecrc.org/calendar.php>

<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>8:30 am Okaloosa-Walton TPO TMA Certification Review Site Visit</b>	<b>10</b> Wa Tra Dis Co
<b>10:30 am Bay County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board</b>	<b>2:0</b> Tra Dis Co
<b>5:00 pm O-W TPO TMA Certification Public Meeting</b>	
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>

Date:	Nov 18, 2025
Day:	Tue
Time:	08:30 am
Notable:	no
Detail:	<p>The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will conduct a Certification Review of the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization's transportation planning process, as required by law. The purpose of this review is to evaluate the TPO's compliance with Federal transportation rules and regulations.</p> <p><b>Join us at the location below:</b> Fort Walton Beach Library, 185 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548 AT 8:30 A.M.</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>Join us live via GoToWebinar!</b></p> <p><b>1. Register to Attend:</b> Visit the ECRC Meeting Stage webpage at <a href="http://ecrc.org/VirtualPublicMeetings">ecrc.org/VirtualPublicMeetings</a>.</p> <p>Select the meeting you would like to attend and complete the registration form. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with your personalized link to join the webinar.</p> <p><b>2. Join the Webinar:</b> At the scheduled time, click the link in your confirmation email and choose your preferred audio option:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Computer Audio (Recommended):</b> You will be connected using your computer's microphone and speakers (VoIP).</li> <li>• <b>Use Telephone:</b> If you prefer to dial in, select "Use Telephone" after joining the webinar and call the number provided.</li> </ul> <p><b>For additional information on the Certification Meetings, please contact:</b> Erika Thompson   <a href="mailto:erika.thompson@dot.gov">erika.thompson@dot.gov</a>   850-553-2223 Transportation Planner   FHWA Florida Division</p> <p><i>Public input is important to the TPO; we encourage our community members to share their feedback in the way that works best for them. To submit a comment or learn more about how to participate, visit <a href="http://www.ecrc.org/OWTPOMeetings">http://www.ecrc.org/OWTPOMeetings</a>. All comments received will be shared with the TPO Board for consideration. For questions or additional information, please contact <a href="mailto:marketing@ecrc.org">marketing@ecrc.org</a>.</i></p> <p><i>In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations to access meetings and limited English proficiency are available upon request. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or need translation services should contact <a href="mailto:Marketing&amp;Outreach">Marketing &amp; Outreach</a> toll-free at 800-226-8914 or TTY 711 at least 48 hours in advance.</i></p> <p><i>Para información en español, puede llamar a Marketing al 850-332-7976, ext. 226 o TTY 711. Si necesita acomodaciones especiales, llame con 48 horas de antemano o TTY 711. Participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons who believe they have experienced discrimination may file a complaint with the <a href="mailto:TitleVI">Title VI Coordinator</a>, 850-332-7976, ext. 203.</i></p>

Date:	Nov 18, 2025
Day:	Tue
Time:	05:00 pm
Notable:	no

Detail:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will conduct a Certification Review of the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization's transportation planning process, as required by law. The purpose of this review is to evaluate the TPO's compliance with Federal transportation rules and regulations. Part of the review includes an opportunity for public input on how the Okaloosa-Walton TPO carries out the transportation planning process.

**Join us at the location below:**

Fort Walton Beach Library, 185 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548 AT 5:00PM.

**OR**

**Join us live via GoToWebinar!**

**1. Register to Attend:** Visit the ECRC Meeting Stage webpage at [ecrc.org/VirtualPublicMeetings](http://ecrc.org/VirtualPublicMeetings).

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**For additional information on the Certification Meetings, please contact:**

Erika Thompson | [erika.thompson@dot.gov](mailto:erika.thompson@dot.gov) | 850-553-2223  
 Transportation Planner | FHWA Florida Division

*Public input is important to the TPO; we encourage our community members to share their feedback in the way that works best for them. To submit a comment or learn more about how to participate, visit <http://www.ecrc.org/QWTPOMeetings>. All comments received will be shared with the TPO Board for consideration. For questions or additional information, please contact [marketing@ecrc.org](mailto:marketing@ecrc.org).*

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**From:** [Tiffany Bates](#)  
**Subject:** O-W TPO - TMA Certification with FHWA and FTA  
**Date:** Monday, November 10, 2025 9:27:02 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[Okaloosa-Walton MPO Site Visit Agenda.pdf](#)  
[image003.png](#)

