

Emerald Coast Regional Council

Meeting Minutes

Bayview Community Center

2001 E Lloyd St, Pensacola, FL 32503

November 12, 2025, 11:00am



Members Present:

Kurvin Qualls, Governor Appointee, Chair
Councilmember April Sutton, City of Mary Esther, Vice Chair
Darryl Boudreau, NWFLWMD
Tanya Branton, FDOT
Councilmember Paul Casto, City of Panama City Beach (Virtual)
Commissioner Doug Crosby, Bay County (Virtual)
Mayor Pam Henderson, City of Callaway (Virtual)
Mayor Heather Lindsay, City of Milton
Commissioner Andrew Palmer, Okaloosa County
Councilmember Bill Schaetzle, City of Niceville
Mayor JB Schluter, City of Gulf Breeze
J.D. Smith, Governor Appointee
Commissioner Kerry Smith, Santa Rosa County
Commissioner Josh Street, City of Panama City
Mayor JB Whitten, City of Crestview
Commissioner Colten Wright, Santa Rosa County

Others Present:

Amanda Carpenter, MPOAC Director
David Chang, Atkins Realis
Andrea Collins, Atkins Realis
Kaylor Collins, FDOT
Sierra Eades, WGI
Ben Faust, DRMP
Andrew Fonseca, MioVision
Casey Johns, FDOT
Kris McCoy, MioVision
Kurtis McBride, MioVision
Ron Meyer, Atkins Realis
Nathan Mozeleski, Atkins Realis
Brant Rogesson, MioVision
Jared Schneider, Kimley-Horn
Maria Showalter, FDOT
Lindsay Slautterback, Kimley-Horn
Deston Taylor, DRMP
Kim Toole, FDOT
Cory Wilkinson, HDR
Kandase Lee, ECRC
Dawn Schwartz, ECRC
Renee Quick, ECRC (Virtual)
Ada Clark, ECRC

Eric Christianson, ECRC
Vacari Dickerson, ECRC
Rae Emary, ECRC
Gary Kramer, ECRC
Leandra Meredith, ECRC
Tammy Neal, ECRC
Jill Nobles, ECRC
Jill Strickler, ECRC (Virtual)

Members Not Present:

Mayor Tracy Andrews, City of Chipley
Councilmember Jim Bagby, City of Destin
Commissioner Steven Barry, Escambia County
Mayor Bob Campbell, City of DeFuniak Springs
Kasey Cuchens, Governor Appointee
Commissioner Danny Glidewell, Walton County
Commissioner Trey Goodwin, Okaloosa County
Commissioner Jack Griffis, City of Springfield
Councilmember Casey Jones, City of Pensacola
Elizabeth Orr, FL Department of Environmental Protection
Commissioner Claire Pease, Bay County
Councilmember David Schmidt, City of Fort Walton Beach
Commissioner Earl Stafford, Holmes County
Commissioner Steven Stroberger, Escambia County

Call to Order

Chair Qualls called the meeting to order.

Call for Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

The prayer was led by Mayor JB Whitten, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call and Recognition of Virtual Members and Attendees

Chair Qualls welcomed those in attendance and introductions were made.

Kandase Lee, CEO ECRC recognized several partners to include representatives from the Florida Department of Transportation District 3, MPOAC, WGI, Inc., Kimley-Horn, HDR, Atkins Realis, DRMP, and MioVision and expressed appreciation for the strong partnership and ongoing collaboration with these organizations.

Public Forum:

Chair Qualls opened the Public Forum. With no speakers or comments from the public, Chair Qualls closed the public forum.

Information Items

Item 1: Introductions/Special Guests

Kandase Lee introduced special guest Curtis McBride, CEO of Miovision.

Curtis McBride provided an overview of Miovision's long-standing partnership with agencies in the Florida Panhandle, noting that in October 2015, the first six intersections were deployed in Escambia County and have now expanded to more than 600 Miovision-equipped intersections

across the state and 6,000 intersections that are deployed with some version of Miovision capabilities. The presentation highlighted the region's role as pioneer for testing and scaling new capabilities, including cloud-based emergency vehicle preemption, real-time traffic data, and safety analytics to assist in identifying near-misses to proactively address risk.

The Miovision team emphasized its open-data approach and partnerships with companies such as TomTom, Esri, Samsara, and Geotab to assist strengthening agency operations and provided examples of local projects in Pensacola, Santa Rosa County, and Bay County.

The team introduced "Mateo," an AI-enabled traffic engineering tool that allows agencies to interact with safety and mobility data with conversation to support Vision Zero and other safety objectives. The presentation concluded with an invitation to a demo ride in a vehicle where the intersection speaks directly to the vehicle.

Kandase Lee stated that while much of the current work is occurring within the Florida-Alabama TPO area, the Mateo system is available for access and use across the entire region, including Bay, Walton, and Okaloosa Counties. The goal is to support regional access and advance technology and innovation throughout Northwest Florida.

Item 2: ECRC Financial Follow Up Presentation

Dawn Schwartz, CFO, gave a brief presentation on the requested compilation from the past twenty (10-20) years of ECRC budgets demonstrating the Council's growth and financial strength to also include an overview of recent years' projects, noting their significant impact on the annual budget.

