

# **Polk County**

*FDOT District One Conference Center  
801 N. Broadway  
Bartow, FL 33830*



## **Meeting Minutes - Final**

**Thursday, December 4, 2025**

**9:30 AM**

**FDOT District One Conference Center, 801 N. Broadway, Bartow, Florida  
33830**

### **TPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

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**Introduction**

1. Call to Order - 9:30 a.m. (Tess Schwartz, Chairperson)

**Minutes:** Vice Chair Carlie Flagler called the TAC Meeting to order at 9:30 am.

2. Confirmation of Quorum

**Minutes:** Roll call was taken, and a quorum was confirmed by KC Rivera, Polk TPO Staff.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

**Attachments:** [A13 A1 Minutes](#)

**Minutes:** Motion to approve September 25, 2025, meeting minutes.

**Motion:** Motioned to approve made by Jay Jarvis, seconded by Julie Womble. Motion carried without dissent.

4. Agenda Review - Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO Executive Director

**Minutes:** Ryan Kordek, TPO Executive Director, informed the board we will be in this room next year and gave an overview of the TAC agenda. Action items included the amendments to the TIP, LRTP update before adoption, and FDOT and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise Draft Work Program. Along with presentations and status reports for Transit Development Plan, Best Foot Forward, and Priority Transportation Project application cycle.

**Action Items**

5. Review/Approve Amendments to FY 2025/26 - 2029/30 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

**Attachments:** [A15-A1 Amendments to FY25-29 TIP 12-9-2025 Polk TPO Board Meeting](#)

**Minutes:** Angela Kaufman, Polk TPO Staff, presented the request amendment for

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.

Bob Wiegers asked for more information for the Crown Avenue project.

**Motion:** Motioned to approve was made by Julie Womble, seconded by James Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Review/Approval of the Draft 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan - Envision 2050

**Attachments:** [A16 A1 LRTP](#)

**Minutes:** Ryan Kordek, TPO Executive Director, thanks everyone for their help with the LRTP and advised the board the Draft LRTP was approved at our last meeting, but this presentation is about public participation. The LRTP was opened to the public for review for the last two months and was open all year for public comments. Mr. Kordek presented the highlights that made up the LRTP along with the key themes guiding the plan which included the population and employment growth, transportation with the Transit Development Plan, the needs analysis for the cities in Northeast Polk, and the funds/needs within the revenue forecast. Mr. Kordek explained what has changed from the last LRTP for 2045 to the current 2050 as well as the changes from the approved draft LRTP. Mr. Kordek informed the board how it was communicated to our citizens, which included video series of four (4) projects, live public forms, meetings, and events. He acknowledged Brittany Silva of PGTV, PGTV, and the consultant team at Kimley-Horn for their contributions. With the community outreach we received 519 unique comments that focused on roadways, intersections, transit and funding.

Chuck Barmby provided the following comments to be included in the draft Long Range Transportation Plan:

- 1) Transit: Regarding the northern limits of the US 98 or Florida Avenue Bus Rapid Transit routes, the draft plan shows the limits as Downtown Lakeland, but the northern limits should be Interstate 4 or Lakeland Square Mall. FDOT conducted a feasibility study to get from the Intermodal Center to Lakeland Square Mall to the north. He wanted to get this length correct in the draft LRTP.
- 2) Lakeland Park Drive extension: It shows that it is committed from Union Drive to Carpenters Way. He wanted to get this into the cost feasible category. But William Roll told Chuck that he would have to provide costs/dollar amount of project in order to get it into this category. William Roll and Chuck Barmby were to talk later about this. This will be relative to impact fees projected for beyond FY 2030/31 according to Chuck Barmby.

**Motion:** Motioned to approve to include comments made by Chuck Barmby, seconded by Jay Jarvis. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**Attachments:** [A17 A1 Polk Draft Tentative WP FY27-31](#)  
[A17 A2 2025 WP Project Summary Turnpike](#)  
[A17 A3 Polk Summary of Changes Report FY27-31](#)  
[A17 A4 Adopted 2025 Priority Transportation Projects](#)

**Minutes:** Ryan Kordek, TPO Executive Director, introduced the Florida Turnpike Enterprise and Victoria Williams who will be presenting the Tentative Five-Year Work Program.

Victoria Williams, Florida Turnpike, presented construction workflow of the Central Polk Parkway and informed citizens can see the weekly construction updates on their website as well as signing up for emails. Ms. Williams explained the projects on the tentative Five-Year Work Program handout.

Ryan Kordek explained in the future the priorities are going to be decreasing, three out of twenty-seven are getting funded as well as TSMA funds being moved to later years. Also, a majority of FDOT funds are going to resurfacing our roads.

