



Polk County Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

Meeting Agenda

February 12, 2026 Regular TPO Board Meeting

1. Call to Order - 9:00 a.m. (Trish Pfeiffer, Polk TPO Chairwoman)
2. Confirmation of Quorum
3. Opportunity for Public Comment
4. Agenda Review - Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO Executive Director

CONSENT AGENDA (TAB 1)

These action items are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items. A Board member may request an item be moved to the regular agenda for discussion.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes
6. Approve Polk TPO Executive Director Quarterly Timesheets and Expense Reimbursements
7. Approve Draft Resolution 2026-01 Recommending the Lakeland Area Mass Transit District (LAMTD) as the Designated Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) for Polk County

OTHER ACTION ITEMS (TAB 2)

- 8a. Election of TPO Chairman and Vice-Chairman
- 8b. TPO Board Appointments
- 8c. TPO Board Meeting Time and Location
9. Public Hearing on Draft Amendments to FY 2025/26 - 2029/30 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- 10a. Review/Approve Draft TPO Resolution 2026-02 Adopting the Safety Performance Targets for the Polk TPO
- 10b. Vision Zero Action Plan/Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Update
11. Review/Approve Selection Committee's Recommended Ranking of Consulting Firms and Authorize Staff to Negotiate with the Highest Ranked Firm in Response to the TPO's Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 25-686 (I-4 Intermodal Passenger Rail Station Planning and Feasibility Study)

12. Review/Approve Draft Planning Tasks for the FY 2026/27 - 2027/28 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

PRESENTATIONS AND STATUS REPORTS

13. Lakeland Linder International Airport Presentation
14. Central Polk Parkway East Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE) and Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study

REPORTS

15. Executive Director's Report
16. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report
17. Opportunity for Public Comment
18. Board Member Comments
19. Adjournment

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Board of County Commissioners, Communications Office, at 330 W. Church Street, Bartow. Telephone (863) 534-6090, not later than four days prior to the proceeding. If hearing impaired call: (TDD) (863) 534-7777 or 1-800-955-8771, or Voice impaired call: 1-800-955-8770, via Florida Relay Service.

The TPO planning process is conducted in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Related Statutes. Any person or beneficiary who believes they have been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, or family status may file a complaint with Cindy Mitchell, the TPO's Title VI Specialist at (863) 534-6486, or by writing to her at Post Office Box 9005, Bartow, Florida 33831-9005.

PowerPoint Presentation Slides



Polk County
Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

Agenda Item 5.

2/12/2026

AGENDA ITEM

Approval of Meeting Minutes

PRESENTER

NA

SUMMARY

The Polk TPO is required to keep an accurate record of the TPO Board proceedings.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Board is requested to approve the meeting minutes from the meeting held on December 9, 2025.

ATTACHMENT

1. Draft Meeting Minutes from December 9, 2025



Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board Draft Meeting Minutes

Tuesday December 9, 2025
Polk County Administration Building, Commission Boardroom
330 West Church Street
Bartow, FL 33830

Voting Members Present:	Representing:
Commissioner Martha Santiago	Polk County BoCC
Commissioner Rick Wilson	Polk County BoCC
Commissioner Rebecca Troutman	Polk County BoCC
Mayor Bill Mutz	City of Lakeland
Commissioner Sara Roberts McCarley, Vice Chair	City of Lakeland
Commissioner Stephanie Madden	City of Lakeland
Mayor Pro Tem Mike Musick	City of Lakeland
Mayor Nat Birdsong	City of Winter Haven
Mayor Pro Tem Brian Yates	City of Winter Haven
Commissioner Tracy Mercer	City of Winter Haven
Commissioner Omar Arroyo	City of Haines City
Commissioner Trish Pfeiffer, Chair	City of Bartow
Vice Mayor Nancy Daley	City of Lake Alfred
Vice Mayor Jeremy Clark	City of Davenport
South County Bloc Members:	
Commissioner Dawn McDonald	City of Mulberry
Council Member Adam Greenway (Voting Member)	City of Frostproof
Central County and Ridge Bloc Members:	
Commissioner Willie Quarles (Voting Member)	Town of Dundee
Mayor Joe LaCascia	City of Polk City
Advisory Members Present:	Representing:
Wayne Gaither	FDOT, District One
Ryan Kordek	Polk TPO
Heather Bryan	TPO Legal Advisor
Other Persons Present:	Representing:
Katina Kavouklis	Florida Turnpike
Jenna Mousseau	Best Foot Forward
Asela Silva	Benesch
Angela Kaufman	TPO Staff

Edith Perez
KC Rivera
Sharon Garrett

FDOT
TPO Staff
Member of the Public

1. Call to Order

Chairwoman Trish Pfeiffer called the TPO Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Confirmation of Quorum

KC Rivera, Polk TPO staff, confirmed a quorum. Council Member Greenway represented the South County Bloc and Commissioner Willie Quarles represented the Central County and Ridge Bloc. Advisory Council members present were Wayne Gaither, FDOT, Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO, and Heather Bryan, Polk County Legal.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

Chairwoman Pfeiffer opened the floor for public comment.

Sharon Garrett voiced concerns about the possibility of losing her family land in association with the planned Central Polk Parkway.

Chairwoman Pfeiffer closed public comment.

4. Agenda Review

Ryan Kordek, TPO Executive Director, provided an overview of the Board's agenda and highlighted the action items which included public hearings for the Draft Amendments to FY 2025/26 – 2029/30 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Draft 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (Envision 2050 LRTP). Other action items include Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) FY 2026/27 -2030/31 Draft Work Programs for Polk County, and Board Appointments. The Board will also hear presentations on Best Foot Forward and the recently adopted Transit Development Plan.

Special Presentation

5. Recognition of Service to the Polk TPO for Mayor Bill Mutz

Chairwoman Pfeiffer presented a plaque to Mayor Bill Mutz for his service on the Polk TPO Board.

Consent Agenda

6. Approve TPO Board Meeting Minutes – October 9, 2025

7. Approve Draft Request for Proposed (RFP) for Professional Planning Services as General Planning Consultants

8. Approve Modification to Consultant Services Authorization (CSA) TPO-20-1009-02-05 with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. to Prepare the 2050 Long Range Transportation

Plan Update (Part Two) increasing the Cost Not-to-Exceed amount from \$230,000.00 to \$260,000.00

Motion: Motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner McCarley. Motion carried without dissent.

Other Action Items

9. Public Hearing on Draft Amendments to FY 2025/26 – 2029/30 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Angela Kaufman, TPO Staff, presented the amendments for the FY 2025/26 – 2029/30 TIP which included Crown Avenue from West Polk Street to West Main Street to add rail safety. Along with modifications with Lakeland Area Mass Transit District and LAMTD/Winter Haven to add additional funding.

Chairwoman Pfeiffer opened the public hearing for public comments. Seeing none, Chairwoman Pfeiffer closed the public hearing.

Motion: Motion made by Mayor Mutz, seconded by Commissioner Roberts McCarley. Motion carried without dissent.

Roll Call vote was taken and approved without dissent.

10. Public Hearing on the Draft 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (Envision 2050)

Ryan Kordek, TPO staff introduced the 2050 LRTP which included the major steps and key actions taken in the development of the LRTP. Mr. Kordek gave an overview of the public engagement methods which included the project website, public meetings, events, workshops, and social media. On the website we have received approximately 600 comments with the interactive map showing where the public's concerns are. The top concerns from the public are safety, roadways, intersections, and pedestrian needs. Mr. Kordek explained how we identify the long-range needs and reflect the public's concerns in the plan.

Chairwoman Pfeiffer opened the public hearing for public comment. Seeing none, Chairwoman Pfeiffer closed the public hearing.

Motion: Motion made by Commissioner Roberts McCarley, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Musick. Motion carried without dissent.

Roll Call vote was taken and approved without dissent.

11. Review/Comment on Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) FT 2026/27 – 2030/31 Draft Work Programs for Polk County

Katina Kavouklis, Florida Turnpike Enterprise, presented the Draft Work Program for Polk County and the investments with toll dollars for the construction of Central Polk Parkway from

SR 570 to US 17 and US 17 to SR 60. As of today, the construction is 700 days ahead of schedule for the section between SR 570 to US 17.

