

Emerald Coast Regional Council Board Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 11:30 a.m.

**Chautauqua Building
95 Circle Drive, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435**

GoToWebinar:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9001643867434826837>

Call to Order – Kurvin Qualls, Chair

Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call and Recognition of Online Members – Kurvin Qualls, Chair

PUBLIC FORUM

ACTION ITEMS

1. Vice Chair Appointment

Kurvin Qualls, Chair ECRC

2. Approval of the December 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes

No Presentation

3. Approval of October - December 2024 Financial Statements

No Presentation

4. Approval of the Amended FY 2024-2025 Budget and Work Program

Kandase Lee, CEO ECRC

5. Membership Revision

Kandase Lee, CEO ECRC

6. Resolution 2025-01, Approval and Adoption of the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Applications FY 2027-2031 Project Priorities

Roshita Taylor, Planner ECRC

7. Resolution 2025-02, Approval and Adoption of the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Ranked Projects for FY 2027-2031

Roshita Taylor, Planner ECRC

8. Resolution 2025-03, Approval and Adoption of the Smart Regions Plan

Terry Shaw, Kimley-Horn

INFORMATION ITEMS

9. Review of RTMC Final Plans

Kandase Lee, CEO ECRC & Sierra Eades, Architect, WGI Inc.

10. RRTP Project Priorities

Gary Kramer, Transportation Planner ECRC

11. 2025 ECRC Board Meeting Schedule

Action Item

1

Agenda Item Number: 1

SUBJECT: Emerald Coast Regional Council Vice Chair Appointment/Confirmation

BACKGROUND: On January 27, 2025, Kasey Cuchens submitted a letter of resignation from the position of ECRC Chair.

The Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) adopted bylaws read:

There shall be a Board of Directors composed of all voting representatives who have been appointed by member local governments and the governor. The officers of the Board shall be the Chair and Vice Chair. The Chair and Vice Chair will be elected annually by the Board at the September meeting. Duties of the Chair and Vice Chair shall be as follows:

- 1. The Chair shall preside at the meetings of the Board. He/She will sign, as authorized by the Board, any contracts or other instruments exceeding \$150,000 which the Board deems to be in its best interest. He/She shall perform such other duties of the office as may be prescribed by the Board.*
- 2. The Vice Chair shall assist the Chair in performance of his/her duties, and either in the absence of the Chair or in the event of the Chair's inability or refusal to act, shall perform the duties of the Chair.*

As stated in the ECRC adopted bylaws along with *Robert's Rules of Order*, the Vice chair shall perform the duties of Chair and assume the chair position. As such, there is a vacancy in the vice chair position.

ATTACHED:

- Resignation Letter

RECOMMENDED ACTION: To appoint a board member to the Vice Chair position.

Kasey Cuchens
144 Horseshoe Lane
Freeport, FL 32439

Kandase Lee, CEO
Emerald Coast Regional Council
4081 E Olive Road Suite A
Pensacola, FL 32514

January 27, 2025

Dear Kandase,

Please accept my letter of resignation as Chairwoman of the Emerald Coast Regional Council effective today.

I look forward to continuing to serve on the Board and wish the new Chairman great success.

Sincerely,

Kasey Cuchens

Action Item

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Emerald Coast Regional Council

Meeting Minutes

Walton County Board of County Commission Chambers

76 N 6th Street

DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433

December 12, 2024, 11:00am



Members Present:

Karen "Kasey" Cuchens, Governor Appointee, Chair
Kurvin Qualls, Governor Appointee, Vice Chair
Councilmember Jim Bagby, City of Destin
Darryl Boudreau, NWFLWMD
Mayor Bob Campbell, City of DeFuniak Springs
Councilmember Paul Casto, City of Panama City Beach (Virtual)
Commissioner Doug Crosby, Bay County
Mayor Pam Henderson, City of Callaway
Mayor Heather Lindsay, City of Milton
Commissioner Claire Pease, Bay County
Councilmember Allison Patton, City of Pensacola
Councilmember Bill Schaetzle, City of Niceville
Mayor JB Schluter, City of Gulf Breeze (Virtual)
Commissioner Kerry Smith, Santa Rosa County (Virtual)
J.D. Smith, Governor Appointee
Councilmember April Sutton, City of Mary Esther
Commissioner Colten Wright, Santa Rosa County (Virtual)

Others Present:

Bruce Barnhart, (Virtual)
Charley Corren, Walton County
Anna Hudson, Walton County
Christy Johnson, FDOT
David Pettis, Jr., FDOT
Olen Pettis, FDOT
Lindsay Slautterback, Kimley Horn
Ashley Sukalaski, (Virtual)
Deston Taylor, DRMP
Cory Wilkinson, HDR
Kandase Lee, CEO, ECRC
Dawn Schwartz, CFO ECRC
Renee Quick, Human Resources/Administrative Director, ECRC (Virtual)
Ada Clark, Community and Economic Development Director, ECRC
Annie Arguello, Marketing & Outreach Director, ECRC
Eric Christianson, Planner, ECRC
Rae Emary, Marketing & Outreach Coordinator, ECRC
Gary Kramer, Planner, ECRC
Gabrielle McVoy, Administrative Professional, ECRC

Leandra Meredith, Marketing & Outreach Coordinator, ECRC
Tammy Neal, Executive Administrative Assistant, ECRC
Jill Nobles, Planner ECRC
Jill Strickler, Accountant, ECRC (Virtual)
Howard Vanselow, TD Coordinator, ECRC
Gina Watson, Executive Administrative Assistant, ECRC (Virtual)

Members Not Present:

Mayor Tracy Andrews, City of Chipley
Commissioner Steven Barry, Escambia County
Commissioner Nathan Boyles, Okaloosa County
Tanya Branton, FDOT
Commissioner Danny Glidewell, Walton County
Commissioner Jack Griffis, City of Springfield
Commissioner Ashley Hofberger, Escambia County
Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel, Okaloosa County
Elizabeth Orr, FL Department of Environmental Protection
Councilmember Allison Patton, City of Pensacola
Mayor Dick Ryneanson, City of Fort Walton Beach
Mayor Ann Sexton, City of Paxton
Commissioner Earl Stafford, Holmes County
Commissioner Josh Street, City of Panama City
Commissioner Judy Vandegrift, City of Lynn Haven
Mayor JB Whitten, City of Crestview

Call to Order

Chair Cuchens called the meeting to order.

Call for Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

The prayer was led by Vice Chair Qualls, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call and Recognition of Virtual Members and Attendees

Chair Cuchens welcomed those in attendance and introductions were made.

Public Forum:

Chair Cuchens opened the Public Forum.

With no comments, Chair Cuchens closed the Public Forum.

Consent Agenda

Item 1: Approval of the August 05, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Item 2: Approval of June – September 2024 Financial Statements

Kurvin Qualls moved to approve the consent agenda to include August 5, 2024 meeting minutes and June – September 2024 Financial Statements. The motion was seconded by J.D. Smith and was unanimously approved.

Action Items

OLD BUSINESS

Item 3: ECRC Procurement Policy Update

Dawn Schwartz, ECRC CFO, stated per a request by the ECRC Board, an extensive review of Florida Statute, Chapter 287 was completed in its entirety by Gary Huston, ECRC's Legal Counsel . In accordance with Florida Statute, Chapter 287, the recommended changes were integrated into the ECRC Procurement Policy presented for approval and adoption.

A summary of the major updates was requested.

Kandase Lee, ECRC CEO, provided an explanation of the major updates taken from Florida Statute, Chapter 287, as being: (1) a Conflict-of-Interest Policy outlining in significant detail the definition of a conflict of interest; (2) a statement of protection for subcontractors to include the Disqualification of Prospective Vendors and Contractors; and (3) No Consideration of a Supplier's Social, Political, or Ideological Interests.

Discussion ensued to include whether spending thresholds were updated.

Dawn Schwartz confirmed spending thresholds had not changed and remained at the board's approved limit.

Mayor Henderson moved to authorize the ECRC chair to sign Resolution ECRC 2024-13 adopting the ECRC Procurement Policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pease and was unanimously approved.