- 1) Chuck Barmby spoke about the resurfacing projects on US 98, operational and safety improvements were part of the repurposing of the project including car line extensions larger crosswalks across New Jersey along North and South Crystal Lake, and maybe another turn lane into the high school. As this pavement is being resurface, it would be great to incorporate those types of elements into the project. It could save money and will save shield impact to the residents and drivers in the area.
- 2) New York Avenue overpass downtown (which included trails) that was part of the Work Program and was scheduled for construction in March, but it got tied up in the appropriations changes in Tallahassee and the lobbyists. Their hope is to have the construction re-programmed back into the Work Program which was around \$11M to \$13M.
- 3) Ryan Kordek added in the CSX S Line crossing at SR 60 grade separation was removed from the Work Program. This should be reprogrammed into the Work Program.
- 4) Chuck Barmby then requested FDOT re-evaluate all projects that were removed from the Work Program in the last legislative cycle for reprogramming and to include the operational and safety improvements along Bartow Road and Sylvester.

**Motion:** Motioned to approve with relooking at the funding available for the rails and

highway mentioned was made by Chuck Barmby, seconded by Jay Jarvis. Motion carried unanimously.

## Presentations and Status Reports

### 8. Transit Development Plan

**Attachments:** [A18 A1 TDP Presentation](#)

**Minutes:** Kayla Huetten, Benesch, provided a brief description of a Transit Development Plan as a plan that visions the next ten years and updated every five years, identifies funded and unfunded needs, and helps Citrus Connection set transit services and capital priorities. Ms. Huetten explained the public outreach which included workshops, surveys, media outreach, and they spoke with 1,300 citizens. The outcome of the surveys included the need for more services and Brightline and SunRail in Polk County. Incorporating these inputs from the public, the 2035 Transit needs include enhancements to the existing network, new local services, new regional and rail services, and new micro transit. Ms. Huetten presented the list of priority projects and the timeline in the plan along with the finance plan.

Julie Womble requested information about the definition of microtransit.

Kayla Huetten explained microtransit is an on-demand service which also includes an app.

Richard Ranck asked if we would have queued jumps.

Kayla Huetten advised Polk County does not, but Orlando and Miami do.

### 9. Best Foot Forward

**Minutes:** Vince Dryer, Best Foot Forward Program, presented an overview of the 107 crosswalks across nine counties. In Polk County, eight crosswalks located within Bartow, Winter Haven and Lakeland were evaluated. Next year they will be evaluating twelve crosswalks, one being in Auburndale. Mr. Dryer explained the crosswalk improvement plan which included educating with outreach and educational activities, educational sign waving, enforcement, and engineering solutions with low cost but high effectiveness for yielding. Examples include speed bumps before or at crosswalk or a flashing beacon.

Ryan Kordek asked if he could get a some of the signs so they can be placed at crosswalks and leave them there for a period of time.

Vince Dryer responded that the signs must be removed after the event.

Jay Jarvis asked if we could do a solar operated sign on the top of a crosswalk sign.

Raymond Perez mentioned other counties are implementing photo forced crosswalks, he asked if it could be done. With a traffic analysis or study.

Vince Dryer stated it would have to be requested or recommended at the locations that would be monitored.

10. Priority Transportation Project Application Cycle

**Attachments:** [A110 A1 2026 Transportation Projects Fact Sheet](#)

**Minutes:** Angela Kaufman, Polk TPO Staff, stated the Transportation Priority Program cycle is now open. We are in need of a sub-committee five with an alternate to look at and score. Ms. Kaufman explained what the money can be used for, which there is 8.5 million dollars available in TSMU funds.

Ryan Kordek stated federal funds may have strings attached and this is a grant with no requirements. Last year only three or four jurisdictions submitted for a grant.

A discussion between Angela Kaufman, Ryan Kordek, and the committee regarding the Transportation Priority Program occurred.

## Communications and Reports

11. 2026 TPO Meeting Schedule

**Attachments:** [A111 A1 Meeting Calendar](#)

**Minutes:** Ryan Kordek, TPO Executive Director, presented the meeting calendar for 2026.

12. Central Polk Parkway Meeting

**Attachments:** [A112 A1 CPP Letter](#)  
[A112 A2 CPPE Newsletter](#)

**Minutes:** Ryan Kordek, TPO Executive Director, provided information about the two upcoming meetings for Central Polk Parkway.

13. Board Member Comments

**Minutes:** James Philips mentioned through City of Lakeland's Vision Zero, they are making efforts to try to bring back bike-share which they are working on a draft bill. He asked if they could bring bike-share to the TPO and have it adopted with Complete Streets.

Ryan Kordek agreed with James.

Ryan Kordek stated Julia Davis is officially retired and the job is posted. He also introduced Tracy Mullins, the new Safety Transportation Planner.

Jay Jarvis stated that South Connector CFX is going to the board next Thursday.

#### 14. Adjournment

**Minutes:** The meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

The next TAC Meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2026, and will also be held at the FDOT Conference Center, Bartow.

**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) 534-6597, or by writing to her at Post Office Box 9005, Bartow, Florida 33831-9005.**