Ryan Kordek, TPO staff spoke of the priority transportation projects and how they were addressed in the new draft work program. He noted that right-of-way (ROW) has been funded for a large portion of State Road 60 in eastern Polk County. This has been a top priority of the Polk TPO. However, the bridge project on State Road 60 at CSX's S-Line between Bartow and Lake Wales was removed from the Work Program. The TPO's number one priority is US 98 between Edgewood Drive and Main Street in Lakeland. No additional funding was allocated for this project. Mr. Kordek also covered the recommendations made at the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) held a week earlier. This included a request for FDOT to consider low cost improvements that could improve safety and congestion along the corridor and be implemented as part of an upcoming resurfacing project which is programmed for the corridor.

A long discussion ensued between the Board regarding priority transportation projects.

Mr. Kordek stated a letter will be prepared for the Chair to sign, conveying the comments to FDOT on the Draft Work Program.

Motion: Motion made by Commissioner Roberts McCarley, seconded by Mayor Mutz. Motion carried without dissent.

12. Appointments to the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) and Central Florida MPO Alliance (CFMPOA)

Ryan Kordek, TPO staff, presented information on the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council and identified the current representatives. The Board discussed whether to retain the existing representatives or appoint new ones.

Mayor Birdsong motioned to keep the current representatives.

Sara Roberts McCarley, Lakeland Member

Nat Birdsong, Winter Haven Primary Alternate

Trish Pfeiffer, Bartow Secondary Alternate

Motion: Motioned by Mayor Birdsong, seconded by Mayor Mutz. Motion carried without dissent.

Mr. Kordek, presented information on the Central Florida MPO Alliance and identifies the current representatives. The Board discussed whether to retain the existing representatives or appoint new ones.

Mayor Birdsong motioned to keep the current representatives.

Brian Yates, Winter Haven Member (CFMPOA Vice Chair)

Nancy Daley, Lake Alfred Member

Omar Arroyo, Haines City Member

Vernal Smith, Haines City Alternate

Motion: Motioned by Mayor Birdsong, seconded by Mayor Mutz. Motion carried without dissent.

13. Review/Approve the 2026 TPO Board Meeting Calendar

Ryan Kordek, TPO staff, presented the 2026 TPO Board Meeting calendar and presented an option for the Board to consider holding future Board meetings at FDOT's Conference Center at District One Headquarters.

A lengthy discussion took place among the Board regarding the location of the 2026 meetings. Staff will poll TPO members for their meeting time preference.

Approval of the meeting dates for the 2026 TPO Board Calendar

Motion: Motioned by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Council Member Greenway. The motion was approved.

Motion: A motion to table a decision to move the TPO Board meetings to FDOT and change the meeting time to be determined at the next board meeting was made by Commissioner Santiago, seconded by Commissioner Troutman. The motion carried, though not unanimously: 10 in favor, 7 opposed.

Presentations and Status Reports

14. Report on the Best Foot Forward (BFF) Campaign in Polk County

Jenna Mousseau, Best Foot Forward, presented a program wide overview of the 107 evaluated crosswalks including the crosswalks evaluated in Polk County. These locations were in Lakeland, Winter Haven, Bartow, and Auburndale. The crosswalk improvement plan focuses on engineering, enforcement, and education. Engineering treatments vary by location and may include delineator posts, speed humps, or pedestrian beacons, depending on site conditions and available funding.

Commissioner Roberts McCarley asked about pedestrian hybrid crosswalks.

Ms. Mousseau mentioned a current project being completed with FDOT funding.

Wayne Gaither states there are criteria for pedestrian hybrid crosswalks.

Commissioner Santiago asked whether the campaign addresses pedestrians crossing in the middle of the street rather than using designated crosswalks.

Ms. Mousseau states they are educating all road users and not just drivers.

Commissioner Troutman inquired about the cost of pedestrian hybrid crosswalks.

Ms. Mousseau is unaware of the price.

15. Transit Development Plan Presentation

Asela Silva of Benesch provided an overview of the Transit Development Plan (TDP), including an explanation of its purpose. Mr. Silva covered the thirty-two existing transit routes and the five

squeeze-service routes, along with a summary of the public outreach efforts, which included stakeholder interviews, workshops, surveys, the project website, and social media engagement. Through these efforts, approximately 1,300 citizens were reached. He also reviewed the public input survey results related to transit use, key destinations, and service needs. The 2035 transit needs identified in the TDP include enhancements to the existing network, new local services, new regional and rural services, and the introduction of micro-transit options.

Commissioner Madden asked whether there is a data source that compares transit ridership with automobile use.

Mr. Silva noted that this TDP does not include that information.

Commissioner Madden asked whether artificial intelligence could be used to determine ridership on each route.

Mr. Silva stated that they do have data on the number of citizens riding the bus.

Commissioner Roberts McCarley stated that the overlay is a great idea and requested clarification that the public survey is not limited to ridership. She noted that transit also provides essential access to work, grocery shopping, and other daily needs.

Reports

16. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Kordek introduced new TPO staff member Tracy Mullins. Mr. Kordek also highlighted the award presented to Polk County and the Polk TPO by Bike Walk Central Florida for the Fort Fraser Trail Extension and showed a short video depicting the trail. He also commented on the City of Lakeland's role in helping make this project possible. He noted that the 2026 Priority Transportation Project Cycle has opened and stated that the second segment of the Central Polk Parkway has held its groundbreaking in October.

Chairwoman Pfeiffer stated that this segment is two years ahead of schedule and that the next segment is planned for 2032.

Mr. Kordek also noted the upcoming meeting regarding the Central Polk Parkway East.

17. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

Wayne Gaither, FDOT, thanked the TPO Board and TPO staff for the LRTP and Priority Projects.

Edith Perez, FDOT, thanked the TPO for the coordination efforts with the Work Program Cycle. Ms. Perez shared the Transportation Alternative, Safety, TRIP and CMS project cycle is open from January 5th until March 31st and the Safe Routes to School funding will open on January 31st. Lastly, Ms. Perez introduced DJ Sharma who is a new engineer at FDOT District One.

18. Opportunity for Public Comment

Chairwoman Pfeiffer opened the floor for public comment. Seeing none, closed the floor.

19. Board Member Comments

Commissioner Mercer asked about the TPO voting blocs and why some of them are not allowed a full voting seat.

Mr. Kordek stated Florida Statutes limits the size of the board and the two (2) voting seats for the voting blocs are shared by seven (7) cities. The voting member is rotated annually. In the past, this was seen a way to encourage and maximize participation in the TPO process from some of the smaller cities in the county.

20. Adjournment – Next meeting date is February 12, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully transcribed by KC Rivera, TPO Office Manager IV.

Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, states that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.



Polk County
Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

Agenda Item 6.

2/12/2026

AGENDA ITEM

Approve Polk TPO Executive Director Quarterly Timesheets and Expense Reimbursements

PRESENTER

NA

SUMMARY

The Polk TPO is required to approve the timesheets and expense reimbursements for the TPO's Executive Director as specified in FDOT's Technical Memorandum 19-05, as amended.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Board is requested to approve the timesheets and expense reimbursements for the fourth quarter of 2025.

ATTACHMENT

1. Timesheets and expense reimbursements.

Kordek, Ryan	12/29/2025 - 01/04/2026	✓ Approved	☰	40.00
Kordek, Ryan	12/22/2025 - 12/28/2025	✓ Approved	☰	40.00
Kordek, Ryan	12/15/2025 - 12/21/2025	✓ Approved	☰	40.00
Kordek, Ryan	12/08/2025 - 12/14/2025	✓ Approved	☰	40.00
Kordek, Ryan	12/01/2025 - 12/07/2025	✓ Approved	☰	40.00
Kordek, Ryan	11/24/2025 - 11/30/2025	✓ Approved	☰	40.00
Kordek, Ryan	11/17/2025 - 11/23/2025	✓ Approved	☰	40.00
Kordek, Ryan	11/10/2025 - 11/16/2025	✓ Approved	☰	40.00
Kordek, Ryan	11/03/2025 - 11/09/2025	✓ Approved	☰	40.00
Kordek, Ryan	10/27/2025 - 11/02/2025	✓ Approved	☰	40.00
Kordek, Ryan	10/20/2025 - 10/26/2025	✓ Approved	☰	40.00
Kordek, Ryan	10/13/2025 - 10/19/2025	✓ Approved	☰	40.00
Kordek, Ryan	10/06/2025 - 10/12/2025	✓ Approved	☰	40.00
Kordek, Ryan	09/29/2025 - 10/05/2025	✓ Approved	☰	40.00



Polk County
Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

Agenda Item 7.