Item 4: August 05, 2024 Follow-Up Items

Chair Cuchens stated the completed annual performance evaluation of the CEO, and all documentation was presented for Board discussion and approval at the August 5, 2024 ECRC Board meeting. During the meeting, action was tabled on the following two issues, pending further review by legal counsel: (1) the CEO's earned annual leave, of which 166.25 hours would be forfeited at the end of the fiscal year, and (2) a negotiated Severance Package for the CEO

Chair Cuchens began discussion on the tabled items, stating that the Executive Committee needs to convene to review various options and to determine the most appropriate severance package. Chair Cuchens stated the final determination would be presented at an ECRC Board meeting during the first quarter of the new year. There was agreement by the board for staff to schedule a meeting of the Executive Committee for this purpose.

Chair Cuchens confirmed the Executive Committee meeting would be held in a virtual format, with only Executive Committee members participating in the discussion, further explaining that remaining ECRC Board members are welcome to attend as observers. Chair Cuchens encouraged all board members to attend and take notes in preparation for the next ECRC meeting should there be questions or concerns.

Chair Cuchens explained that at the August 5, 2024 board meeting the CEO's earned annual leave, which totals 166.25 hours that would be forfeited at the end of the fiscal year was addressed. Chair Cuchens further explained the item was tabled until further research detailing the number of ECRC staff with hours subject to forfeiture, along with the associated monetary amounts could be completed. Chair Cuchens stated it was determined that two (2) ECRC staff accrued earned

annual leave to be forfeited by the end of the fiscal year, September 30; Howard Vanselow with 6.36 hours, and Kandase Lee with 160.10 hours.

Commissioner Smith requested the monetary amount due the two staff members.

Dawn Schwartz, ECRC CFO, spoke to the amounts due, stating that with the additional tax liability the monetary amount equates to a rounded figure of \$18,806.

Chair Cuchens opened the floor for discussion.

Mayor Henderson moved to authorize monetary payments to Howard Vanselow for the 6.36 hours and Kandase Lee for the 160.10 hours earned annual leave forfeited for the FY 2023-2024. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Qualls and was unanimously approved.

A question was raised regarding whether this was a one-time event or if Human Resources (HR) would adopt a policy of payment for unused earned annual leave moving forward.

Renee Quick, ECRC Human Resources and Administrative Director explained the current ECRC Handbook policy allows 200 hours of earned annual leave be carried over to the next fiscal year with any unused earned annual leave in excess of 200 hours to be forfeited, and further stated that all ECRC staff are strongly encouraged to use their earned annual leave.

Discussion ensued of possible policy updates, to include unused earned annual leave carrying over to the earned sick leave category and to possibly develop a more specific earned annual leave policy designed for the staff with a separate component for the CEO.

As a result of the discussion, Chair Cuchens stated ideas for the earned annual leave policy update would also be addressed at the upcoming ECRC Executive Committee meeting.

Mayor Henderson moved to clarify that the approved monetary payout for Howard Vanselow and Kandase Lee is to be a one-time event and to encourage staff to utilize earned annual leave hours prior to the end of the fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Qualls and was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Item 5: Resolution ECRC 2024-09, Approval and Adoption of the MIRR

Eric Christianson, ECRC Planner, presented Resolution ECRC 2024-09, and asked for the board's acceptance of the Emerald Coast Military Installation Resilience Review.

Eric Christianson explained that the Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR) is a two-year effort funded by the Department of Defense Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation outlining strategies to safeguard military readiness and strengthen community resilience and further explained that the MIRR serves as a roadmap for strategic investments to protect Northwest Florida's military installations and drive economic growth.

As an implementation mechanism, the Emerald Coast Area Resilience Collaborative (ECARC), established across the ECRC region in 2021, and along with cities, counties, and state agencies, will help to implement and oversee the projects identified by the MIRR.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sutton moved to authorize the ECRC chair to sign Resolution ECRC 2024-09, accepting the Emerald Coast Military Installation Resilience Review. The motion was seconded by Mayor Henderson and was unanimously approved.

Item 6: Resolution ECRC 2024-10, Approval and Adoption of the 2022-2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Minor Update

Chair Cuchens asked Ada Clark, Community & Economic Development Director, ECRC to present.

Ada Clark 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.

Ada Clark highlighted projects throughout the community, workforce development, business development, and income per capita.

Vice Chair Qualls moved to authorize the ECRC chair to sign Resolution ECRC 2024-10, adopting the 2024 Annual Performance Report or the 2022-2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Minor Update. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Sutton and was unanimously approved.

Item 7: Resolution ECRC 2024-11, Commuter Assistance Supplemental Public Transit Agreement (PTGA)

Chair Cuchens introduced Annie Arguello, ECRC's new Marketing and Outreach Director, and asked her to present.

Annie Arguello explained that the Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) has managed a Commuter Assistance program, known as RideOn, in Northwest Florida since 1976, further explaining that the RideOn Program promotes practical and sustainable commuting options such as carpooling, vanpooling, and public transit. Through FDOT funding, ECRC is able to maintain current services while exploring avenues for improvement through enhanced outreach, new ride matching technology, and strengthening community partnerships.

J D Smith moved to adopt Resolution ECRC 2024-11, authorizing the ECRC Chief Executive Officer to sign and execute the new Public Transit Grant Agreement (PTGA) with the Florida Department of Transportation on behalf of Emerald Coast Regional Council, funding the Commuter Assistance Program, known as RideOn, for Calendar Year (CY) 2025. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Sutton and was unanimously approved.

Item 8: Resolution ECRC 2024-12, Adoption of the SS4A Safety Action Plan

Chair Cuchens asked Jill Nobles, ECRC Transportation Planner, to present.

Jill Nobles presented the background information on the U.S. Department of Transportation Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant and introduced consultant, Lindsay Slautterback, Kimley-Horn, to provide more information.

Lindsay Slautterback provided a brief overview of the SS4A federal program awarding ECRC funding to develop a Safety Action Plan. The Safety Action Plan will assist the ECRC and TPO regions in achieving the target of zero fatalities and serious injuries.

Vice Chair Qualls moved authorize the ECRC chair to sign Resolution ECRC 2024-12, adopting the Emerald Coast Safety Action Plan and authorizing the ECRC chair to sign a letter of support for the Emerald Coast Safety Action Plan. The motion was seconded by Mayor Henderson and was unanimously approved.

Item 9: Approval of the SS4A Planning and Demonstration Grant Agreement

Chair Cuchens asked Kandase Lee, ECRC CEO, to present.

Kandase Lee stated having received the original Safety Action Plan grant allowed ECRC the eligibility to apply for demonstration and implementation grant dollars. On September 5, 2024, ECRC was awarded a \$10 million grant from USDOT as part of the National Roadway Safety Strategy to reduce traffic fatalities. Kandase Lee further stated that as a recipient of the SS4A Planning and Demonstration grant, ECRC, in partnership with Escambia County, would deploy innovative technology improvements and evaluate the safety impact of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) improvements on two of Pensacola's highest crash segments, Fairfield Drive and Pensacola Boulevard.

Kandase Lee asked for board approval to begin negotiating a grant agreement with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and to allow a selection committee to be appointed for any Request For Proposals (RFPs) that may be needed for this project.

Councilmember Bagby moved to adopt Resolution ECRC 2024-14, authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to execute a contract between ECRC and the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the completion of the Fiscal Year 2024 Safe Streets and Roads for All Planning and Demonstration grant program, and appointment of a Selection Committee for any and all Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for this project. The motion was seconded by J D Smith and was unanimously approved.

Council member Bagby asked if the Selection Committee had been formed and if so, who were the members.

Kandase Lee responded that the five (5) member committee had been formed and consisted of:

- Don Christianson – Escambia County, Traffic Engineer
- Gary Kramer – ECRC, Transportation Planner
- Wendy Gavin – City of Pensacola
- Tommy Leiter – Escambia County Sheriff's Office
- Deston Taylor - DRMP

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 10: Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Application Process

Jill Nobles, ECRC Transportation Planner, presented the Transportation Alternatives (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 17, 2025.