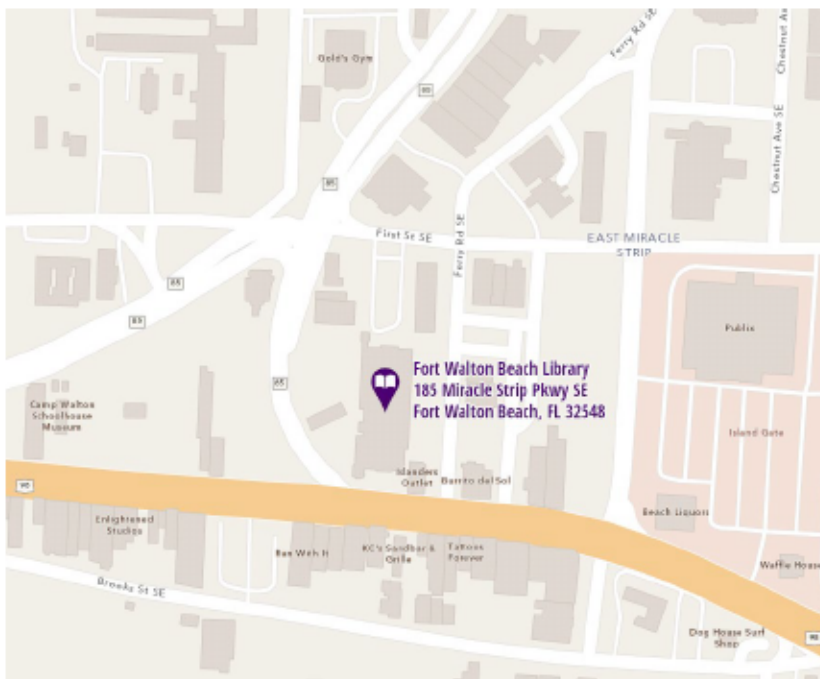
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Dear Chairman Wagner, OW TPO Board, TCC, CAC Members and Interested Parties:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will conduct a Certification Review of the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization's transportation planning process, as required by law. We invite the public to join us on November 18th, 2025 at the Fort Walton Beach Library, 185 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548.

TMA Certification Review Site Visit at 8:30 a.m.  
TMA Certification Public Meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Find the location of the meetings, Fort Walton Beach Library, 185 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548, located on the map below.



Should anyone have additional questions or require further information about the federal certification,

please contact:

Federal Team Contact: Erika Thompson | [erika.thompson@dot.gov](mailto:erika.thompson@dot.gov) | 850-553-2223 |  
Transportation Planner | FHWA Florida Division

TPO Staff Contact: Jill Nobles | [jill.nobles@ecrc.org](mailto:jill.nobles@ecrc.org) | 850-332-7976 ext. 212 |

Transportation Planner | ECRC

Reminder, the next **OW TPO board meeting** will be on Thursday, November 20, 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 Destin City Hall Annex, 4200 Indian Bayou Trail, Destin, FL.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Bates  
Strategic Partnerships Liaison



*Working to preserve and enhance the quality of life in northwest Florida.*

PO Box 11399, Pensacola, FL 32524  
850-332-7976, ext. 217 | Fax: 850-637-1923  
ecrc.org

Email report

Switch report ▾

Actions ▾

### Predicted demographics

November 4, 2025 - November 4, 2025 • Excludes Apple MPP

#### Gender

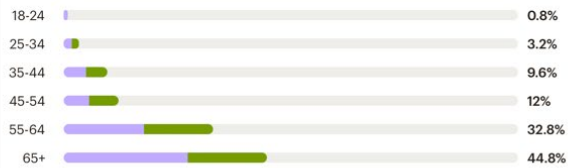
Recipients Opens Clicks



Female	44.2%
Male	55.8%
Another Identity	0%
Unknown	0%

#### Age range

Recipients Opens Clicks



Female Male Another Identity Unknown

# TPO MEETING

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Okaloosa-Walton  
Transportation Planning  
Organization  
**OWTPO**



Scan QR Code  
to access agenda.

The **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)** and the **Federal Transit Administration (FTA)** will conduct a **Certification Review** of the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization's transportation planning process, as required by law. We invite the public to join us on **November 18th, 2025 at the Fort Walton Beach Library, 185 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548.**

**NOV**  
**18**

**TMA Certification Review Site Visit at 8:30 a.m.**  
**TMA Certification Public Meeting at 5:00 p.m.**

Find the location of the meetings, **Fort Walton Beach Library, 185 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548**, located on the map below.