2/12/2026

AGENDA ITEM

Approve Draft Resolution 2026-01 Recommending the Lakeland Area Mass Transit District (LAMTD) as the Designated Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) for Polk County

PRESENTER

NA

SUMMARY

Every five years, the TPO must go through a process to recommend a single Community Transportation Coordinator, (CTC) to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. This is usually handled through a competitive procurement process, for example, an RFP. However, when the existing CTC is a governmental agency, like Lakeland Area Mass Transit District (LAMTD), d/b/a Citrus Connection, then the process is carried out more informally. Over the last several months, the TPO, in cooperation with LAMTD and the TD Local Coordinating Board, has carried out several steps to produce a local recommendation for LAMTD to be re-designated as the Community Transportation Coordinator for Polk.

There is a designated Community Transportation Coordinator in every County in Florida. The role of the CTC is to manage funding and provide trips, and to arrange transportation for eligible passengers to get to non-emergency medical appointments, to the grocery store, to employment opportunities, and to other life-sustaining activities.

The Polk County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) concurred with the designation at its December 15, 2025, meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

TPO Staff requests TPO Board approve Draft Resolution 2026-01 Recommending the Lakeland Area Mass Transit District (LAMTD), d/b/a Citrus Connection as the CTC for Polk County with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD).

ATTACHMENT

1. Draft Polk TPO Resolution 2026-01

DRAFT POLK TPO RESOLUTION 2026-01

RESOLUTION OF THE POLK TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (TPO) RECOMMENDING THE LAKELAND AREA MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT (LAMTD) AS THE DESIGNATED COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR FOR POLK COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is designated by the Governor of the State of Florida as the body responsible for the urban transportation planning process for the Polk County area; and

WHEREAS, the Polk TPO is the designated official planning agency for the Polk County Transportation Disadvantaged service area; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Polk Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board and the Polk TPO voted to recommend that the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged designate the Lakeland Area Mass Transit District (LAMTD) as the community Transportation Coordinator for Polk County; and

WHEREAS, LAMTD is a Public Agency, which has provided public transportation in the Lakeland urbanized area since 1982; and

WHEREAS, LAMTD is currently serving as the designated community transportation coordinator for Polk County and desires to continue in that role; and

WHEREAS, LAMTD has the appropriate personnel, financial capacity, vehicle and equipment resources, experience and qualifications to serve the transportation disadvantaged population; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 427.015(2) F.S., the Metropolitan Planning Organization is the organization that “shall recommend to the Commission a single community transportation coordinator”.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Polk Transportation Planning Organization at its regular meeting convened on February 12, 2026:

That the Polk Transportation Planning Organization recommends to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged that the Lakeland Area Mass Transit District (LAMTD) be designated as the Community Transportation

TPO Resolution 2026-01

February 12, 2026

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Coordinator (CTC) for Polk County for a five-year period beginning July 1, 2026.

Signed:

Commissioner Trish Pfeiffer, Chair
Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

February 12, 2026

Date

ATTEST:

Ryan Kordek, TPO Director

Approved by the TPO Attorney as to
form and legal sufficiency:

Heather Bryan, TPO Attorney



Polk County
Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

Agenda Item 8a.

2/12/2026

AGENDA ITEM

Election of TPO Chairman and Vice-Chairman

PRESENTER

Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO Staff

SUMMARY

Pursuant to the TPO Bylaws, staff will request the Board to elect a chair and vice-chair for the 2026 calendar year. The Bylaws state the chair and vice-chair can serve for a period of two (2) years. The current chair and vice-chair were appointed in February of 2024 and confirmed again in February of 2025. Therefore, the Board will be asked to appoint a new chair and vice-chair for 2026.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Appointment of a Chair and Vice-Chair to the TPO Board

ATTACHMENT

None



Polk County
Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

Agenda Item 8b.

2/12/2026

AGENDA ITEM

TPO Board Appointments

PRESENTER

Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO Staff

SUMMARY

TPO staff will request the TPO Board to appoint representatives to serve on several boards and alliances the Polk TPO is a member of. These include the following groups:

- Polk County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TD LCB); and
- Suncoast Transportation Planning Alliance (SCTPA).

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Appointment of members to serve on these boards.

ATTACHMENT

None



Polk County
Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

Agenda Item 8c.

2/12/2026

AGENDA ITEM

TPO Board Meeting Time and Location

PRESENTER

Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO Staff

SUMMARY

TPO staff will review the poll results.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Information only

ATTACHMENT

None



Polk County
Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

Agenda Item 9.

2/12/2026

AGENDA ITEM

Public Hearing on Draft Amendments to FY 2025/26 - 2029/30 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

PRESENTER

Angela Kaufman, TPO Staff

SUMMARY

TPO staff will introduce a draft amendment to the current TIP requested by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and request the committee to make a recommendation to the TPO Board for Approval.

It is important projects appear in the TIP accurately in order to remain eligible for federal funding therefore the TPO is requested by FDOT to make amendments to the TIP several times a year as certain refinements to programmed projects are made.

The Polk TPO's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended approval at the January 22, 2026 meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Recommend approval of Draft Amendments to the FY 2025/26 - 2029/30 TIP as presented.

ATTACHMENT

1. FDOT Request Letter and Amendments



Florida Department of Transportation

RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

801 N Broadway Ave
Bartow FL 33830

JARED W. PERDUE, P.E.
SECRETARY

1/9/2025

Ryan Kordek
Polk TPO Executive Director
330 W. Church Street, P.O. Box 9005-Drawer TS05
Bartow, FL 33831

RE: Request for Amendment and/or Modification to the Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Fiscal Year (FY) 24/25 – 28/29 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Dear Mr. Kordek:

The purpose of this letter is to request the Polk TPO approve the following amendment/modification to the TIP FY 24/25 - 28/29.

- 458047-1: LAMTD FTA SEC 5339 (B) CAPITAL MAINT BLDG REHAB**

Amendment is needed to add this new Transit Capital project programmed with Federal and Local funding in FY 26.

Please see enclosed table for project details. These projects must be shown and listed correctly in the Polk TPO TIP to show transparency and ensure authorization of funds.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Edith D. Perez, FCCM
Edith Perez
FDOT District One Community Liaison

EDP: ep:
Enclosure
cc: Wayne Gaither, FDOT
Kristi Smith, FDOT
Dana Knox, FHWA

Polk TPO TIP Amendment FY 2025/26 - 2029/30

February 12, 2026 TPO Board Meeting

FLP: TRANSIT							
Project Description: LAMTD FTA SEC 5339 (B) CAPITAL Item Number: 458047 1 MAINT BLDG REHAB District: 01 County: POLK LRTP: 2-6 Type of Work: TRANSIT IMPROVEMENT Project Length: 0.000							
Phase / Responsible Agency	<2026	Fiscal Year					
		2026	2027	2028	2029	>2029	All Years
CAPITAL / MANAGED BY LAKELAND							
	Fund Code: FTA-FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION			1,104,080			1,104,080
	LF-LOCAL FUNDS			276,020			276,020
	Phase: CAPITAL Totals			1,380,100			1,380,100
	Item: 458047 1 Totals			1,380,100			1,380,100
	Project Totals			1,380,100			1,380,100
	Grand Total			1,380,100			1,380,100



Polk County
Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

Agenda Item 10a.

2/12/2026

AGENDA ITEM

Review/Approve Draft TPO Resolution 2026-02 Adopting the Safety Performance Targets for the Polk TPO

PRESENTER

Tracy Mullins, Polk TPO

SUMMARY

The Federal surface transportation funding authorization, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), includes five (5) nation-wide safety performance measures (PM), expressed as five-year rolling averages. These are as follows:

1. Number of Fatalities;
2. Rate of Fatalities per 100M Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT);
3. Number of Serious Injuries;
4. Rate of Serious Injuries per 100M VMT; and
5. Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries.

The IIJA Act also requires that both States and MPOs adopt or reaffirm a performance target for each of the five (5) PMs each year. When setting targets for each PM, MPOs may either choose a numerical target specific to its planning area or agree to support (adopt) the State DOT target.

Since 2018, when the requirement first took effect, FDOT has chosen a performance target of zero for all the PMs and the Polk TPO has followed suit. The Polk TPO, by adopting PM targets of zero, affirms its support of FDOT's Target Zero and agrees to plan and program projects to contribute toward achieving these targets.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The TPO Board reaffirm support for FDOT's safety performance targets of zero by adopting them as well for 2026. The TAC recommends approval.