Jill Nobles 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 February 2025, and final rankings due to the ECRC Board for approval in April 2025.

Item 11: Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Application Cycle

Jill Nobles, ECRC Transportation Planner, presented 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 17, 2025.

Jill Nobles explained each of the eight (8) criteria for scoring purposes and ranking by the RRTP TAC Scoring Committee for prioritization. A review workshop will be held in February 2025, and final rankings due to the ECRC Board for approval in April 2025.

Item 12: 7-Layer Cake Update

Kandase Lee, CEO ECRC provided an update on various aspects of the 7-Layer Cake initiative and the comprehensive approach being taken to address all layers, as well as the numerous wards received throughout the year.

Kandase Lee stated ECRC was wrapping up a stellar year and thanked Board members for their engagement efforts, support, and allowing staff to proceed with the many projects that will ultimately provide change and impact lives in Northwest Florida.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:49pm.

Action Item

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EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
Balance Sheet - Unposted Transactions Included In Report
As of 10/31/2024

	<u>Current Year</u>
Assets	
Current Assets	
Operating Cash	2,135,258.76
Operating Reserves	853,925.75
Accounts Receivable	<u>1,522,373.14</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>4,511,557.65</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>4,511,557.65</u></u>
Liabilities	
Short-term Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	293,821.99
Deferred Revenue	<u>291,735.90</u>
Total Short-term Liabilities	<u>585,557.89</u>
Total Liabilities	<u><u>585,557.89</u></u>
Net Assets	
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	<u>3,634,352.33</u>
Total Net Assets	3,634,352.33
Current YTD Net Income	<u>291,647.43</u>
Total Net Assets	<u><u>3,925,999.76</u></u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>4,511,557.65</u></u>

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - Unposted Transactions Included In Report
From 10/1/2024 Through 10/31/2024

	YTD Budget - Original	Current Period Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget Variance
PROJECT REVENUES				
Project Revenues	5,893,839.00	259,655.76	259,655.76	(5,634,183.24)
Project Fringe Reimbursement	0.00	258,440.72	258,440.72	258,440.72
Total PROJECT REVENUES	5,893,839.00	518,096.48	518,096.48	(5,375,742.52)
ADMIN REVENUE				
ECRC Membership Dues	156,781.00	0.00	0.00	(156,781.00)
Local Contribution	39,306.00	0.00	0.00	(39,306.00)
Ind Exp Reimb	395,373.00	22,680.72	22,680.72	(372,692.28)
Interest and Misc Income	0.00	7,724.28	7,724.28	7,724.28
Total ADMIN REVENUE	591,460.00	30,405.00	30,405.00	(561,055.00)
PROJECT EXPENSES				
Salaries & Fringe	2,906,453.00	199,522.40	199,522.40	2,706,930.60
Indirect Costs	395,373.00	22,680.72	22,680.72	372,692.28
Travel	50,000.00	1,229.08	1,229.08	48,770.92
Other Direct Expenses	2,670,483.00	33,480.92	33,480.92	2,637,002.08
Total PROJECT EXPENSES	6,022,309.00	256,913.12	256,913.12	5,765,395.88
ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING EXPENSES				
Administrative: Salaries & Fringe	207,034.00	(6,735.21)	(6,735.21)	213,769.21
Operating: Audit & Legal Fees	6,500.00	0.00	0.00	6,500.00
Operating: Current Accounting Fees	1,800.00	96.54	96.54	1,703.46
Operating: Education	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
Operating: Expend/Debt Ser/Cap Lease	540.00	0.00	0.00	540.00
Operating: General Insurance	2,250.00	325.25	325.25	1,924.75
Operating: Memberships & Subscriptions	5,530.00	1,719.56	1,719.56	3,810.44
Operating: Office Expense	12,315.00	810.49	810.49	11,504.51
Operating: Personnel Training	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
Operating: Postage	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Operating: Professional Services	8,280.00	0.00	0.00	8,280.00
Operating: Purchase of Equipment	6,160.00	0.00	0.00	6,160.00
Operating: Rent	9,700.00	1,580.98	1,580.98	8,119.02
Operating: Telephone	2,800.00	201.42	201.42	2,598.58
Operating: Travel - Admin	24,000.00	(8.10)	(8.10)	24,008.10
Operating: Travel - Council & Committee	6,000.00	0.00	0.00	6,000.00
Operating: Utilities	300.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
Total ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING EXPENSES	306,209.00	(2,009.07)	(2,009.07)	308,218.07
COUNCIL EXPENSES				
Council Expenses	156,781.00	1,950.00	1,950.00	154,831.00
Total COUNCIL EXPENSES	156,781.00	1,950.00	1,950.00	154,831.00
NET INCOME	0.00	291,647.43	291,647.43	291,647.43

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
Balance Sheet - Unposted Transactions Included In Report
As of 11/30/2024

	<u>Current Year</u>
Assets	
Current Assets	
Operating Cash	2,322,151.68
Operating Reserves	853,925.75
Accounts Receivable	<u>1,270,262.84</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>4,446,340.27</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>4,446,340.27</u></u>
Liabilities	
Short-term Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	36,863.26
Deferred Revenue	<u>278,091.17</u>
Total Short-term Liabilities	<u>314,954.43</u>
Total Liabilities	<u><u>314,954.43</u></u>
Net Assets	
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	<u>3,634,352.33</u>
Total Net Assets	3,634,352.33
Current YTD Net Income	<u>497,033.51</u>
Total Net Assets	<u><u>4,131,385.84</u></u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>4,446,340.27</u></u>

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - Unposted Transactions Included In Report
From 11/1/2024 Through 11/30/2024

	YTD Budget - Original	Current Period Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget Variance
PROJECT REVENUES				
Project Revenues	5,893,839.00	269,129.72	528,785.48	(5,365,053.52)
Project Fringe Reimbursement	0.00	9,666.39	268,107.11	268,107.11
Total PROJECT REVENUES	5,893,839.00	278,796.11	796,892.59	(5,096,946.41)
ADMIN REVENUE				
ECRC Membership Dues	156,781.00	156,781.00	156,781.00	0.00
Local Contribution	39,306.00	39,264.00	39,264.00	(42.00)
Ind Exp Reimb	395,373.00	24,216.37	46,897.09	(348,475.91)
Interest and Misc Income	0.00	7,621.61	15,345.89	15,345.89
Total ADMIN REVENUE	591,460.00	227,882.98	258,287.98	(333,172.02)
PROJECT EXPENSES				
Salaries & Fringe	2,906,453.00	213,747.34	413,269.74	2,493,183.26
Indirect Costs	395,373.00	24,216.37	46,897.09	348,475.91
Travel	50,000.00	3,389.57	4,618.65	45,381.35
Other Direct Expenses	2,670,483.00	34,048.06	67,528.98	2,602,954.02
Total PROJECT EXPENSES	6,022,309.00	275,401.34	532,314.46	5,489,994.54
ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING EXPENSES				
Administrative: Salaries & Fringe	207,034.00	10,313.05	3,577.84	203,456.16
Operating: Audit & Legal Fees	6,500.00	236.25	236.25	6,263.75
Operating: Current Accounting Fees	1,800.00	150.72	247.26	1,552.74
Operating: Education	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
Operating: Expend/Debt Ser/Cap Lease	540.00	44.60	44.60	495.40
Operating: General Insurance	2,250.00	102.90	428.15	1,821.85
Operating: Memberships & Subscriptions	5,530.00	1,658.45	3,378.01	2,151.99
Operating: Office Expense	12,315.00	1,130.42	1,940.91	10,374.09
Operating: Personnel Training	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
Operating: Postage	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Operating: Professional Services	8,280.00	610.40	610.40	7,669.60
Operating: Purchase of Equipment	6,160.00	137.76	137.76	6,022.24
Operating: Rent	9,700.00	790.49	2,371.47	7,328.53
Operating: Telephone	2,800.00	223.58	425.00	2,375.00
Operating: Travel - Admin	24,000.00	3,061.10	3,053.00	20,947.00
Operating: Travel - Council & Committee	6,000.00	0.00	0.00	6,000.00
Operating: Utilities	300.00	16.70	16.70	283.30
Total ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING EXPENSES	306,209.00	18,476.42	16,467.35	289,741.65
COUNCIL EXPENSES				
Council Expenses	156,781.00	7,415.25	9,365.25	147,415.75
Total COUNCIL EXPENSES	156,781.00	7,415.25	9,365.25	147,415.75
NET INCOME	0.00	205,386.08	497,033.51	497,033.51

