



December 22, 2025

Mr. Jamie Driggers, P.E.
Interim District One Secretary
Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Post Office Box 1249
Bartow, Florida 33831-1249

**RE: FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S (FDOT) AND
FLORIDA'S TURNPIKE ENTERPRISE (FTE) FISCAL YEARS 2027 – 2031
DRAFT WORK PROGRAMS FOR POLK COUNTY**

Dear Secretary, Driggers:

At their meeting on December 9th, the Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board received a presentation on the new Draft Work Programs for Polk County. The TPO is very pleased to see the Department's continued investment in a number of transportation priorities adopted by the TPO. This includes the start of construction on the second phase of the Central Polk Parkway in Bartow and the ongoing construction of the Moving I-4 Forward projects in Lakeland and in northeast Polk County.

In terms of new projects included in the new Draft Work Program, the TPO Board was most grateful to see the programming of right-of-way (ROW) acquisition added in fiscal year (FY) 2030 for the two to four-lane widening of State Road 60 (FPN: 433856-2) in eastern Polk County. This project has been a long-standing priority of the Polk TPO and in recent years other statewide and regional MPO/TPO entities such as the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC), Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance (SCTPA) and the Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Alliance (CFMPOA) have joined the Polk TPO in establishing the remaining two-lane portion of State Road 60 in Polk and Osceola counties (CR 630 to US 441) as a regional priority in Central Florida. The TPO Board is hopeful the acquisition of ROW will subsequently lead to the programming of construction and the completion of this critical regional project.

There was also a significant amount of discussion at the Board and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings on two (2) projects on regional rail facilities in Polk County which have unfortunately been removed from the Draft Work Program. These projects were previously priorities of the Polk TPO and include the State Road 60 grade separation on CSX's S-Line near Logistics Parkway (FPN: 436559-1) which was programmed for construction in FY 2028 at nearly \$75M. In Lakeland, the second project is the New York Avenue Pedestrian Overpass (FPN: 436656-1) which was funded for construction in FY 2026 at \$11.6M. The Polk TPO respectfully requests the Department to attempt to re-program these projects at the earliest opportunity.

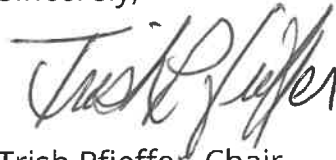
Another important regional roadway that was discussed is US 98 (FPN: 197564-4), between Edgewood Drive and Main Street, in Lakeland. This project was the Polk TPO's top priority in 2025 and includes safety and multi-modal enhancements, as well as intersection improvements along the corridor at key locations such as Edgewood Drive, Sylvester and New Jersey Road, and North and South Crystal Lake Drive. The project development and environmental (PD&E) and design phases have been completed, and the planned improvements can be made within the existing ROW. Our hope is the Department may be able to incorporate some of these improvements, consistent with the project design, into a resurfacing project which is currently programmed on US 98 (FPN: 457732-1), or future resurfacing or maintenance projects that are not yet programmed within the corridor.

The TPO realizes there is a limited amount of transportation funding when compared to the total cost of all the transportation projects needed within District One and are very appreciative of the Department's investment reflected in the new Draft Work Program for Polk County.

If you have any questions or need any additional information regarding the TPO's discussion on these projects, please contact Ryan Kordek with our staff at (863) 534-6558.

Secretary Driggers
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trish Pfeiffer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Trish Pfeiffer, Chair
Polk Transportation Planning Organization
(TPO)

TP:rk

cc: TPO Board Members
TPO TAC Members
Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO
Benjamin Dunn, Polk County
Nicole Mills, FDOT1
Bessie Reina, FDOT1
Wayne Gaither, FDOT1
Edith Perez, FDOT1
Katina Kavouklis, FTE
Victoria Williams, FTE