ATTACHMENT

1. Draft TPO Resolution 2026-02

DRAFT POLK TPO RESOLUTION 2026-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE POLK TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (TPO), ADOPTING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) SAFETY PERFORMANCE TARGETS

WHEREAS, the Polk TPO is the duly designated and constituted body responsible for carrying out transportation planning and programming process for Polk County in Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Polk TPO has an adopted goal of safe and fatality-free travel conditions on Polk County's roads; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires State Departments of Transportation and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to establish annual safety performance targets for five measures: Number of fatalities, Rate of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT), Number of serious injuries, Rate of serious injuries per 100 million VMT, and Number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with C. F. R. 490.209(a), the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has adopted statewide safety performance targets for each of the five safety performance measures, supporting the vision of Target ZERO to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries; and

WHEREAS, C.F.R. 490.209,(C) requires each MPO to either adopt FDOT's targets or establish their own within 180 days of FDOT setting its targets, in compliance with federal performance-based planning requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Polk TPO coordinates extensively with the FDOT to improve traffic safety and finds it prudent and appropriate to support FDOT's established Safety Performance Targets.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Polk TPO hereby adopts the FDOT Safety Performance Targets as follows:

<u>Measure</u>	<u>Target</u>
Number of Fatalities	0
Number of Serious Injuries	0
Fatality Rate	0
Serious Injury Rate	0

TPO Resolution 2026-02

February 12, 2026

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<u>Measure</u>	<u>Target</u>
Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries	0

Signed:

Commissioner Trish Pfeiffer, Chair
Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

February 12, 2026

Date

ATTEST:

Ryan Kordek, TPO Executive Director

Approved by the TPO Attorney as to
form and legal sufficiency:

Heather Bryan, TPO Attorney



Polk County
Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

Agenda Item 10b.

2/12/2026

AGENDA ITEM

Vision Zero Action Plan/Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Update

PRESENTER

Tracy Mullins, Polk TPO and Moe Lavasani, AECOM

SUMMARY

Polk TPO and the project consultant have continued working on the preparation of the Vision Zero Action Plan, a framework that identified priority corridors, key safety strategies and community-driven solutions. Staff and the consultant team will provide the Board with an update on the status of this project.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

This item is being presented for information only.

ATTACHMENT

None



Polk County
Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

Agenda Item 11.

2/12/2026

AGENDA ITEM

Review/Approve Selection Committee's Recommended Ranking of Consulting Firms and Authorize Staff to Negotiate with the Highest Ranked Firm in Response to the TPO's Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 25-686 (I-4 Intermodal Passenger Rail Station Planning and Feasibility Study)

PRESENTER

Cindy Mitchell, Polk TPO

SUMMARY

The Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) issued Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 25-686 seeking qualified general planning consulting firms to support the I-4 Intermodal Passenger Rail Station Feasibility & Planning Study. The procurement process has been completed in accordance with established procedures, and the Selection Committee has finalized its ranking of the responding firms.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Board is requested to approve the list and ranking of the consulting firms recommended by the Selection Committee and to authorize staff to negotiate a contract with the top ranked firm. *Should negotiations fail with HDR Engineering, Inc., negotiations will be terminated, and staff will begin negotiations with the 2nd highest-ranked Proposer, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. Should negotiations fail with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., negotiations will be terminated, and staff will begin negotiations with the 3rd highest-ranked Proposer, Stantec Consulting, Inc. Should negotiations fail with Stantec Consulting, Inc., negotiations will be terminated, and staff will begin negotiations with the 4th highest-ranked Proposer, Michael Baker International, Inc.*

ATTACHMENT

1. RFP 25-686, I-4 Intermodal Passenger Rail Station Feasibility Planning Study Interviews/Ranking Meeting Minutes

RFP 25-686, I-4 Intermodal Passenger Rail Station Feasibility & Planning Study

Interviews/Ranking Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2026

Selection Committee Members:

Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO
Cindy Mitchell, Polk TPO
Stephanie Madden, City of Lakeland Commissioner
Chuck Barmby, City of Lakeland – Planning & Transportation
Nicole McCleary, Citrus Connection

Staff: Brad Howard, Procurement
Noah Milov, County Attorney's Office

Others (Ranking Meeting):

Rohan Sadhai, Asha Planning
David Todry, Michael Baker International
Aaron Franklin, Michael Baker International

Interviews convened at approximately 1:15 p.m. on Monday, January 12, 2026. All Selection Committee members were present. Presentations were made in alphabetical order followed by questions of the Committee. The interviews ended at approximately 4:38 p.m.

After the Presentation/Interviews, the Selection Committee meeting became open to the public at 4:45 p.m. The Selection Committee ranked the firms from one to eight with a ranking of one for the Proposer deemed to be the most highly qualified to perform the required services. The following are the firms interviewed and their final ranking by the Selection Committee.

Proposer	Location	Rank
HDR Engineering, Inc.	Tampa, FL	1
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.	Tampa, FL	2
Stantec Consulting, Inc.	Lake Mary, FL	3
Michael Baker International, Inc.	Orlando, FL	4

In accordance with the RFP's Selection Process, Elevation Level 3, Proposer Interviews, the Selection Committee collectively decided to recommend the Board authorize staff to enter into contract negotiations with the highest-ranked Proposer, HDR Engineering, Inc. Should negotiations fail with HDR Engineering, Inc., negotiations will be terminated, and staff will begin negotiations with the 2nd highest-ranked Proposer, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. Should negotiations fail with Kimley-Horn

and Associates, Inc., negotiations will be terminated, and staff will begin negotiations with the 3rd highest-ranked Proposer, Stantec Consulting, Inc. Should negotiations fail with Stantec Consulting, Inc., negotiations will be terminated, and staff will begin negotiations with the 4th highest-ranked Proposer, Michael Baker International, Inc.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Tabatha Shirah,

Brad Howard

Sr. Procurement Analyst



Polk County
Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

Agenda Item 12.

2/12/2026

AGENDA ITEM

Review/Approve Draft Planning Tasks for the FY 2026/27 - 2027/28 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

PRESENTER

Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO

SUMMARY

Staff will request the Polk TPO Board to review and approve the Draft Planning Tasks for the FY 2026/27 - 2027/28 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

TPO staff will discuss new tasks for FY 2026/27 - 2027/28, as well as a program budget. A complete copy of the Draft UPWP will be presented to the Board for its review and approval in April. The Polk TPO's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommends approval.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve the Draft Planning Tasks for FY 2026/27 and 2027/28 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

ATTACHMENT

1. Draft Planning Tasks for FY 2026/27 - 2027/28

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Planning Tasks for Fiscal Years

2026/27 – 2027/28

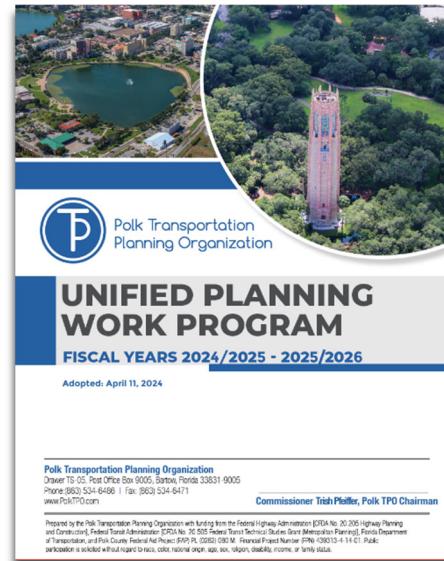


Polk Transportation
Planning Organization

DRAFT
February 4, 2026

INTRODUCTION

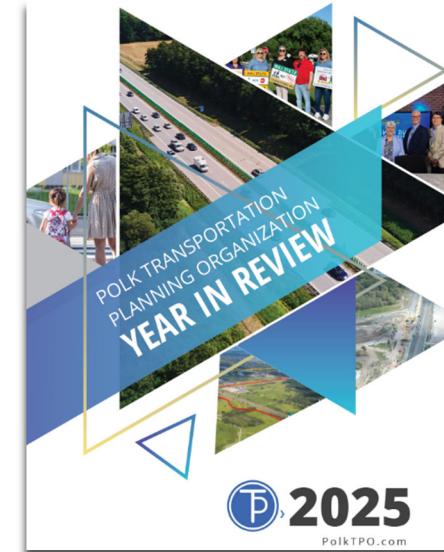
As part of the Polk Transportation Planning Organization's (TPO) FY 2026/27 through FY 2027/28 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), the TPO will focus on the planning activities outlined below. These projects are based on the TPO's planning requirements pursuant to state and federal regulations, as well as the direction of the TPO Board, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Transportation Adviser Network (TAN). This list of tasks and projects does not constitute a complete list of all the activities the TPO will undertake in support of the UPWP. Instead, the list represents the major, or significant planning activities the TPO will work on over the next two years and is intended to foster discussion with the committees and TPO Board. A more comprehensive list of tasks and projects will be outlined in the Draft UPWP document which will be published for committee and Board review and approval at our March and April meetings.