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
Balance Sheet - Unposted Transactions Included In Report
As of 12/31/2024

	<u>Current Year</u>
Assets	
Current Assets	
Operating Cash	2,236,118.70
Operating Reserves	853,925.75
Accounts Receivable	<u>1,181,932.47</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>4,271,976.92</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>4,271,976.92</u></u>
Liabilities	
Short-term Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	17,464.69
Deferred Revenue	<u>279,924.58</u>
Total Short-term Liabilities	<u>297,389.27</u>
Total Liabilities	<u><u>297,389.27</u></u>
Net Assets	
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	<u>3,634,352.33</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>3,634,352.33</u>
Current YTD Net Income	<u>340,235.32</u>
Total Net Assets	<u><u>3,974,587.65</u></u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>4,271,976.92</u></u>

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - Unposted Transactions Included In Report
From 12/1/2024 Through 12/31/2024

	YTD Budget - Original	Current Period Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget Variance
PROJECT REVENUES				
Project Revenues	5,893,839.00	465,507.95	994,293.43	(4,899,545.57)
Project Fringe Reimbursement	0.00	(145,575.38)	122,531.73	122,531.73
Total PROJECT REVENUES	5,893,839.00	319,932.57	1,116,825.16	(4,777,013.84)
ADMIN REVENUE				
ECRC Membership Dues	156,781.00	0.00	156,781.00	0.00
Local Contribution	39,306.00	0.00	39,264.00	(42.00)
Ind Exp Reimb	395,373.00	21,696.52	68,593.61	(326,779.39)
Interest and Misc Income	0.00	8,433.57	23,779.46	23,779.46
Total ADMIN REVENUE	591,460.00	30,130.09	288,418.07	(303,041.93)
PROJECT EXPENSES				
Salaries & Fringe	2,906,453.00	184,596.76	597,866.50	2,308,586.50
Indirect Costs	395,373.00	21,696.52	68,593.61	326,779.39
Travel	50,000.00	4,981.28	9,599.93	40,400.07
Other Direct Expenses	2,670,483.00	259,722.06	327,251.04	2,343,231.96
Total PROJECT EXPENSES	6,022,309.00	470,996.62	1,003,311.08	5,018,997.92
ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING EXPENSES				
Administrative: Salaries & Fringe	207,034.00	19,000.18	22,578.02	184,455.98
Operating: Audit & Legal Fees	6,500.00	525.00	761.25	5,738.75
Operating: Current Accounting Fees	1,800.00	190.77	438.03	1,361.97
Operating: Education	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
Operating: Expend/Debt Ser/Cap Lease	540.00	44.60	89.20	450.80
Operating: General Insurance	2,250.00	377.75	805.90	1,444.10
Operating: Memberships & Subscriptions	5,530.00	371.50	3,749.51	1,780.49
Operating: Office Expense	12,315.00	748.61	2,689.52	9,625.48
Operating: Personnel Training	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
Operating: Postage	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Operating: Professional Services	8,280.00	594.30	1,204.70	7,075.30
Operating: Purchase of Equipment	6,160.00	214.11	351.87	5,808.13
Operating: Rent	9,700.00	809.22	3,180.69	6,519.31
Operating: Telephone	2,800.00	232.18	657.18	2,142.82
Operating: Travel - Admin	24,000.00	93.17	3,146.17	20,853.83
Operating: Travel - Council & Committee	6,000.00	0.00	0.00	6,000.00
Operating: Utilities	300.00	26.75	43.45	256.55
Total ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING EXPENSES	306,209.00	23,228.14	39,695.49	266,513.51
COUNCIL EXPENSES				
Council Expenses	156,781.00	12,636.09	22,001.34	134,779.66
Total COUNCIL EXPENSES	156,781.00	12,636.09	22,001.34	134,779.66
NET INCOME	0.00	(156,798.19)	340,235.32	340,235.32

Action Item

4



Agenda Item Number: 4

SUBJECT: Consideration of the Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025

BACKGROUND: According to the ECRC adopted bylaws, approval of the working budget is to be held during the month of September for the upcoming fiscal year, beginning October 1, 2024.

Staff has identified three additional funding sources for addition to the current Adopted Budget and Work Program:

- ATMS Fiber Design LAP Funding - \$179,000
- ATMS - \$700,000

ATTACHED:

- Draft Amended ECRC Budget and Work Program, October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

RECOMMENDED ACTION: A motion to adopt the amended Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) FY2024-2025 Budget and Work Program.



Annual Budget

October 1, 2024 —September 30, 2025

Adopted: August 5, 2024

Amended: February 19, 2025 (Draft)



EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025
REVENUE SOURCES

	FY24-25
<u>FEDERAL</u>	
ATMS Fiber Design LAP	179,000
Economic Development Administration (Planning)	90,000
Federal Transit Admin-FL AL TPO	90,000
FDOT Long Range Transportation Plans	485,000
Gulf of Mex Alliance/NOAA/FL Housing Coalition	10,643
Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning	56,675
JARC/NF 5316/5317	10,000
Military Installation Resilience Review	70,000
Regional Rural Transportation Plan	75,000
Regional Traffic Management Center	153,951
Safe Streets for All Grant	200,000
USDOT FL AL TPO-CPG	1,165,782
USDOT OW TPO-CPG	595,952
USDOT BAY TPO-CPG	647,919
USDOT FL AL TPO SU	729,324
USDOT OW TPO SU - Bike/Ped Plan	200,001
USDOT OW TPO CMAQ - Corridor Study	60,000
USDOT BAY TPO CMAQ - Bike/Ped Plan	190,000
USDOT ALDOT	37,178
Total	<u>5,046,425</u>
<u>STATE</u>	
FDEM Hazardous Materials Emergency Analysis	3,122
FDEM Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC)	77,000
FDOT ATMS	1,100,000
FDOT Commuter Assistance	225,000
FL Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged	178,108
FL Dept of Commerce - IGSA/FLDTF	150,000
SHIP Housing Admin (Holmes, Walton, Washington)	137,186
Total	<u>1,870,416</u>
<u>LOCAL</u>	
AL-Baldwin County	9,295
Escambia & Santa Rosa County Summer Traffic Monitoring	58,100
Hazardous Waste Verification-SQG	53,800
Okaloosa County Transit Cooperative	16,000
Port of Panama City	30,000
Safe Streets for All	40,000
DCIP - Whiting Grant Writing	30,000
Town of Century Planning Service	9,000
Walton/Okaloosa/Regional Utility Authority	5,176
TPO Member Contribution	39,306
ECRC-Membership Dues	156,781
Total	<u>447,458</u>
Total Revenue	<u><u>\$ 7,364,299</u></u>

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025
EXPENDITURES

	FY24-25
Salaries and Fringe	3,133,487
Building Rent	97,000
Equipment Purchase/Maint/Depreciation	7,095
Events	-
General Insurance	22,500
Office Expense	
Minor Equipment & Leases	67,000
Office Supplies & Maintenance	22,200
Printing/Copies/Postage	3,500
Professional Services	
IT Services	82,800
Audit/Legal	65,000
Program Development	75,000
Software Maintenance/Subscriptions	73,300
Telephone and Utilities	31,000
Travel	92,500
Total	<u>3,772,382</u>
Direct Contract Expenses / Consultants	<u>\$ 3,591,917</u>
Total Expenditures	<u><u>\$ 7,364,299</u></u>

Action Item

5

Agenda Item Number: 5

SUBJECT: Consideration of Annual Membership Fee Revision

BACKGROUND: For many years, the ECRC has looked to engage with the rural communities of NWFL and seek their participation. This engagement is important for both the ECRC and the towns, to participate in the many beneficial programs the ECRC offers. For the smallest of the towns the current membership fee is \$250. This can be a large amount in a fiscally constrained budget. Every year, the ECRC “wipes off” roughly 10 memberships for towns/villages under 1000 in population who are unable to make this membership. While the overall fee itself is negligible, the opportunities to connect with rural communities is of greater value to the ECRC.