Should anyone have **additional questions or require further information**, please contact: Erika Thompson | [erika.thompson@dot.gov](mailto:erika.thompson@dot.gov) | 850-553-2223  
Transportation Planner | FHWA Florida Division

For the convenience of the public, a virtual attendance option will also be available. All virtual participants are required to register in advance through GoTo Webinar. Click the button below to access our virtual public meetings page.

**REGISTER TO ATTEND LIVE VIA GOTOWEBINAR**

## Notice of Meeting/Workshop Hearing

### REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS

#### Emerald Coast Regional Council

The Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board and Committees announces a public meeting to which all persons are invited.

DATE AND TIME: November 18, 2025, 8:30 a.m.

PLACE: Fort Walton Beach Library, 185 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: Join us for the Okaloosa-Walton TPO TMA Certification Review Site Visit. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will conduct a Certification Review of the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization's transportation planning process, as required by law. The purpose of this review is to evaluate the TPO's compliance with Federal transportation rules and regulations.

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OR

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Erika Thompson | [erika.thompson@dot.gov](mailto:erika.thompson@dot.gov) | (850)553-2223

Transportation Planner | FHWA Florida Division

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A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: [Jill.Nobles@ecrc.org](mailto:Jill.Nobles@ecrc.org)

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 48 hours before the workshop/meeting by contacting: Marketing and Outreach toll-free at (800)226-8914 or TTY 711, or by emailing [marketing@ecrc.org](mailto:marketing@ecrc.org).

Para informacion en espanol, puede llamar a Ada Clark al (850)332-7976, ext. 278 o TTY 711. Si necesita acomodaciones especiales, por favor llame 48 horas de antemano. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice).

## Notice of Meeting/Workshop Hearing

### REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS

#### Emerald Coast Regional Council

The Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board and Committees announces a public meeting to which all persons are invited.

DATE AND TIME: November 18, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

PLACE: Fort Walton Beach Library, 185 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: Join us for the O-W TPO TMA Certification Public Meeting. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will conduct a Certification Review of the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization's transportation planning process, as required by law. The purpose of this review is to evaluate the TPO's compliance with Federal transportation rules and regulations. Part of the review includes an opportunity for public input on how the Okaloosa-Walton TPO carries out the transportation planning process.

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Erika Thompson | [erika.thompson@dot.gov](mailto:erika.thompson@dot.gov) | (850)553-2223

Transportation Planner | FHWA Florida Division

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## Appendix D. Summary of Public Feedback

FHWA and FTA would like to thank everyone who participated in and contributed comments for the Okaloosa-Walton TPO TMA Certification Review. Public comments are a vital element of the certification review, as they allow citizens to provide direct input on the transportation planning process for their transportation planning area. Comments were received during the public meeting on November 18, 2025. No additional comments were received during the 30-day public comment period following the site visit. The speakers, representing the business community and local government, offered high praise for the collaborative atmosphere and effectiveness of the region's transportation planning. And the collaboration among cities, businesses, and citizens, and FDOT has vastly improved, which has been crucial to the region's success. We have reviewed all comments and have taken them into consideration throughout the writing of this report. The public meeting minutes and the public comments received begins below.

### Public Comments Received at the November 18, 2025 Public Meeting

**Erika Thompson:** Welcome to the Okaloosa-Walton TPO TMA Certification Public Meeting

I'm going to introduce myself. My name is Erika Thompson. I am with Federal Highway Administration, USDOT.

**Dana Knox:** I am Dana Knox with the Federal Highway Administration.

**Erika Thompson:** Our FTA representative is not here at the moment, but she might join us in a little bit. Her name is Aviance Webb.

So why are we here today? Every four years FTA & FHWA jointly review the metropolitan planning process for those areas over 200,000 population. Part of this review includes seeking the public's input.

Why are you here today? To give your opinions of the metropolitan area's transportation planning process.

What will happen to your comments today? These comments received today and by mail or email (within the next 30 days) will be summarized in a report. Comments are taken into consideration while evaluating the transportation planning completed for the area.

What is the outcome of this review? The report issued in approximately 60 days summarizing the discussions during the review. We had the review meeting today. The process is certified.

What is a planning process? A process by which transportation decisions are made and projects are planned, selected, and prioritized for implementation within the region.

Why is the planning process important? It Decides how a substantial share of Federal transportation funding is spent nationwide. Because of limited funding, the MPO must prioritize the regional needs and determine the best and most economical solution. This process lays the framework for the future transportation system.