1.0 ADMINISTRATION

1.1 PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

- TPO BOARD & COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS** – Includes the preparation and distribution of planning documents, meeting materials, as well as providing technical assistance in support of TPO Board and committee meetings. This task includes coordination with federal, state, and local TPO partners.
- ANNUAL REPORT** – The TPO will prepare an annual report that highlights the key achievements and work of the TPO throughout the year in implementing the tasks and work products from the adopted Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) or grant budget.
- TPO TMA FEDERAL CERTIFICATION REVIEW** – The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) conduct a certification review of the Polk TPO every four (4) years. The TPO's next Certification Review is due to occur in 2027. The purpose of the Review is to ensure the Polk TPO's planning process meets all federal requirements.

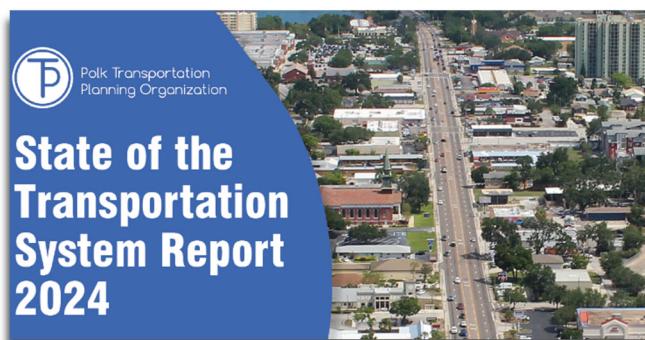


- **CONSULTANT SUPPORT SERVICES** – The TPO is proposing to allocate funding for consultant services for in-house support for the TPO to assist staff in implementing the UPWP. These services would be on an as-needed basis and work will be conducted by the TPO's current list of approved general planning consultants.

2.0 SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES

2.1 DATA DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

- **STATE OF THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM REPORT** – The Polk TPO will publish a State of the Transportation System Report that highlights the travel conditions on Polk County's transportation system. This annual report provides an overview of the current state of the county's roadways, transit systems, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and it also provides a regional comparison on traffic growth. The Report is prepared in support of the TPO's Congestion Management Process and the Federally required transportation performance measures and targets that have been adopted by the Polk TPO. Key findings in the report highlight the status of road congestion, public transportation ridership trends and planned growth of the County's multi-use trail network. The Report serves as a vital tool for the TPO's local governments, planners and the community to understand the current transportation system.



- **TRANSPORTATION MULTI-MODAL DATABASE** – The TPO will prepare and publish a Transportation Multi-Modal Database to include system performance information such as roadway capacity, traffic volume, level of service, as well as the presence of bicycle and pedestrian features and access to transit services. This information will help the TPO monitor travel conditions in support of its Congestion Management Process. The TPO will publish a report that graphically summarizes this information and highlights the critical information and key trends.
- **TRANSPORTATION DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM** – The TPO will collect information for various modes of transportation in support of the Transportation Multi-Modal Database and State of the Transportation System Report and the TPO's Congestion Management Process Performance Standards. This includes the TPO's Traffic Count Program which consists of 740 traffic count stations on the state, county and city major roads throughout Polk County.



3.0 SYSTEMS PLANNING

3.1 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

- **2050 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE** – The Polk TPO is required to update the



Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) every five years. The TPO branded the LRTP update *Envision 2050* and adopted the Plan on December 9, 2025. With adoption complete, the plan now moves into the implementation phase, where the TPO will begin prioritizing projects for funding and development in coordination with local governments, the Florida Department of Transportation and regional partners. There are also some projects envisioned for the new UPWP that the TPO will undertake in support of the recently adopted Envision 2050 and are highlighted below.

- **I-4 INTERMODAL PASSENGER RAIL STATION**

FEASIBILITY AND PLANNING STUDY – High speed rail has been envisioned for the I-4 corridor between Tampa and Orlando for more than 50 years and has been in the TPO's Long Range Transportation Plan as an unfunded transportation need since 2002. The planned service in the I-4 corridor would include a stop in Polk County. More recently in 2023 Brightline extended its service from South Florida to Orlando International Airport and is currently evaluating service between Tampa and Orlando. In 2025 FDOT announced it will begin a PD&E Study to evaluate passenger rail service along the "Sunshine Corridor" between Orlando International Airport and I-4 that would accommodate both Brightline and SunRail. Included in TPO's FY 2024/25 – 2025/26 UPWP is a project called the I-4 Intermodal Passenger Rail Station Feasibility and Planning Study. This Study will evaluate the opportunities and needs for Brightline service in Polk County and identify several viable candidate station locations along the I-4 corridor. The TPO amended the FY 2024/25 – 2025/26 UPWP in order to fund this important project at \$500,000. It is likely the TPO will only begin this project in FY 2025/26, so there is a need to de-obligate a large portion of these funds in FY 2025/26 so they can be available in FY 2026/27 to support the completion of this project.



- **SUNRAIL EXTENSION** – The Polk TPO first evaluated the extension of SunRail into

Polk County in 2014 in conjunction with our 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan. Since that time, SunRail service has been implemented in the Orlando Urban Area and has been expanded to within four (4) miles of the Polk County Line. On April 14, 2022, the Polk TPO Adopted Resolution 2022-04 which supports the extension of SunRail into Polk County and requests that FDOT prepare a Transit Concept and Alternatives Review (T-CAR) in support of the extension. In 2023, FDOT completed the T-CAR Study which identifies



infrastructure needs; ridership projections, capitol, operation and maintenance costs; and a financial analysis for the SunRail Extension. On October 12, 2023, the Polk TPO Adopted Resolution 2023-11 which accepts the findings of the T-CAR Study and requests FDOT further evaluate the concept and proceed with a Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study. FDOT is taking the lead on the PD&E Study and kicked off the project in early 2025.

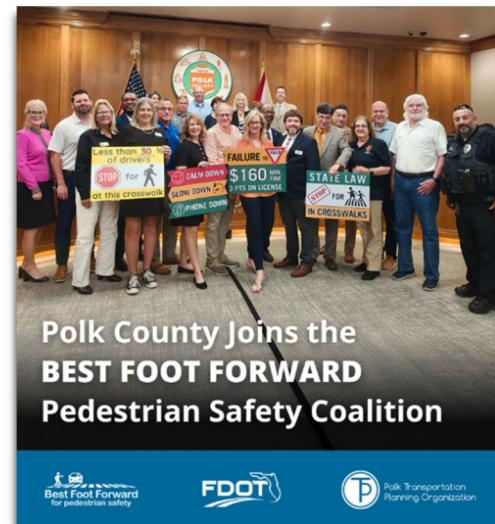
- **SUNRAIL EXTENSION (Transit Supportive Planning)** – In 2023 the Polk TPO's adopted Transportation Priority Projects requested funds for a study to evaluate the proposed station locations for the proposed SunRail Extension in Polk County. Funding for this project was added to the referenced PD&E Study in response to this request. This study which is being led by FDOT will include a detailed evaluation of the existing and proposed land uses in close proximity to the proposed station locations identified in FDOT's TCAR project. The study will also identify the multi-modal connectivity needs at each proposed station, as well as an evaluation of bus rapid transit (BRT) in the US 92 corridor as an extension of SunRail services. This is a project the TPO will continue to support and will be included as part of the TPO's UPWP for FY 2026/27 – 2027/28.

3.2 SHORT-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

- **BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN TACTICAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION** – The Polk TPO will continue collaborating with Polk Vision in implementing a tactical plan for improving bicycle and pedestrian safety in Polk County. The tactical plan emphasis areas include lighting and visibility, street crossings, sidewalks and bikeways, trails, and school focused safety.
- **VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN** – In 2023 Polk County applied for and received a federal Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant for a Vision Zero Action Plan. The Action Plan will identify the top 20 most dangerous roads and intersections in Polk County and develop projects and strategies to make them safer. When completed, this Action Plan will enable Polk County and the municipalities the ability to apply for SS4A grants for implementation of the improvements recommended in the Plan. The Polk TPO will help to oversee and administer this grant for Polk County and therefore will be included as a planning task in the TPO's UPWP.