The ECRC Chair is requesting the board to approve modifying its membership structure to allow for any village/town under the population of 1000 persons to have a no-cost membership with the ECRC to encourage participation, and to reimburse the three towns that have paid current memberships.

Current Cities/Towns with a population under 1000:

- Caryville
- Cinco Bayou
- Ebro
- Esto
- Jay – Paid current FY
- Laurel Hill – Paid current FY
- Noma
- Paxton – Paid current FY
- Ponce de Leon
- Shalimar
- Vernon
- Wausau
- Westville

RECOMMENDED ACTION: A motion to modify the ECRC membership rates for towns/villages with populations 1000 citizens, and to reimburse the town of Jay, Laurel Hill, and Paxton their current memberships. If further information is needed, please contact Kandase Lee at kandase.lee@ecrc.org, or (850) 332-7976, ext. 201.

Action Item

6

Agenda Item Number: 6

SUBJECT: Consideration of Resolution 2025-01 Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Application FY 2027-2031 Project Priorities

BACKGROUND: ECRC is the designated Regional Transportation Area to serve the regional needs of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Washington, and Holmes counties. ECRC receives applications for TRIP projects and prioritizes them for submission to the FDOT when funds are available. Only projects on the regional network for the seven counties qualify for these funds through the ECRC.

Three (3) TRIP applications were submitted. Projects are listed in alphabetical order by local jurisdiction:

- Bay County – Pipeline Road Extension – Country Lake Drive to Nehi Road
The proposed project is described by the applicant as accomplishing the following:

The proposed project includes the design, construction, and construction engineering and inspection (CEI), of the Pipeline Road extension project. Work is to include, but not be limited to, the preparation of plans, specifications, and estimate package as a precursor to the advertisement and award of the eventual roadway construction project that will extend from just west of Amanda Circle on Country Lake Dr to Nehi Rd via Rainforest Rd and Henderson Rd (the latter two of which are existing dirt roadways). Upon completion, the project will result in a new two-lane asphalt roadway with paved shoulders in accordance with prevailing FDOT standards and specifications.

The project will improve regional mobility within the Regional Transportation Area (RTA) by constructing a connector (essentially a bypass) between two significant collector roadways (Pipeline Road and Nehi Road), both of which intersect the major arterial roadway of SR 75 (US 231). The project will enhance the movement of persons, goods, and services along the overall roadway network by providing additional roadway network capacity and will also provide for an alternate route and reduced travel times by emergency vehicles when necessary.

- Okaloosa County – Around the Mound Design
The proposed project is described by the applicant as accomplishing the following:

Design the preferred alternative identified by the Around the Mound PD&E Study (Financial Project Identification Number: 220260-3-22-01)

The purpose of this project is to address existing and future vehicular capacity and safety issues on US 98 as well as the high volumes of regional and commuter traffic traveling through downtown Fort Walton Beach. This project is needed to increase the capacity of US 98 to accommodate current and future traffic and to reduce regional and commuter traffic through downtown Fort Walton Beach.

- Washington County – Greenhead Road Phase 1

The proposed project is described by the applicant as accomplishing the following:

The Washington County Board of County Commissioners desires to construct a new asphalt roadway on the currently graded Greenhead Road from SR 77 to Shaffer Dr. for a total project length of 1.25 miles. Greenhead Road is a major feeder road that traverses between SR 77 and Porter Pond Road in Washington County and provides access to the Econfina Creek Water Management Area. The existing right-of-way from the Washington County Property Appraisers website measures approximate 65'. The scope of services for Greenhead Road will include construction and construction engineering and inspection constructing a new asphalt roadway with two 11' travel lanes and 8' wide grassed shoulders. The proposed project will include drainage improvements.

The funding will be used to pave the beginning portion of Greenhead Road from SR-77 to Shaffer Drive. The paving of Greenhead Road will help divert traffic from Highway 20 to Highway 77 S Washington County. This will help cut the extra drive time and eliminate going into Bay County on North 77.

Final 2025 TRIP applications and project evaluation worksheets may be found under the Transportation Alternatives dropdown menu at:

https://www.ecrc.org/programs/transportation_planning/northwest_florida_regional_tpo/plans_and_documents.php#outer-708

ECRC Submittal: Following action by the ECRC, the final priority ranking is due to FDOT on April 25, 2025. ECRC staff will submit the final ranking from the ECRC to FDOT.

Attached:

- Resolution ECRC 2025-01
- Project Scores and Ranking
- Project Locations Maps

RECOMMENDED ACTION: A motion authorizing the ECRC chair to sign Resolution ECRC 2025-01, approving the ranking of the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) applications for the FY 2027-2031 Project Priorities. Please contact Roshita Taylor, ECRC staff, at roshita.taylor@ecrc.org if additional information is needed.

RESOLUTION ECRC 2025-01
A RESOLUTION OF THE EMERALD COAST REGIONAL
COUNCIL APPROVING THE RANKING OF TRANSPORTATION
REGIONAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM (TRIP) APPLICATIONS FOR
THE FISCAL YEAR 2027-2031 PROJECT PRIORITIES

WHEREAS; ECRC is the designated Regional Transportation Area to serve the regional needs of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Washington, and Holmes counties; and

WHEREAS; Section 339.2819, *Florida Statutes*, creates within the Department of Transportation a Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) for the purpose of providing funds to improve regionally significant transportation facilities in regional transportation areas created pursuant to Section 339.155(5), *Florida Statutes*; and

WHEREAS; the ECRC must contain a prioritized list of regionally significant projects; and

WHEREAS; the TRIP scoring criteria serves to assist in the review and selection of regionally significant projects;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Emerald Coast Regional Council that:

The Emerald Coast Regional Council approves the TRIP application ranking for the FY 2027-2031 Project Priorities and directs staff to provide the applications and priority ranking to the Florida Department of Transportation.

Duly passed and adopted by the Emerald Coast Regional Council on this 19th day of February 2025.