Today I am here to receive comments. I want to know if you had an adequate opportunity to participate in the MPO transportation planning process? Have you been

involved in the MPO transportation planning process? What are your views of the process? We are here to receive those comments both verbal and written. All opinions and points of views are valid. Please respect the opinions and comments of those who may differ with you. This session will end at 6:00 p.m. If there are a large amount of people wanting to speak, speakers will be limited to 5 minutes each and a visual signal will be given with one minute remaining. So, before you want to share any comments, please identify yourselves for the record. Now I think we will first start with those in the room, and then we will go online to see if there is anyone that wants to share. Anyone want to start?

**Ted Corcoran:** I am ready to start.

**Erika Thompson:** What I do recommend is that you sign in...have a seat in front of the microphone and announce yourself.

**Ted Corcoran:** Hello guests around the table and those on TV around the world, I am Ted Corcoran from the Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce. I would like to share the personal observations of our involvement with not only the TPO but also with the ECRC. And I think the key thing about it is that they do, ECRC, does a spectacular job of informing the public on activities that are occurring. They do a great job, and therefore, when you are interested, such as April Sutton maybe, when you're interested in attending, when it makes good sense to come, then you know about it, when to come, and how to align yourself, et cetera.

And the thing I really like, and there's some people here so I want to be humble in front of them, but a lot of the government agencies that you might deal with at the Chamber of Commerce or the city council representative, the people may not be that helpful. But the Emerald Coast Regional Council here with Jill, Ms. Lee and some of the others that I've dealt with before, they genuinely are interested in helping. They truly are. They're not trying to push you down and say what do you need, what kind of help do you need, particularly when it's someone like me who maybe doesn't understand how to move a road around downtown Fort Walton or work on a bridge situation. The goal is, okay, let's get the experts to help us, which they have done. And then we get elected officials such as Amy when she was on the TPO or April Sutton and the others. And then we attempt to inform them on why it's important for our organization, if they in turn go in favor of it, and everyone's happy. And we couldn't be happier. It's a great thing.

It doesn't surprise me that there are not more people here. You're back here, helping the process too. Business community of Okaloosa County is grateful for the Emerald Coast Regional Council and their desires and magnitude of informing the public in as many ways as they possibly can to get the public involved in this process. My interpretation is why there's not more public coming to these is simply they do not understand the system. Maybe they simply don't care, and they allow and have responsibility, they are proud of, are elected officials who are there on the TPO representing our community, and they're very comfortable that they are represented in a community way. I want to thank Corey back there for also helping on this.

So, you have three divisions, you have four divisions. You have the community, the business community, you have the Emerald Coast Regional Council whose job is to make the TPO run, the elected officials are on the TPO doing a great job, and then you have engineers and other details that are collaborating. So, all this working together is proven

in Okaloosa County in the last 10 or 12 years that stuff is working. We're grateful for Walton County. I mean the top four projects right now are all in Okaloosa County, but the way Okaloosa County and Walton County work collaboratively is also very helpful. You get that Tiffany?

**Tiffany Bates:** I did.

**Ted Corcoran:** I can say it in French if you'd like.

**Amy Jamison:** I'll just say to add on, even though everybody's independent, everybody works as a team. Basically, what Ted said, but I couldn't be prouder of each individual entity and how we all come together.

**Ted Corcoran:** And you know, we can revisit to your point that FDOT is also becoming more engaged. FDOT for a long time was very hard to get in touch with, but now they also are promoting, they also are talking about the bridge upgrades, and they also are hiring marketing companies to help them know what's happening and they also are very receptive. So that's another entity of that wheel is FDOT is less governmental and legislative, I guess, as they used to be.

**April Sutton:** I'm Vice Chair of ECRC and Okaloosa Walton TPO Board Member. We do have a great collaboration between our cities, our businesses, and our citizens. We don't get a lot of assistance lately, but Ted is doing a really good job. [inaudible] Because most of the time, the only time that citizens [inaudible] is going to matter, and that's going into that. So, we so listen to the businesses. We're grateful for a lot of that support, and not even just with FDOT, which is right. That relationship has greatly improved, and it's due to ECRC, Okaloosa Walton TPO Boards, and also with our military. We talked earlier about the relationship with the military bases, and how that wasn't always the case on the panel, or the communication team. It was good work, and it's been really good. And that has vastly improved, so I definitely appreciate it.

Well, the fact that it is advertised heavily, the online surveys did get a great response.

You know, people will actually in their pajamas, and that's a good thing. So, it's something they do in common, but promise them that there's [inaudible] something that we'd like them to not understand.

