

Polk County

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Thursday, January 22, 2026

9:30 AM

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

TPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

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Introduction

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

Minutes: Chair Tess Schwartz 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 Draft TAC minutes 12.4.2025](#)

Minutes: Motion to approve December 4, 2025, meeting minutes.

Motion: Motioned to approve made by Carlie Flagler, seconded by Chuck Barmby.
Motion carried without dissent.

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

Minutes: Ryan Kordek, TPO Executive Director, provided an overview of the TAC agenda, which included action items such as the election of officers, presentations on Vision Zero Polk, and amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The agenda also featured updates on the Central Polk Parkway East Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE), the Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study, and draft revisions to Polk County's Comprehensive Plan Transportation Plan.

Action Items

5. Election of Officers

Minutes: Ryan Kordek, TPO Executive Director, requested the committee appoint a Chair and Vice Chair, noting that the Bylaws permit both positions to serve two-year terms and that the committee is currently in the first year of the term.

Bob Wieggers nominated Tess Schwartz as Chair and Carlie Flagler as Vice Chair. The motion to approve was made by Bob Wieggers, seconded by Chuck Barmby, and carried unanimously.

Motion: A motion to approve was made by Bob Wieggers, seconded by Chuck Barmby. Motion carried unanimously.

- 6a. Review/Approve Draft TPO Resolution 2026-02 Adopting the Safety Performance Targets for the Polk TPO

Attachments: [A16a A1 Resolution 2026-02 Safety Targets](#)

Minutes: Tracy Mullins, Polk TPO staff, presented the requirements for the Vision Zero Safety Performance Target, noting that the draft resolution sets a goal of zero fatalities and outlined the methodology used to develop supporting data.

Marissa Barmby asked whether the resolution would go to the BOCC. Ryan Kordek clarified that it will be submitted to FDOT and then proceed to the TPO Board for approval.

Motion: Motioned to approve was made by Chuck Barmby, seconded by Marissa Barmby. Motion carried unanimously.

- 6b. Vision Zero Action Plan/Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Update

Minutes: Tracy Mullins, Polk TPO staff, introduced updates on the Vision Zero Action Plan and Safe Streets for All (SS4A).

Moe Lavasani, AECOM, presented an overview of the safety system approach aimed at achieving Vision Zero's goal of eliminating fatalities and serious crashes. The approach prioritizes high-risk corridors and intersections for safety improvements and includes a completed public engagement strategy with additional outreach planned. Traffic data analysis has identified the top five corridors, with three currently under review. Meetings are scheduled for February, March, and April, followed by workshops in summer and November.

Chuck Barmby inquired about crash and fatality rates along Kathleen Road. Mr. Lavasani stated that the team is reviewing crash and police reports and compiling findings into a shared fact sheet. Mr. Barmby also asked about funding for quick-response improvements; Mr. Kordek confirmed funding is available and encouraged city participation in upcoming workshops using TSMU funds. Marissa Barmby asked how electric bikes are classified; Mr. Lavasani noted they are generally categorized as bicycles.

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

Attachments: [A17-A1 TIP Amendment](#)

Minutes: Angela Kaufman, Polk TPO Staff, requested approval to amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for LAMTD FTA Section 5339 Capital for a maintenance building rehabilitation.

Motion: Motioned to approve was made by James Philips, seconded by Carlie Flagler. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Attachments: [A18 A1 Draft Planning Tasks](#)

Minutes: Ryan Kordek, TPO Executive Director, provided an update on the UPWP, noting the draft will be presented at the next TAC meeting. He reported that UPWP funding for FY 2024/25-2025/26 totaled \$4.37 million, while funding for FY 2026/27-2027/28 is projected at \$2.73 million. The UPWP tasks being reviewed,

beginning with Administrative Costs, which include preparation for the four-year

Federal Certification Review scheduled for Fall 2027, as well as the development of the annual report. The Data Development and Management tasks focus on the congestion management processes and the integration of databases, data viewers, and

dashboards. Long-Range Transportation Planning tasks include work related to

potential High-Speed Rail service in Polk County and access needs associated with the

SunRail PD&E. Short-Range Transportation Planning tasks encompass the Vision Zero

Action Plan, the Best Foot Forward program, and activities of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Team. Additionally, the Public Participation Plan will undergo a major update, along with continued coordination of the Transportation Adviser Network (TAN).

Chuck Barmby asked about revising connectivity to the Fort Fraser Trail. Mr. Kordek agreed to review the matter and follow up with Parks and Recreation.

Motion: A motion was made to approve UPWP Draft Planning Tasks FY 2026/27-2027/28 and to include the connection of the trails made by James Philips, seconded by Carlie Flagler. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentations and Status Reports

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

Attachments: [A19-A1 451419-2-CPPE Project Newsletter No-4](#)

Minutes: Jazlyn Georges, Florida Turnpike, provided an update on the Central Polk Parkway and its four segments, highlighting community outreach efforts conducted from April 2024 through December 2025 for the US 27 to US 17/92 corridor.

Andrew Vasquez, Florida Turnpike, reviewed the study process, noting that multiple route alternatives were evaluated based on environmental factors, engineering constraints, and traffic conditions. He explained the rationale for selecting the preferred corridor and why it was chosen over other options.

Ms. Georges outlined environmental constraints, including impacts to State and Federal conservation lands, nearby residential developments, and the presence of a wildlife corridor in the Cypress area, which presents engineering challenges. Mr. Vasquez summarized the two corridors under consideration, and Ms. Georges detailed the project's five phases: Planning (completed), PD&E, Design, Right-of-Way (ROW), and Construction.

A lengthy discussion followed between the committee and Ms. Georges.

10. Polk County's Comprehensive Plan Transportation Element Draft Revisions

Attachments: [Polk County 2050 Comprehensive Plan Transportation Data & Analysis](#)

Minutes: Chanda Bennett, Polk County Land Development, briefed the committee on the transportation element of the Comprehensive Plan and the current update process. She requested comments and feedback by February 6 and noted that a board has been established to guide the update. Ms. Bennett outlined public engagement efforts, including workshops, community events, interviews, listening sessions, a project website, and surveys, and highlighted Polk County's partnership with Polk Vision at the outset of the process.

She presented key data and analysis findings, along with legislative update slides detailing items that were removed, added, amended, or eliminated. As part of the

legislative review, the team is considering replacing the term “complete streets” with “context sensitive.”

A lengthy discussion followed among the committee, Mr. Kordek, and Ms. Bennett.

Communications and Reports

11. Priority Transportation Projects

Minutes: Angela Kaufman, Polk TPO staff, announced that priority applications are now open, with a submission deadline of March 31.

Marissa Barmby noted that LAP certification is required for priority applications. Ryan Kordek clarified that while FDOT prefers all applicants to be LAP certified, municipalities may contact Polk TPO for assistance if needed. Carlie Flagler asked whether Citrus Connection is eligible to apply. Mr. Kordek responded that an additional level of approval may be required.

12. TPO Year in Review 2025

Attachments: [AI11 A1 TPO Year in Review 2025](#)

13. Committee Member Comments

Minutes: No Committee comments.

14. Adjournment

Next TAC Meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2026, at the FDOT Conference Center, Bartow.

Minutes: The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Motion: Motioned to adjourn was made by Chuck Barmby.

The next TAC Meeting is scheduled for March 19, 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.

After the meeting is over, the Power Point Presentation will be uploaded here .

Attachments: [TAC Final Slides 1-22-2026](#)