BY: _____
Kurvin Qualls, Chair

ATTEST: _____
Kandase Lee, ECRC Chief Executive Officer

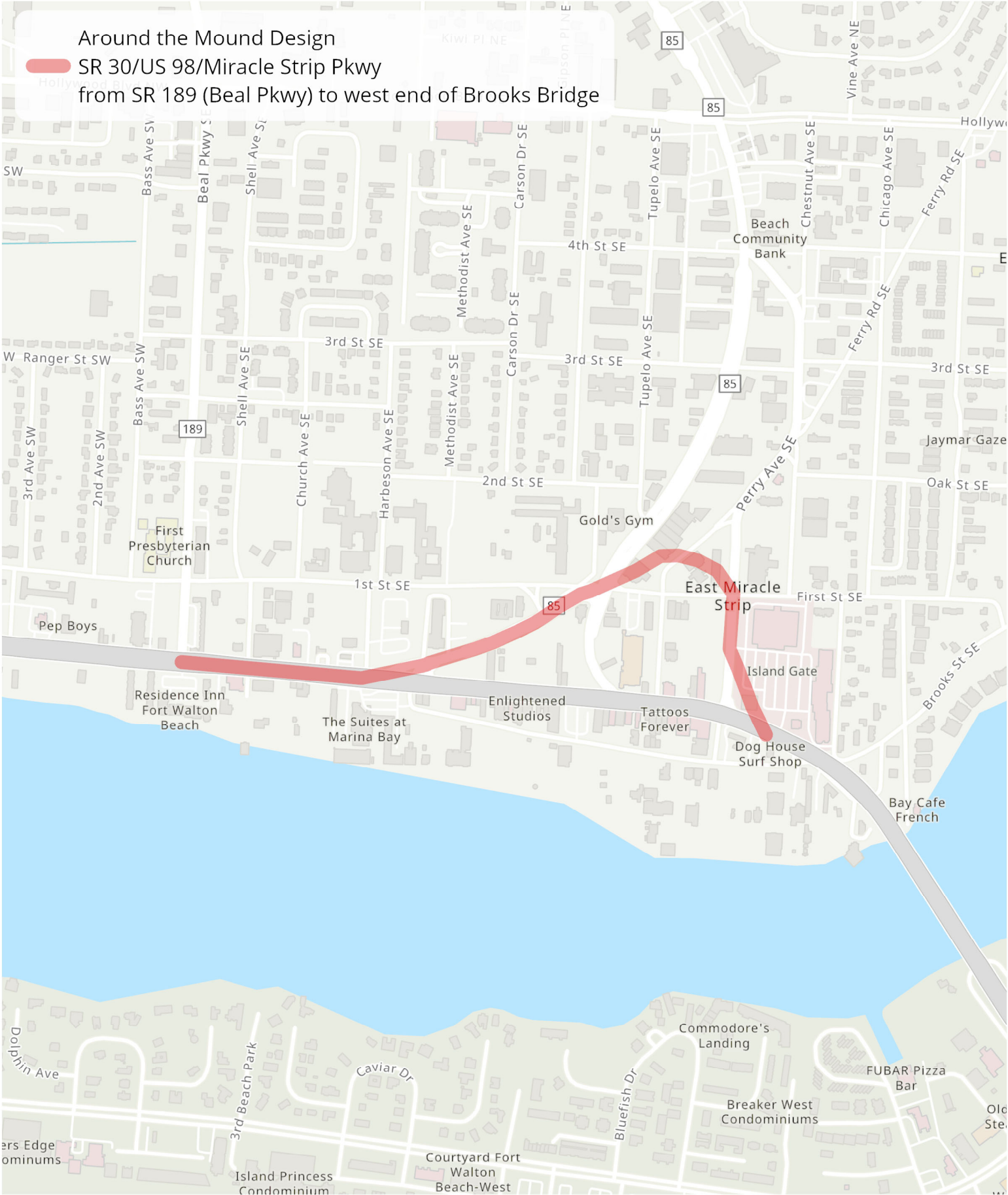




FY 2027-2031 TRIP Priority List

Project Sponsor	Project Name	Points Awarded from Criteria	Priority Ranking
Okaloosa County	<i>Around the Mound Design</i>	13	1
Bay County	<i>Pipeline Road Extension</i>	10	2
Washington County	<i>Greenhead Road</i>	6	3

TRIP Application - Okaloosa County



Around the Mound Design

SR 30/US 98/Miracle Strip Pkwy
from SR 189 (Beal Pkwy) to west end of Brooks Bridge

0 0.13 0.25 0.5 Mile



TRIP Application - Washington County



Action Item

7

Agenda Item Number: 7

SUBJECT: Consideration of Resolution ECRC 2025-02 - Adoption of the 2025 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Ranked Projects for FDOT District 3 Fiscal Year 2027 – 2031 Tentative Work Program

BACKGROUND: The Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside provides funding for programs and projects consistent with Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act under 23 U.S.C. 133(h). These set-aside funds include all projects and activities defined as TA: on - and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation, community improvement activities, environmental mitigation, and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of formerly divided highways.

FDOT Guidance: FDOT District 3 issued guidance on the 2025 TA Set-Aside cycle for the Fiscal Year 2027 – 2031 Tentative Work Program on November 1, 2024. The guidance specified ECRC may submit up to five (5) prioritized projects from the ECRC rural area.

The following four projects submitted will be ranked and submitted to FDOT:

- City of Bonifay – SR 79 Shared-Use Path (from Thomas Drive to US 90)
- City of Century – Complete Streets Master Plan
- City of Century – Freedom Road Safety Enhancement Project (from 700 Freedom Road to 742 Freedom Road)
- Walton County – Lake Jackson Multi-Use Path Phase 2 (along Lake Drive and Lake Road to SR 85)

Final 2025 TA applications and project evaluation worksheets may be found under the Transportation Alternatives dropdown menu at:

https://www.ecrc.org/programs/transportation_planning/northwest_florida_regional_tpo/plans_and_documents.php#outer-708

ECRC Submittal: Following action by the ECRC, final priority ranking is due to FDOT on April 25, 2025. ECRC staff will submit the final ranking from the TPO to FDOT.

ATTACHED:

- Resolution ECRC 2025-02
 - Project Scores and Ranking
-

- Project Locations Maps

RECOMMENDED ACTION: A motion authorizing the ECRC chair to sign Resolution ECRC 2025-02, adopting the 2025 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-aside ranked projects for FY 2027-2031 Tentative Work Program. If additional information is needed, please contact Roshita Taylor, ECRC staff, at 850-332-7976 ext. 207, or roshita.taylor@ecrc.org.

RESOLUTION ECRC 2025-02
A RESOLUTION OF THE EMERALD COAST REGIONAL
COUNCIL ADOPTING THE 2025 TRANSPORTATION
ALTERNATIVES SET ASIDE PROJECT RANKING FOR
THE FY 2027-2031 FDOT TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM

WHEREAS, ECRC is the designated Regional Transportation Area to serve the regional needs of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Washington, and Holmes counties; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program is consistent with Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act under 23 U.S.C. 133(h); and

WHEREAS, the TA Program provides funding for projects in the following areas: on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation, community improvement activities, environmental mitigation and projects for planning, designing or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of formerly divided highways; and

WHEREAS, according to 23 U.S.C. 213(c)(5), each RTPO is required to select TA Set-aside projects through a competitive process in consultation with the state; and

WHEREAS, the ECRC has established and accepted scoring criteria to rank projects in a competitive process; and

WHEREAS, each local jurisdiction with representation on the ECRC board was limited to five project submittals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Emerald Coast Regional Council that.
The 2025 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside project ranking is hereby adopted.

Duly passed and adopted by the Emerald Coast Regional Council on this 19th day of February 2025.

