

OKALOOSA-WALTON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (TPO) MEETING MINUTES

WEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (Designated staff)

Freeport City Hall, 112 FL-20, Freeport, Florida 32439

August 11, 2016

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Dick Rynearson, Chair	City of Fort Walton Beach Council Member
Amy Jamieson, Vice Chair	City of Fort Walton Beach Council Member
Bill Imfeld	Walton County Commissioner
Bill Chapman	Walton County Commissioner
Kasey Cuchens	City of Freeport Council Member
Bill Cox	City of Crestview Council Member
Mac Carpenter	City of Defuniak Springs Council Member
Jim Foreman	City of Destin Council Member
Carolyn Ketchel	Okaloosa County Commissioner

OTHERS ATTENDING:

Latilda Hughes-Neel	City of Freeport, TCC Chairperson
Jeff Skipper	Walton County
Bill Williams	Walton County
Jay Liles	Seaside Institute
Wiley Page	Atkins
Hank Woollard	City of Destin
Bob Campbell	City of Defuniak Springs
Melanie Nipper	Citizen
Tim Banfell	Scenic Corridor Foundation
Leigh Moore	Howard Group
Randy Showers	Okaloosa County
Christy Johnson	Florida Department of Transportation
Bryant Paulk	Florida Department of Transportation
April Williams	Florida Department of Transportation
Steve Schnell	HDR, Inc.
Daniel Kristoff	RS&H, Inc.
Austin Mount	WFRPC Executive Director
Mary Beth Washnock	WFRPC Transportation Planning Manager
Brian Youpatoff	WFRPC Staff
Gary Kramer	WFRPC Staff
Kathy Saldana	WFRPC Staff
Amanda Weber	WFRPC Staff
Katie Wilhelm	WFRPC Staff

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rynearson called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no requests for add on items, however there was a request for Mr. Williams, Walton County Restore Coordinator and acting Economic Development Alliance Director, to speak before Mr. Page, Atkins Planning Consultant, under Action Item 2, Enclosure B regarding the inclusion of the County Road (CR) 30A Mobility/Autonomous Vehicle Program into the Long Range Transportation Plan.

Commissioner Chapman moved to approve the agenda with the additional speaker. Councilman Carpenter seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

C. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Liles, Seaside Institute, requested to speak following Mr. Williams statements on the County Road (CR) 30A Mobility/Autonomous Vehicle Program under Action Item 2, Enclosure B.

D. CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of June 16, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Council Member Carpenter moved to approve the June 16, 2016 TPO meeting minutes. Vice Chair Jamieson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

E. ACTION:

1. Resolution O-W 16-17: Adopting the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Evaluation Criteria Technical Report. Mr. Page, Atkins Planning Consultant, presented an overview of the evaluation criteria and the weight scale with a PowerPoint. There were no questions or comments.

Commissioner Imfeld moved to authorize the TPO Chairman to sign Resolution O-W 16-17, adopting the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Evaluation Criteria Technical Report. Council Member Carpenter seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Resolution O-W 16-18: Adopting the 2040 Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Needs Plan. Mr. Youpatoff stated that the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) recommended approval of the LRTP Needs Plan with the changes that Mr. Page subsequently noted and the committees' recommendation to clarify the description of "autonomous vehicles".

Mr. Page described that the Walton County's County Road (CR) 30A Mobility/Autonomous Vehicle Program would fit into the Mobility Programs section of the 2040 Needs Plan for the Okaloosa Walton TPO 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Williams stated that there is no fiscal impact to the TPO at this point to move forward with the autonomous vehicle study, and he said that the end goal is to alleviate the congestion on CR 30A and mobility workforce North-South and East-West corridors. Mr. Williams asked that the CR 30A Mobility/Autonomous Vehicle Program be included in the Long Range Transportation Plan.

The public forum speaker Mr. Liles, Seaside Institute, expressed support for the 30A Mobility/Autonomous Vehicle Program.

Mr. Page presented the Okaloosa-Walton TPO 2040 LRTP Needs Plan with a PowerPoint. Mr. Page described that the Crestview bypass would focus on the western alignment option. Mr. Page noted that Eglin Air Force Base (AFB) expressed concern for Roadway Project number 24 connecting State Road (SR) 285 to Highway 90 for hurricane evacuation. Eglin AFB has sensitive activities in that area and has asked for Roadway Project number 24, SR 285 connector to U.S. 90, to be removed from the 2040 Needs Plan. Mr. Page stated that Roadway Project number 15

providing six lanes of capacity on SR 85 limits would change from Duke Field Interchange to I-10 to SR 123 to I-10 to be consistent with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Unified Needs Plan. Mr. Page recapped the addition of the CR 30A Mobility/Autonomous Vehicle Program including autonomous vehicles contingent upon clarification of the name and description of the program as recommended by the committees. The Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) and Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) recommended approval as amended.