If you, you know, obviously if they don't like what you're doing, they will come out. If they do, then they have no point. Kind of the lack of presence, you lose it. It's usually, it's a very, very good thing.

**Rae Emary:** So online we do have Aviance, Joshua DeBreeze, and then Leandra Meredith with our team.

**Aviance Webb:** Good afternoon.

**Jill Nobles:** Hi Aviance, did you have anything else to add?

**Aviance Webb:** Hi, nothing to add, I didn't catch a lot of the information that was just said, so I'm not sure if I should be putting something out, I didn't necessarily hear the beginning part there. Um, sorry, you guys.

**Erika Thompson:** Hi Aviance: It's fine. I did a quick presentation and then we had three individuals make comments on the TPO process and now we're just really sitting here waiting for six o'clock.

**Attendees**



Okaloosa-Walton TPO TMA Certification Public Workshop  
 Location: Fort Walton Beach Library  
 Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2025  
 5:00 p.m.  
**Sign-In Sheet**

IN-PERSON	VIRTUAL	NAME	Organization	EMAIL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Cory Wilkins	HDR	on file
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Jill Nobles	ECRC	on file
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Tiffany Bates	ECRC	on file
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Kandace Lee	ECRC	on file
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Tammy Neal	ECRC	on file
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Rae Emery	ECRC	on file
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Gary Kramer	ECRC	on file
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Jessica Walton	ECRC	on file
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Howard Vanclow	ECRC	on file
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		April Sutton	City of Mary Esther	on file
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Dana Knox	FHWA	on file
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Erika Thompson	FHWA	on file
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Amy Jamison	CAC Member OWTPO	on file
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Ted Caron	FWB Chamber	on file
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Holly Karr	FWB Chamber	holly@hollykarr.com
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aviance Webb	FTA	on file
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Leandra Meredith	ECRC	on file
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joshua DeVries	HDR	on file

## Appendix E. Acronym List

ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act	NTI – National Transit Institute
AQ – Air Quality	PEA – Planning Emphasis Area
CAAA – Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990	PL – Metropolitan Planning Funds
CFP – Cost Feasible Plan (of the LRTP)	PPP – Public Participation Plan
CFR – Code of Federal Regulations	RA – Regional Administrator
CMAQ – Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality	RTIP – Regional Transportation Implementation Plan
CMP – Congestion Management Process	RTP – Regional Transportation Plan
DA – Division Administrator	SAFETEA-LU – Safe, Accountable, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users
DBE – Disadvantaged Business Enterprises	RPC – Regional Planning Commission
DHHS – Department of Health and Human Services	SFY – State Fiscal Year
ETDM – Efficient Transportation Decision Making	SHA – State Highway Administration
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency	SHSP – Strategic Highway Safety Plan
FAST Act – Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act	SIP – State Implementation Plan
FDOT – Florida Department of Transportation	SOP – Standard Operating Procedures
FHWA – Federal Highway Administration	SOV – Single Occupancy Vehicle
FTA – Federal Transit Administration	SPR – State Planning and Research
FY – Federal Fiscal Year	STIP – Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
GIS – Geographic Information Systems	STP – Surface Transportation Program
HSIP – Highway Safety Improvement Program	TAM – Transit Asset Management
HPMS Reviews – Highway Performance Monitoring System	TAMP – Transportation Asset Management Plan
ISTEA – Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act	TAZ – Transportation Analysis Zone
ITS – Intelligent Transportation Systems	TCM – Transportation Control Measure
LEP – Limited English Proficiency	TDM – Transportation Demand Management
LRTP – Long Range Transportation Plan	TDP – Transit Development Plan
M&O – Management and Operations	TEA-21 – Transportation Equity Act for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century
MAP-21 – Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	TIP – Transportation Improvement Program
MOA – Memorandum of Agreement	Title VI – Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act
MOU – Memorandum of Understanding	TMA – Transportation Management Area
MPA – Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary	TMIP – Travel Model Improvement Program
MPO – Metropolitan Planning Organization	TPA – Transportation Planning Agency
MPOAC – Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council	TPCB – Transportation Planning Capacity Building Program
NAAQS-National Ambient Air Quality Standards	TPM – Transportation Performance Management
NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act	TPO – Transportation Planning Organization
NHI – National Highway Institute	UAB – Urban Area Boundary
NHS – National Highway System	UPWP – Unified Planning Work Plan
	U.S.C. – United States Code
	UZA – Urbanized Areas
	VMT – Vehicle Miles Traveled