EMERALD COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

BY: _____

Kurvin Qualls, Chair

ATTEST: _____

Kandase Lee, ECRC Chief Executive Officer





**FY 2027-2031 Rural Transportation Alternatives (TA)
Set-Aside Program Priority List**

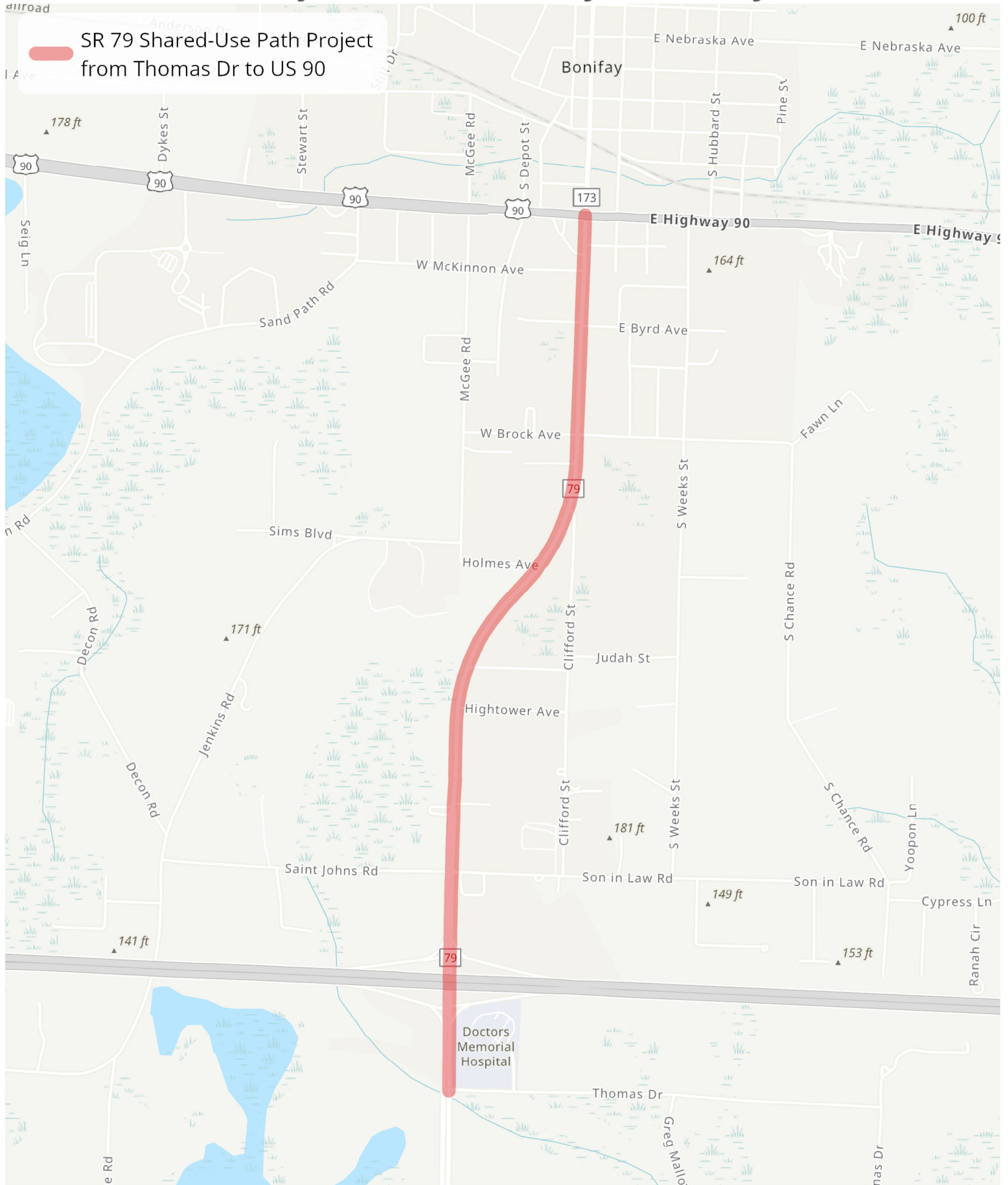
Jurisdiction (Alphabetical)	Project	Requested \$	Applicant Score	Final Score
Town of Century	Town of Century Complete Streets Master Plan	Preliminary Engineering/ Design, Construction, CEI, Other \$125,000	4	4
Town of Century	Freedom Ave	Preliminary Engineering/ Design, Construction, CEI, Other \$1,500,000	4	4
Walton County	Lake Jackson Multi-Use Path Ph. 2	Preliminary Engineering Design \$286,000	5	5
City of Bonifay	State Rd 79 Waukesha St. Shared Use Path	All Phases except ROW \$2.8 million	5	5

Top Ranked TA Projects to Submit to FDOT

Lake Jackson Multi-Use Path Ph. 2	*1
State Rd. 79 Waukesha St.	2
Town of Century Complete Streets Master Plan	*3
Freedom Ave	4

** In the event there is a tie in scoring the lowest cost project will take priority.*

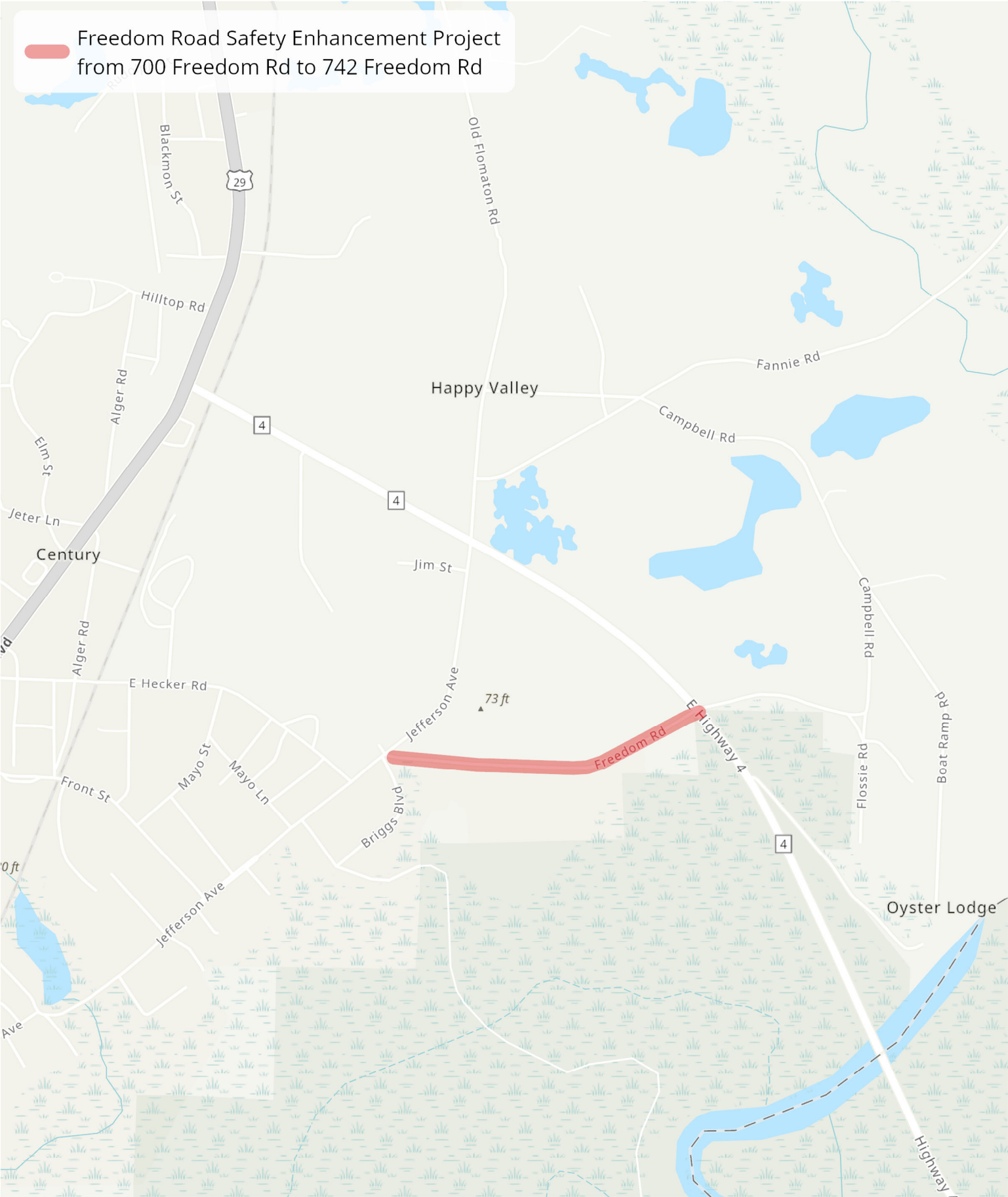
Rural Area - TA Project Locations - City of Bonifay