- **BEST FOOT FORWARD** – In 2025 Polk TPO supported pedestrian safety in 2025 by participating in two Best Foot Forward crosswalk enforcement events. Best Foot Forward is a regional pedestrian safety initiative that works with law enforcement, local governments and community partners to improve driver yielding behavior and reduce crashes at marked crosswalks. In June of last year, Polk TPO supported this commitment by passing a resolution in support of Best Foot Forward's pedestrian safety program. On July 31, Polk TPO staff joined the Best Foot Forward team and the Winter Haven Police Department Traffic Unit, where officers stopped 26 drivers and educated them on Florida's law requiring motorists to yield to pedestrians in marked crosswalks. On Aug. 6, Polk TPO partnered with Polk Vision, Bartow City Commissioner and TPO Chair Trish Pfeiffer and the Bartow Police Department at Shumate Drive and East Clower Street in Bartow. The event emphasized safe driving and walking in school zones and busy crossing areas. Together, these efforts reinforced Polk TPO's commitment to safer, more walkable communities and aligned directly with the goals of Vision Zero Polk. The TPO will continue to support the efforts of Best Foot Forward and has included this as task in the new UPWP.



3.5 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

- **IMPLEMENTING THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN** – For the new UPWP there will be continued focus on implementing the Polk TPO's Adopted Public Participation Plan (PPP). The TPO will continue to provide methods of engaging the public through various forms of media. These methods include the use of interactive community forums, Facebook, live interactive television broadcasts and developing short videos of key transportation projects and concepts. These methods will be especially useful as the TPO conducts public outreach for its plans and programs, as well with the TPO's Transportation Adviser Network. The PPP was last updated in 2023 and will receive a comprehensive update as part of the new UPWP.



3.6 REGIONAL PLANNING AND COORDINATION

- **REGIONAL PLANS** – The TPO will participate in the regional planning efforts of the Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance (SCTPA), and Central Florida MPO Alliance (CFMPOA) to ensure coordination with the TPO's regional transportation plans, projects and priorities.
- **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS PROGRAM (RTSM&O)** – This task also supports the facilitation of cooperation and coordination of the Regional Transportation Systems Management and Operations Program (RTSM&O), and advances TSM&O planning with neighboring M/TPOs in Central Florida. TSM&O is the application of multimodal transportation strategies and technologies intended to maximize the efficiency, safety, and utility of the existing transportation network. It includes a set of projects and strategies that use technology and real-time operational procedures, that when integrated at the state, regional and local levels, enhances the movement of people and goods, all with a positive impact on individual and national economic prosperity.



Polk County
Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

Agenda Item 13.

2/12/2026

AGENDA ITEM

Lakeland Linder International Airport Presentation

PRESENTER

Kris Hallstrand, Airport Director

SUMMARY

Lakeland Linder International Airport (LAL) is located on an approximate 1,710-acre property in southwest Lakeland near the Polk Parkway and Interstate 4. LAL is publicly owned and operated by the City of Lakeland. LAL's director will provide the TPO Board with a presentation on the status of ongoing projects and future plans for the Airport.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

This item is being presented for information only

ATTACHMENT

None



Polk County
Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

Agenda Item 14.

2/12/2026

AGENDA ITEM

Central Polk Parkway East Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE) and Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study

PRESENTER

Turnpike Staff

SUMMARY

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE), has completed an Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE) for a new north-south facility in Northeastern Polk County. The ACE, a planning-level study, has identified a potential corridor location for a new tolled, limited-access highway connecting US 27 with US 17/92. The proposed highway will provide a direct link to Interstate 4 and SR 429 (Western Beltway) through the future Poinciana Connector (SR 538). It would serve as a high-speed, alternate travel route to US 27, where heavy traffic congestion regularly impacts the communities now and is forecasted to get worse due to population growth and increased travel demand.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

This item is being presented for information only

ATTACHMENT

1. CPP East Newsletter

Newsletter 4 - November 2025

FPID Numbers: 451419-3, 455878-1, 455879-1 | ETDM Number: 14582

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Florida Department of Transportation, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, is evaluating a tolled, limited-access highway in northeastern Polk County. This new route would begin at U.S. 27 and connect directly to Interstate 4 and State Road (S.R.) 429 (Western Beltway) via the future Poinciana Connector (S.R. 538).

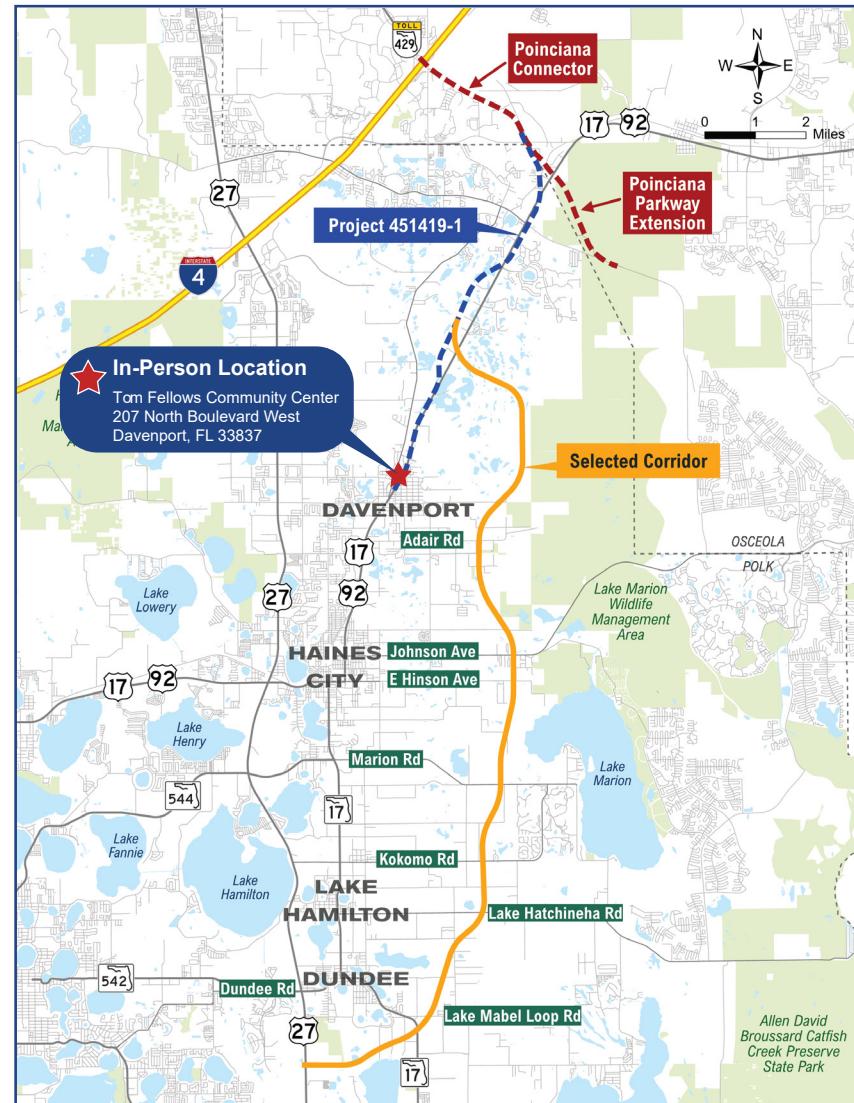
WHY IS THE PROJECT NEEDED

U.S. 27 is already experiencing heavy congestion, and traffic is expected to increase as the county continues to add new homes and residents. The new highway would offer a high-speed alternative route, helping to relieve congestion on U.S. 27 and surrounding local roads.

CORRIDOR ALTERNATIVES

Four initial corridors (A, B, C, and D) were presented for public input in January 2025. The options were narrowed to Corridors E and F and presented for public input in May 2025.

A refined Corridor F has been selected to move forward into the Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study phase. Corridor F will be presented for additional public input in December 2025. The selection was guided by stakeholder input and planning-level engineering and environmental evaluations.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

As the PD&E Study progresses, we'll continue engaging with the community through events such as a public meetings and formal public hearings.

We encourage you to stay involved in this important project! To receive updates and meeting invitations, simply email the project manager and ask to be added to the project mailing list.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Jazlyn Georges, P.E. at (407) 264-3298 or by email at Jazlyn.Georges@dot.state.fl.us at least seven days (7) prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, (800) 955-8771 (TDD) or (800) 955-8770 (Voice).

PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

You are invited to a Selected Corridor Public Information Meeting for Central Polk Parkway East from U.S. 27 to U.S. 17/92 in Polk County. The meeting will give interested persons an opportunity to view the selected corridor, and review project goals, community benefits, and project schedule. Interested persons will also be able to ask questions and provide comments concerning the selected corridor, and potential social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed improvements.

Please visit the project website, www.CentralPolkParkwayEast.com, to register to attend the Selected Corridor Public Information Meeting virtually. Please note that registration works best in the Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, or Firefox web browsers. The same material will be presented in each participation option. Please contact the Project Manager for assistance with registering.

VIRTUAL OR TELEPHONE DECEMBER 15, 2025 | 6:00 p.m.

We are using the GoToWebinar platform. Once you register, you will receive a confirmation email that includes instructions on how to join the Selected Corridor Public Information Meeting online. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. with introductions and an informational project video. The project team will then answer questions received during registration.

To join the meeting in listen-only mode, please call (415) 655-0052 and enter access code 855-813-572. The line will open at 6 p.m. with introductions and an informational project video. The project team will then answer questions received during registration. Virtual and telephone attendees will participate in the same virtual Selected Corridor Public Information Meeting.

IN-PERSON DECEMBER 17, 2025 | 4:30-7:30p.m.

You may participate in-person by going to the **Tom Fellows Community Center, located at 207 North Boulevard West, Davenport, FL 33837, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

The in-person meeting will be conducted in an informal, open house format, with no formal presentation. Project exhibits will be on display and members of the project team will be available to answer questions. The same informational project video played at the virtual meeting will be shown at the in-person meeting.

Registration is not required for in-person attendance.

PUBLIC MEETING MATERIALS

All materials that will be on display at the in-person meeting location will be available on the project website, www.CentralPolkParkwayEast.com, on the day of the virtual meeting.

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Please contact the Project Manager, Jazlyn Georges, P.E., with questions or comments about the project. All comments and questions will receive a written response. While comments and questions will be accepted at any time, we ask that those related to the public information meetings be submitted by January 6, 2026.

Project Contacts

Jazlyn Georges, P.E.
Project Manager
Consultant to Florida's Turnpike Enterprise
P.O. Box 613069
Ocoee, FL 34761-3069
(407) 264-3298
Email: Jazlyn.Georges@dot.state.fl.us

Ron Kareiva, P.E.
Project Development Engineer
Florida's Turnpike Enterprise
P.O. Box 613069
Ocoee, Florida 34761-3069
(407) 264-3870
Email: Ronald.Kareiva@dot.state.fl.us

Scan the QR code to visit project website:





Polk County
Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

Agenda Item 15.

2/12/2026

AGENDA ITEM

Executive Director's Report

PRESENTER

Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO Executive Director

SUMMARY

- a. 2025 Year in Review
- b. Letter of Support for the Statewide Advancement of Enhancements at Intercity Passenger Rail Crossings Program

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Presented for informational purposes only.

ATTACHMENT

- 1. 2025 Year in Review

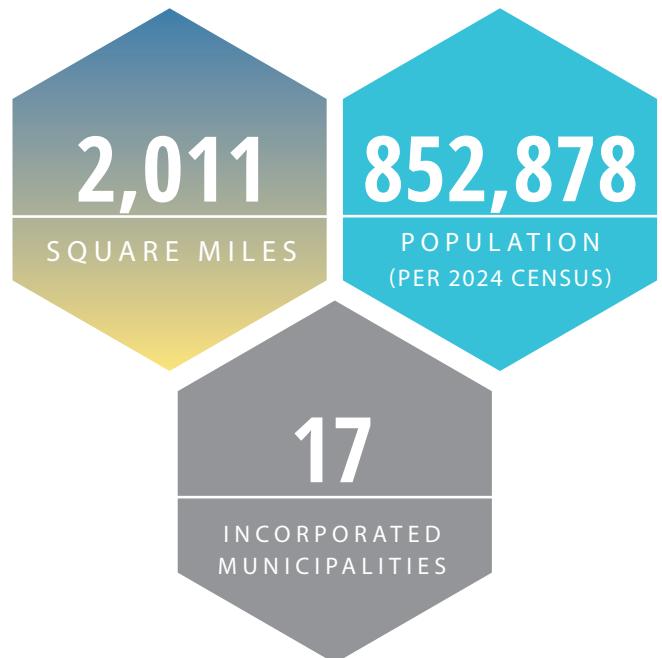
POLK TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION YEAR IN REVIEW

 2025
PolkTPO.com

› POLK COUNTY BY NUMBERS



One of the fastest growing counties in the U.S.



› POLK TPO BOARD *(AS OF DECEMBER 2025)*

The TPO Board is comprised of elected officials, including all five county commissioners and representatives from municipalities in Polk County.

Chair, Trish Pfeiffer - City of Bartow

Vice-Chair, Sara Roberts-McCarley - City of Lakeland

Polk County

Commissioner Martha Santiago
Commissioner Michael Scott
Commissioner Bill Braswell
Commissioner Rick Wilson
Commissioner Becky Troutman

City of Auburndale

Commissioner Jordan Helms

City of Bartow

Commissioner Trish Pfeiffer

City of Davenport

Vice Mayor Jeremy Clark

City of Haines City

Commissioner Omar Arroyo
Vice Mayor Vernel Smith

South County Bloc

Commissioner Dawn McDonald - Mulberry
Council Member Adam Greenway - Frostproof
Commissioner Jim Watts - Fort Meade

City of Lakeland

Mayor Bill Mutz
Commissioner Guy LaLonde, Jr.
Commissioner Sara Roberts McCarley
Commissioner Stephanie Madden
Commissioner Bill Read
Mayor Pro Tem Mike Musick

City of Lake Alfred

Vice Mayor Nancy Daley

City of Lake Wales

Mayor Jack Hilligoss

City of Winter Haven

Mayor Nat Birdsong
Mayor Pro-Tem Brian Yates
Commissioner Tracy Mercer

Central County and Ridge Bloc

Mayor Joe LaCascia - Polk City
Vice Mayor Steven Metosh Sr. - Eagle Lake
Mayor Phyllis Hall - Lake Hamilton
Commissioner Willie Quarles - Dundee

Advisory Members

FDOT District One Interim Secretary James Driggers
Assistant County Attorney III Heather Bryan
Polk TPO Executive Director Ryan Kordek



Polk Transportation Planning Organization

ENVISION 2050

› ENVISION 2050

In 2025, the Polk TPO promoted Envision 2050, the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) that will guide Polk County's mobility and infrastructure investments through the next 25 years. With the county's population projected to reach nearly 1.2 million residents by 2050, the plan outlines more than \$13 billion in needed transportation projects to support future growth.

Throughout the past year, the TPO emphasized public outreach, including a video series highlighting past LRTP projects including Central Polk Parkway West, Lake Silver Drive in Winter Haven and the Fort Fraser Trail extension.

To support transparency and engagement, the Polk TPO hosted two live-streamed Q&A forums and maintained a dedicated project website where residents could review maps, explore plan materials and submit comments for future planning consideration. Project details can be found on PolkTPO.com.

Envision 2050 was adopted on Dec. 9, 2025. With adoption complete, the plan now moves into the implementation phase, where the TPO will begin prioritizing projects for funding and development in coordination with local governments, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and regional partners.



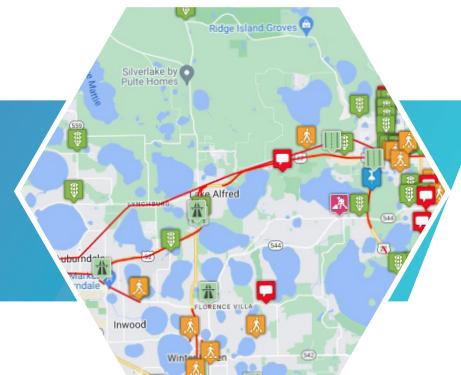
PAST LRTP PROJECTS

Video Series



LIVE STREAM FORUMS

June and October 2025



PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Maps and Surveys



› TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN ADOPTION

The Polk TPO adopted Citrus Connection's new Transit Development Plan (TDP) last year following their presentation at the December 2025 TPO Board meeting. The five-year plan outlines strategies to expand mobility options, modernize transit services and strengthen regional connectivity across Polk County. Developed through a collaborative process, the plan reflects significant leadership and technical support from TPO staff, who ensured consistency with regional growth, multimodal priorities and long-range transportation goals. Engineering and planning firm Benesch provided additional expertise in data analysis, route evaluation and scenario development to refine the final recommendations.