The presentation highlighted the largest growth began in the FY 2024-2025 and to-date, FY 2025-2026, which included the Regional Traffic Management Center (RTMC), and the Safe Streets 4 All (SS4A) Demonstration Grant.

Item 3: Transportation Alternative (TA) Program and the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP)

Jill Nobles, ECRC Planner, presented the Transportation Alternative (TA) Program and informed those in attendance of the upcoming public workshops. Discussion included those projects eligible for TA funding and limiting those submitted; only the top five (5) projects qualify for consideration. All TA applications need to be submitted in FDOT's GAP System no later than January 16, 2026.

Jill Nobles briefly explained each of the six (6) criteria for scoring purposes and ranking by the RRTP TAC Scoring Committee. A review workshop will be held in December 2025 and final rankings due to the ECRC Board for approval in April 2026.

Jill Nobles went on to present the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) application cycle for FDOT's next Tentative Work Program and informed those in attendance of upcoming public workshops. Discussion included the purpose of TRIP, the encouragement of regional planning by providing state matching funds for improvements, and those regional partners eligible for participation. All TRIP applications need to be submitted in FDOT's GAP System no later than January 16, 2026.

Each of the eight (8) criteria for scoring purposes and ranking by the RRTP TAC Scoring Committee for prioritization was discussed. A review workshop will be held in December 2026, and final rankings due to the ECRC Board for approval in April 2026.

Item 4: Safe Streets 4 All (SS4A) Annual Report

Jill Nobles explained that in December 2024, the regionwide SS4A (Safe Streets and Roads for All) Safety Action Plan was adopted. The plan identifies the high-injury network across the ECRC region and recommends specific countermeasures and project opportunities eligible for SS4A implementation funding to also include systemic improvements for locations not on the network but still needing safety upgrades.

An annual report detailing the 2023-2024 data on fatalities, serious injuries, vulnerable road users, and known safety projects, both on and off the high-injury network was provided by Staff with next year's report to encompass the 2024-2025 data.

Item 5: Intelligent Transportation Systems – Fiber Design LAP Update

Ada Clark, Community & Economic Development Director reported that the ITS Fiber Design RFP was released in October 2024 and received six (6) bids. The selection committee ranked the firms, and the top three will be invited to submit technical proposals within fourteen (14) days. Ms. Clark stated that after final ranking, the selected firm will be submitted to FDOT for approval and then brought to the ECRC Board for final approval. The design is expected to take approximately 180 days, after which the completed plans will be provided to Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties for construction of those improvements.

Item 6: FDOT Rural Work Program

Tanya Branton, Planning Specialist, FDOT gave a brief update highlighting the recent public hearing for the FY 2027-2031 Tentative Work Program that occurred October 16, 2025 and provided a reminder that the TA and TRIP application cycle is open, as well as the Local Programs application cycle is opening in December 2025.

Action Items:

Item 7: Approval of the September 22, 2025 Meeting Minutes and September 22, 2025 Executive Committee Summary

Chair Qualls asked for action on the September 22, 2025 meeting minutes and the September 22, 2025 Executive Committee Summary.

Mayor Whitten moved to approve the September 22, 2025 meeting minutes and September 22, 2025 Executive Committee Summary as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Sutton and was unanimously approved.

Item 8: Approval of August - September 2025 Financial Statements

Chair Qualls asked for action on the August - September 2025 financial statements.

Vice Chair Sutton moved to approve the August – September 2025 financial statements. The motion was seconded by Mayor Whitten and was unanimously approved.

Item 9: Approval of the Amended FY 2025-2026 Annual Budget & Work Program

Dawn Schwartz, CFO presented a budget and work program amendment for the current fiscal year (FY2025-2026) related to the FL-AL TPO. The amendment includes funding for the Escambia/Santa Rosa Coordinated Traffic Signal Operation funding within the FDOT FY 2027-2031 Tentative Work Program in the amount of \$1,000,000. She also reported that FDOT will discontinue the Commuter Assistance Program effective December 31, 2025, resulting in a reduction in FDOT CAP funds from \$230,000 to \$57,500 for the current fiscal year.

JD Smith moved to approve and adopt the amended FY 2025-2026 Annual Budget and Work Program.. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Schaetzle and was unanimously approved.

Item 10: Resolution ECRC 2025-09. Approval and Adoption of the 2022-2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Minor Update

Eric Christianson, Planner ECRC explained that the ECRC region was designated an Economic Development District (EDD) by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) and developing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) was a prerequisite for most EDA planning programs.

Eric Christianson highlighted projects throughout the community, workforce development, business development, and income per capita.

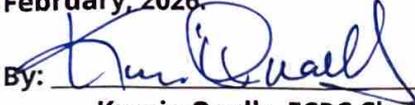
Kandase Lee emphasized the importance of close collaboration between local governments and staff. Noting staff is available to assist local governments in locating funding sources and navigating federal programs to help meet these community needs.

JD Smith moved to approve Resolution ECRC 2025-09, adopting the 2022-2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Minor Update. The motion was seconded by Mayor Lindsay and was unanimously approved.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:44am.

Duly passed and approved by the Emerald Coast Regional Council on this 18th day of February, 2026.

By:  _____
Kurvin Qualls, ECRC Chair

Date: 2/18/26