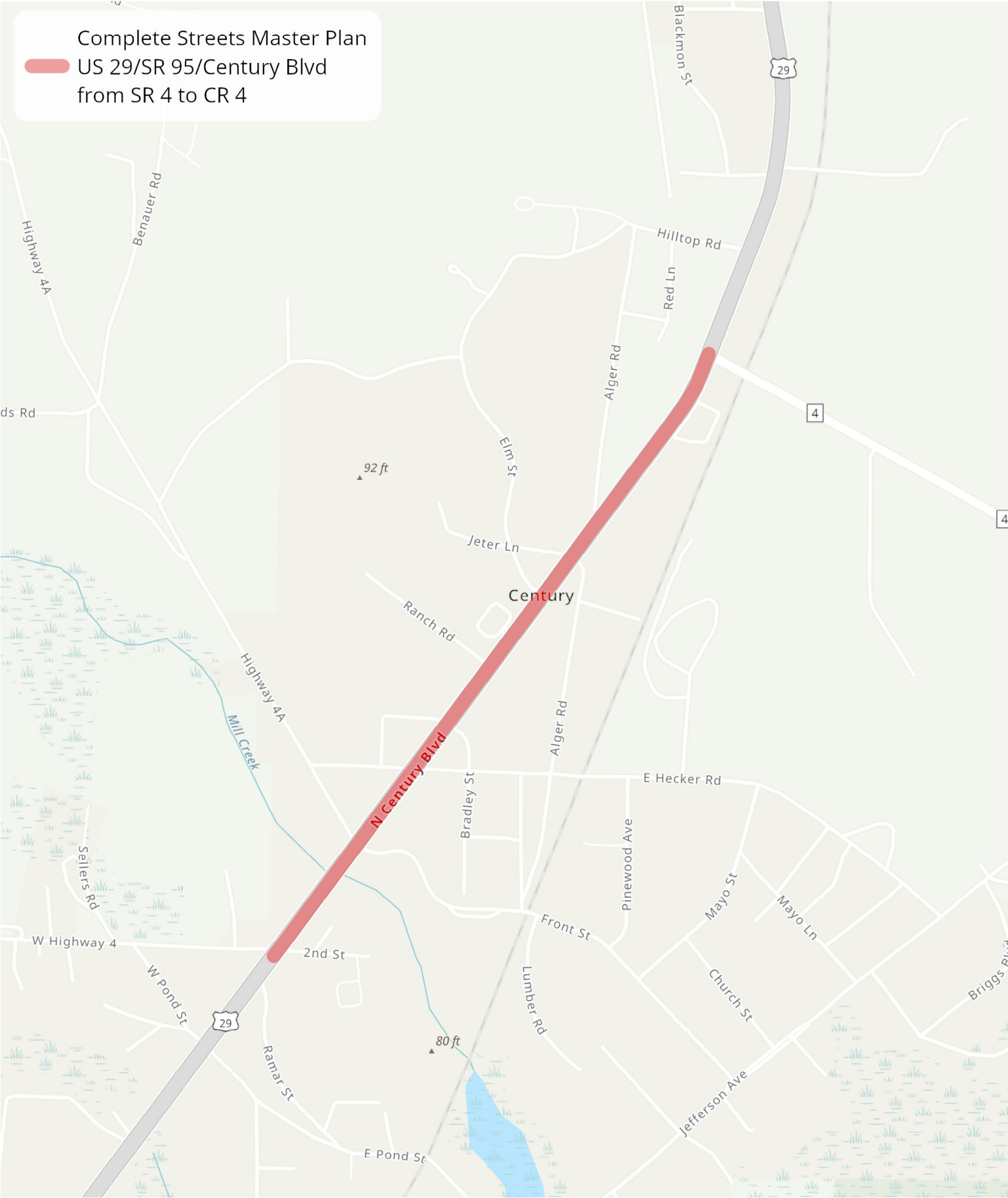
0 0.25 0.5 1 Mile



Rural Area - TA Project Locations - Town of Century



Rural Area - TA Project Locations - Town of Century



Complete Streets Master Plan
US 29/SR 95/Century Blvd
from SR 4 to CR 4



Rural Area - TA Project Locations - Walton County



Action Item

8



Agenda Item Number: 8

SUBJECT: Consideration of Resolution ECRC 2025-03 Adoption of the Smart Regions Master Plan

BACKGROUND: The Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) in partnership with the Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization has developed a comprehensive Smart Regions Master Plan to identify lifesaving technology concepts across the ECRC and the TPO areas. This plan is simply a resource for improvements and concepts should a local government wish to implement.

The draft Smart Regions Master Plan can be accessed on the project webpage at www.ecrc.org/7LayerProjects.

ATTACHED:

- Resolution ECRC 2025 - 03

RECOMMENDED ACTION: A motion authorizing the ECRC chair to sign Resolution ECRC 2025 - 03 adopting the Smart Regions Master Plan. This action is recommended to prioritize the strategies and countermeasures identified in the Smart Regions Master Plan. Please contact Jill Nobles, ECRC staff, at 850-332-7976, Ext. 212 or jill.nobles@ecrc.org if additional information is needed.

RESOLUTION ECRC 2025-03
A RESOLUTION OF THE EMERALD COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL ADOPTING THE SMART
REGIONS MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, the Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) is partnering the Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) to develop a comprehensive Smart Regions Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Smart Regions Master Plan will be an implementation plan to further ECRC and the TPO's efforts in advancing technological infrastructure needed to increase safety and traffic efficiency; and

WHEREAS, the Smart Regions Master Plan was developed with input from stakeholders and members of the public and includes an implementation plan to further ECRC and the TPO's efforts in advancing technological infrastructure needed to increase safety and traffic efficiency;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Emerald Coast Regional Council that:

The Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) adopts the Smart Regions Master Plan, which identifies strategies and countermeasures in the ECRC area.

Duly passed and adopted by the Emerald Coast Regional Council on this 19th day of February 2025.

BY: _____
Kurvin Qualls, Chair

ATTEST: _____
Kandase Lee, ECRC Chief Executive Officer



Information Item

9

Information provided at meeting

Information Item

10

Agenda Item Number: 10

SUBJECT: Regional Rural Transportation Project Priorities FY 2027-2031 Schedule

BACKGROUND: In February of 2023, a Regional Rural Transportation Plan (RRTP) was adopted. With the adoption of the RRTP Long Range Transportation Plan, a project priorities list was also adopted. This plan and process occurs every five years; however, each year, as with the TPO, the rural area project priorities will be reviewed and adopted.

At the April 17, 2024 meeting, the ECRC Board opened the cycle for the RRTP process to move toward mirroring the TPOs' Project Priorities process. This will allow FDOT to fold in our rural area projects to the FDOT five-year work program. Three (3) Regional Rural Transportation Project Priorities workshops were held virtually and/or in person throughout the region.

The Project Priorities are the top ten priorities in each category. The RRTP Project Priorities will be updated based on the FY 2026-2030 FDOT Work Program. The following is the FY 2027-2031 Regional Rural Project Priorities schedule:

- March 19, 2025 - RRTP TAC Committee Workshop 10:00 a.m. Virtual
- Public Outreach
- April 24, 2025 - Public Workshop 10:30 a.m. Hybrid Crestview Library - 1445 Commerce Drive, Crestview, FL 32539-6944
- April 24, 2025 - RRTP TAC Committee Workshop 2:00 p.m. Hybrid Crestview Library - 1445 Commerce Drive, Crestview, FL 32539-6944
- May 21, 2025 - RRTP TAC meeting to recommend approval of FY 2027-2031 Project Priorities. 9:30 a.m. Chautauqua Building - 95 Circle Dr, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435-2542
- May 21, 2025 - ECRC meeting - approval of FY 2027-2031 Project Priorities. 11:30 a.m. Chautauqua Building - 95 Circle Dr, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435-2542

RECOMMENDED ACTION: This item is for review this month and adoption in May.

Please contact Gary Kramer, ECRC staff, if additional information is needed at gary.kramer@ecrc.org or (850) 332-7976 Ext. 219.

Information Item

11

2025 ECRC BOARD MEETINGS

FEB 19

Board Meeting

📍 **Chautauqua Hall**, 95 Circle Dr, Defuniak Springs, FL 32435

🕒 **11:30 AM**

📄 **Expected Board Items:** Ranking TA Applications, Smart Regions Plan, & RRTP Project Priorities Open

MAY 21

Board Meeting

📍 **Chautauqua Hall**, 95 Circle Dr, Defuniak Springs, FL 32435

🕒 **11:30 AM**

📄 **Expected Board Items:** LAP Agreement (Design Fiber), Annual Audit, & RRTP Adopt Project Priorities

SEP 24

Board Meeting

📍 **Chautauqua Hall**, 95 Circle Dr, Defuniak Springs, FL 32435

🕒 **11:30 AM**

📄 **Expected Board Items:** Budget/Work Program, CEO Evaluation, Chair/Vice Chair Elections, & Executive Committee Selections

NOV 19

Board Meeting

📍 **Location To Be Announced**

🕒 **11:30 AM**

📄 **Expected Board Items:** CEDS Update & RideOn Agreement

Revised: February 10, 2025