Public engagement played a central role in shaping the plan. Citrus Connection and TPO staff conducted rider surveys, community workshops, pop-up events and stakeholder meetings to gather input from residents across the county. That feedback directly informed priorities such as expanded service hours, improved stop amenities and better access to jobs and healthcare. The adopted plan positioned Citrus Connection to deliver a more efficient, equitable and forward-looking transit network, supporting the region's continued growth under the banner of "Progress in Motion."

› POLK TPO STAFF SPOTLIGHT

In fall 2025, Transportation Planning Administrator Julia Davis, AICP, retired after eight years of passionate service to the Polk Transportation Planning Organization.

Davis spent decades working in transit planning and transportation-disadvantaged coordination. She earned her American Institute of Certified Planners credential in 1999. Her career included roles with LeeTran, the Lee Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council and the Florida Department of Transportation.



Before joining the Polk TPO in 2017, Davis operated an independent transportation planning, public involvement and creative outreach consulting business.

During her tenure at the Polk TPO, Davis became a trusted voice in the community. She was known for her outreach style, public speaking, historical storytelling, training programs and aerial photography, which supported transportation planning and public information efforts.

Her experience and enthusiasm for public service will be missed by colleagues across Polk County and Florida's transportation community.

› CENTRAL POLK PARKWAY GROUND BREAKING

In October 2025, Polk TPO leadership joined state and local partners to celebrate the start of construction on the Central Polk Parkway extension. Bartow City Commissioner and TPO Chair Trish Pfeiffer, Winter Haven Mayor Nat Birdsong and TPO Executive Director Ryan Kordek attended the groundbreaking ceremony to commemorate this long-planned regional mobility investment. Polk TPO also extends its appreciation to FDOT and FDOT's Turnpike Enterprise for delivering this critical project.

The extension will add 2.6 miles of new four-lane tolled roadway from U.S. Highway 17/State Road 35 to State Road 60, easing congestion and improving access to major corridors, including Interstate 4. The six-year project includes modern safety features such as roadway lighting, updated signage, pavement markings, guardrail and wrong-way driving detection technology.



Photo credit: Gary White/ The Ledger

For the Polk TPO, the start of construction represents the implementation of a project first introduced in the TPO's 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan, showcasing the result of decades of planning, coordination and partnership. The groundbreaking marked a major step toward improving mobility, supporting economic growth and strengthening the transportation network throughout Polk County.

› FORT FRASER TRAIL EXTENSION

Last year, Polk County Government and the Polk TPO continued work on the 2.4-mile Fort Fraser Trail extension between U.S. Highway 98 and Lakeland Highlands Road (County Road 37B). The original trail ran parallel to U.S. Highway 98 from Winter Lake Road (State Road 540) in Lakeland to State Road 60 in Bartow, with trailheads at Polk State College and in Highland City. The extension connects more than 36 miles of paved and unpaved multi-use trails, strengthening regional mobility for people walking, biking and rolling.

This collaborative effort earned Polk County Government and the Polk TPO the Bike/Walk Central Florida 2025 Wheel of Achievement Award, recognizing the Fort Fraser Trail Extension as a standout project that improves safety and expands accessible transportation options. The award highlights initiatives that make Central Florida's streets and trails safer and easier to use for all, reflecting a shared commitment to building a more connected transportation network.



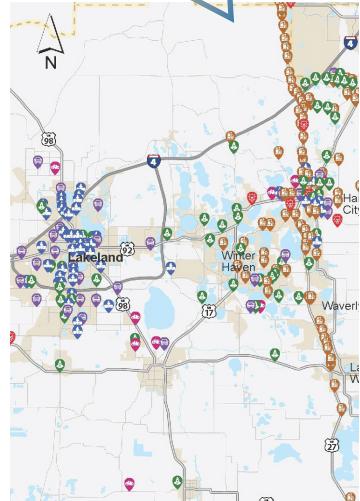
› VISION ZERO POLK

Vision Zero Polk continued to serve as Polk TPO's comprehensive safety campaign through the past year, centered on the goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries across all modes of travel. The initiative brings together data analysis, community partnerships and public outreach to build a transportation system where everyone, whether walking, biking, driving or rolling, can travel safely.

Polk TPO continued this work through development of the Vision Zero Action Plan, a framework that identified priority corridors, key safety strategies and community-driven solutions.

Public input played a major role, with residents sharing their safety concerns and ideas through surveys, community meetings and online feedback opportunities. Additional information on Vision Zero safety initiatives and studies are available online at PolkTPO.com.

Here are some of the events Polk TPO participated in that align with the Vision Zero initiative:



› BIKE SAFETY EVENT

On March 28, 2025, Polk TPO staff participated in the Cycle Celebration event in Bartow, partnering with FDOT's Commute Connector to promote transportation safety and highlight the range of travel options available to residents. Before the guided bike ride began, Bartow City Commissioner Trish Pfeiffer issued a proclamation underscoring the importance of educating commuters about their transportation choices and encouraging safer, more sustainable travel habits.

As part of the TPO's broader Vision Zero Polk efforts, the event offered an opportunity to engage directly with the community, share safety resources that make it easier for people to walk, bike, and choose alternative modes of transportation across Polk County.





› CROSSWALK SAFETY - BEST FOOT FORWARD

Polk TPO supported pedestrian safety in 2025 by participating in two Best Foot Forward crosswalk enforcement events. Best Foot Forward is a regional pedestrian safety initiative that works with law enforcement, local governments and community partners to improve driver yielding behavior and reduce crashes at marked crosswalks. In June of last year, Polk TPO supported this commitment by passing a resolution in support of Best Foot Forward's pedestrian safety program.

On July 31, 2025, Polk TPO staff joined the Best Foot Forward team and the Winter Haven Police Department Traffic Unit, where officers stopped 26 drivers and educated them on Florida's law requiring motorists to yield to pedestrians in marked crosswalks.

On Aug. 6, 2025, Polk TPO partnered with Polk Vision, Bartow City Commissioner Trish Pfeiffer and the Bartow Police Department at Shumate Drive and East Clower Street in Bartow. The event emphasized safe driving and walking in school zones and busy crossing areas.

Together, these efforts reinforced Polk TPO's commitment to safer, more walkable communities and aligned directly with the goals of Vision Zero Polk.



› Winter Haven



Polk Transportation
Planning Organization



February 2, 2026

The Honorable David Fink
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE W-32
Washington, DC 20590, United States

RE: Letter of Support for the Statewide Advancement of Feature Enhancements at Intercity Passenger Rail Crossings (SAFE-IPR) Program

Dear Administrator Fink,

On behalf of the Polk TPO, I am pleased to express our strong support for the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) application to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) under the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail (FSP) Grant Program for the Statewide Advancement of Feature Enhancements at Intercity Passenger Rail Crossings (SAFE-IPR) Program.

This initiative aligns closely with the strategic priorities of the U.S. Department of Transportation and FRA by advancing investments that improve safety, enhance state of good repair, strengthen system durability, and modernize critical transportation infrastructure. From a local government perspective, the SAFE-IPR Program also supports improved system operations by reducing delays and improving travel time reliability for intercity passenger rail service operating through our community.

The SAFE-IPR Program's statewide, programmatic approach to implementing safety countermeasures at 910 intercity passenger rail crossings, of which 79 lie within the Polk County jurisdiction, reflects a comprehensive and coordinated strategy for addressing safety risks that affect communities across Florida. Proposed improvements, including upgraded traffic control devices, enhanced pedestrian treatments, improved lighting, and revised approach geometries, will help reduce safety risks at crossings while improving the movement of people and goods, emergency response operations, and quality of life for residents, visitors, and businesses within Polk County. The Polk TPO understands that as improvements are advanced, Polk County will work with FDOT to address financial commitments and to facilitate access to municipal right-of-way, as needed, to support timely and efficient program implementation.

The Polk TPO supports the SAFE-IPR Program and believes it will play a critical role in advancing a safer, more reliable, and more resilient transportation system at both the local and statewide levels. The Polk TPO wishes to express our dedication to comprehensive rail improvements. We appreciate FDOT's leadership in advancing this effort and look forward to continued coordination with the Department and project partners as safety improvements are implemented at crossing locations within our jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

Ryan Kordek, Executive Director
Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)
(863) 534-6558 / RyanKordek@polkfl.gov