Commissioner Imfeld moved to authorize the TPO Chairman to sign Resolution O-W 16-18, adopting the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Needs Plan with the recommended amendments. Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

F. FDOT UPDATE:

Mr. Paulk, Florida Department of Transportation Urban Liaison, stated that the department is anticipating to let to contract the U.S. 98, Emerald Bay Drive to Tang O Mar Drive, project at the end of August 2016 and is looking to begin work in November 2016. There were no questions or comments.

G. PRESENTATIONS (no action)

1. Review of the Okaloosa-Walton TPO FY 2018-2022 Project Priorities.
Mr. Kramer presented with a PowerPoint, and he stated that the TPO and advisory committees workshop is August 22, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at Warrior Hall in Crestview. Mr. Kramer requested any comments to be provided by August 19, 2016. There were no questions or comments.
2. Update on U.S. 98 (State Road 30) from Portside Drive in Santa Rosa County to State Road (SR) 393 (Mary Esther Boulevard) in Okaloosa County Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study.
Ms. Williams, Florida Department of Transportation, noted that the corridor workshop for the Santa Rosa Sound and a public involvement kickoff meeting for the U.S. 98 project are to be held on September 20, 2016. A second public involvement kickoff meeting covering the same information will be on September 22, 2016. Mr. Kristoff, RS&H Senior Transportation Engineer, presented the details of the PD&E study with a PowerPoint. Commissioner Ketchel asked about safe escape for cars in a multimodal environment. Mr. Kristoff explained that barriers and fencing were not the accepted way for introducing a bike path to a roadway especially when dealing with numerous intersections. He stated that a painted bicycle lane that cars have access for crossing through is the safest way to implement cyclists into a mix with automobiles. A full shoulder and bicycle lane that is a minimum of four feet in width (seven-foot width is desired) indicated by double white lines is the recommended solution for long corridors. Commissioner Ketchel expressed interest in a wider space between cyclists and the road. Mr. Kristoff said that the accident data collection of the past five years indicates that this roadway is below the normal level of fatalities for roadways of this type. There were no further questions or comments.
3. Update on the Brooks Bridge Replacement.

Mr. Schnell AICP, HDR, presented with a PowerPoint. Mr. Schnell described the bridge replacement alternatives that were presented to the public in May 2016 and the feedback from the public on those alternatives. He stated that about 300 people attended the meetings and an additional 1500 people viewed the meeting information online. Mr. Schnell described Alternative A and Alternative B of the typical section and said that the public preferred Alternative A. Commissioner Ketchel expressed support for the option providing barrier-separated, 12-foot shared use paths. Mr. Schnell described left and right footprint placement options and recommended the left placement based on existing infrastructure. Mr. Schnell stated that the navigation study determined that the new bridge height would be 65-feet. Mr. Schnell described alternate plans for Brooks Street, Perry Avenue intersections, and Santa Rosa Boulevard. He said that both options are Level of Service (LOS) F for future conditions.

Mr. Schnell said that the Fort Walton Beach Chamber, the City of Fort Walton Beach, and County Commission have supporting the A typical section with the left bridge alternative that does not include the traffic signal. He indicated that they will be working on refinements to concepts, starting structures analysis, and refining the maintenance and traffic plan. The engineering and environmental documents will be submitted to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) after public hearing for approval. Chairman Rynearson noted that the letter of support received from the Fort Walton Beach Chamber, city and commissioners is the first time in modern history that they have had consensus on how to proceed with the bridge and that it is good to see it moving forward. There were no other questions or comments.

H. INFORMATION ITEMS (No Presentations)

Mr. Youpatoff stated that the following items are attached for review and information:

- 2016 TPO and Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule
- June 2016 Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
- Mileage Based User Fees and Fuel Tax
- Notice of Proposed Rule Making for MPO Structure
- Fort Walton Beach Letter of Support for Brooks Bridge Replacement
- TIP Modification Letters

I. OTHER BUSINESS

The next Okaloosa-Walton TPO meeting will be September 15, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. at the Destin City Hall Annex. The CAC will meet at 9:30 a.m. and the TCC will meet at 1:30 p.m.

J. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.