
January 22, 2026 TPO TAC

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

Introduction

1. Call to Order - 9:30 a.m. (Tess Schwartz, Chairperson)
2. Confirmation of Quorum
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes
4. Agenda Review - Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO Executive Director

Action Items

5. Election of Officers
- 6a. Review/Approve Draft TPO Resolution 2026-02 Adopting the Safety Performance Targets for the Polk TPO
- 6b. Vision Zero Action Plan/Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Update
7. Review/Approve Amendments to FY 2025/26 - 2029/30 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
8. Review/Approve Draft Planning Tasks for the FY 2026/27 - 2027/28 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Presentations and Status Reports

9. Central Polk Parkway East Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE) and Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study
10. Polk County's Comprehensive Plan Transportation Element Draft Revisions

Communications and Reports

11. Priority Transportation Projects
12. TPO Year in Review 2025

13. Committee Member Comments

14. Adjournment

Next TAC Meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2026, 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.

TPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Agenda Item 3.1/22/2026

AGENDA ITEM

Approval of Meeting Minutes

PRESENTER

NA

SUMMARY

The Polk TPO is required to keep an accurate record of the TPO TAC's proceedings.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Committee is requested to approve the meeting minutes from the meeting held on December 4, 2025

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Meeting Minutes December 4, 2025



Polk Transportation Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Draft Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 4, 2025

FDOT District 1 Conference Center
801 North Broadway Ave
Bartow, Florida 33830

Members Present:

James Philips
Chuck Barmby
Sean Byers
Julie Womble
Ted Adkins
Bob Wieggers
Jeffrey Ball
Raymond Perez
Richard Ranck
Jay Jarvis
Ben Ziskal
Carlie Flagler, **Vice Chair**

Others Present:

Ryan Kordek
Angela Kaufman
KC Rivera
Victoria Williams
Kayla Huetten
Vince Dyer
William Roll

Representing:

City of Lakeland
City of Lakeland
City of Winter Haven
City of Auburndale
City of Haines City
City of Bartow
Town of Lake Hamilton
City of Davenport
CFRPC
Polk County Roads & Drainage
Polk County Land Development
Citrus Connection

Representing:

Polk TPO Staff
Polk TPO Staff
Polk TPO Staff
Florida Turnpike
Benesch
Best Foot Forward Program
Kimley-Horn

1. Call to Order

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

2. Confirmation of Quorum – Roll call was taken, and a quorum was confirmed by KC Rivera, Polk TPO Staff.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes - September 25, 2025

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, TPO Executive Director, informed the committee 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 Draft Amendments to FY 2025/26 – 2029/30 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

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. Staff will e-mail this information.

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

6. Review/Approve of the Draft 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan – Envision 2025

Ryan Kordek, TPO Executive Director, thanks everyone for their help with the LRTP and advised the committee the Draft LRTP was approved at our last meeting, and 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 FDOT and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) FY 2026/27 – 2030/31 Draft Work Programs for Polk County

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 number of priorities will be less as there is less funding for projects. Also, a majority of FDOT funds are going to resurfacing the state highway system.

- 1) Chuck Barmby spoke about the resurfacing projects on US 98, operational and safety improvements were part of the repurposing of the project including turn lane extensions larger crosswalks across New Jersey and 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 that the CSX S-Line crossing at SR 60 grade separation was removed from 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 including the recommendations suggested by Chuck Barmby, seconded by Jay Jarvis. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation and Status Reports

8. Transit Development Plan (TDP)

Kayla Huetten, Benesch, provided a brief description of a Transit Development Plan as a plan that visions the next ten years and is 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 Presentation

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

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 a few 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/TAC Meeting Calendar

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

12. Central Polk Parkway Meeting – 12/15 & 12/17

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

13. Committee Member Comments

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

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

14. Adjournment

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.

Respectfully transcribed by KC Rivera, TPO Office Manager IV

Section 286.105, Florida Statutes, states that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by a board, agency or commission with respect to any matter considered at a meeting or hearing, he will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

TPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Agenda Item 5.1/22/2026

AGENDA ITEM

Election of Officers

PRESENTER

NA

SUMMARY

Pursuant to the TPO Bylaws, staff will request the committee 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 January of 2025 and are eligible to continue serving in these roles in 2026. Therefore, the committee will be asked to confirm these appointments or appoint a new chair and vice-chair for 2026.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Appointment of a Chair and Vice-Chair to the TPO's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

ATTACHMENT

None

TPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Agenda Item 6a.

1/22/2026

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

TPO Staff is recommending that we reaffirm support for FDOT's safety performance targets of zero by adopting them as well for 2026.

ATTACHMENT

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

<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

TPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Agenda Item 6b.1/22/2026

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 committee with an update on the status of this project.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

This item is being presented for information only.

ATTACHMENTS

None

TPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Agenda Item 7.1/22/2026

AGENDA ITEM

Review/Approve 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.

A public hearing is scheduled for these items at the TPO Board meeting on February 12, 2026, and the board will hear public comments prior to taking action on these items.

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 Type of Work: TRANSIT IMPROVEMENT Project Length: 0.000 L RTP: 2-6								
		Fiscal Year						
Phase / Responsible Agency		<2026	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

TPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Agenda Item 8.1/22/2026

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 committee 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 committee for its review and approval in March.

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

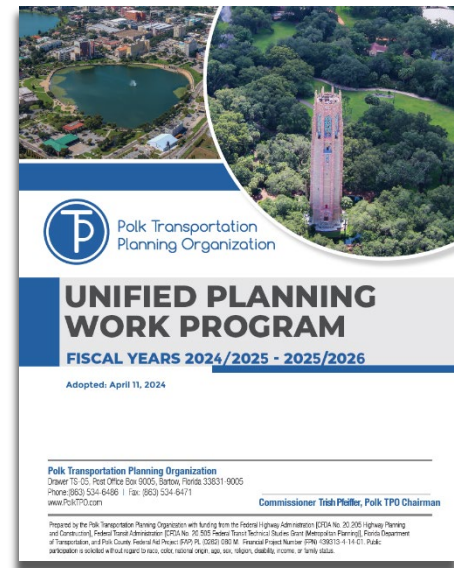
Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Planning Tasks for Fiscal Years 2026/27 – 2027/28



DRAFT
January 14, 2026

INTRODUCTION

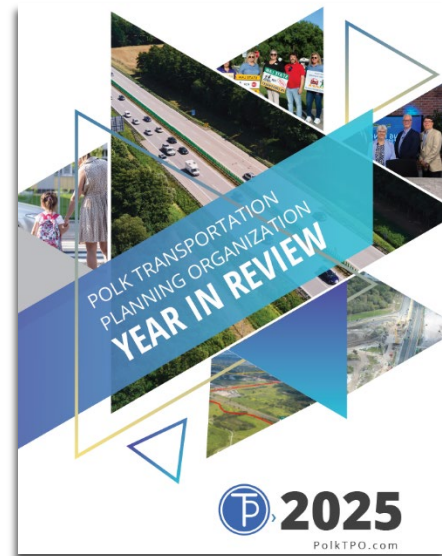
As part of the Polk Transportation Planning Organization's (TPO) FY 2026/27 through FY 2027/28 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), the TPO will focus on the planning activities outlined below. These projects are based on the TPO's planning requirements pursuant to state and federal regulations, as 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.
- **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, capital, 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 in 2026. This will



be included as a major task in 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 (RTSMOP)** – 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.

TPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Agenda Item 9.1/22/2026

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

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

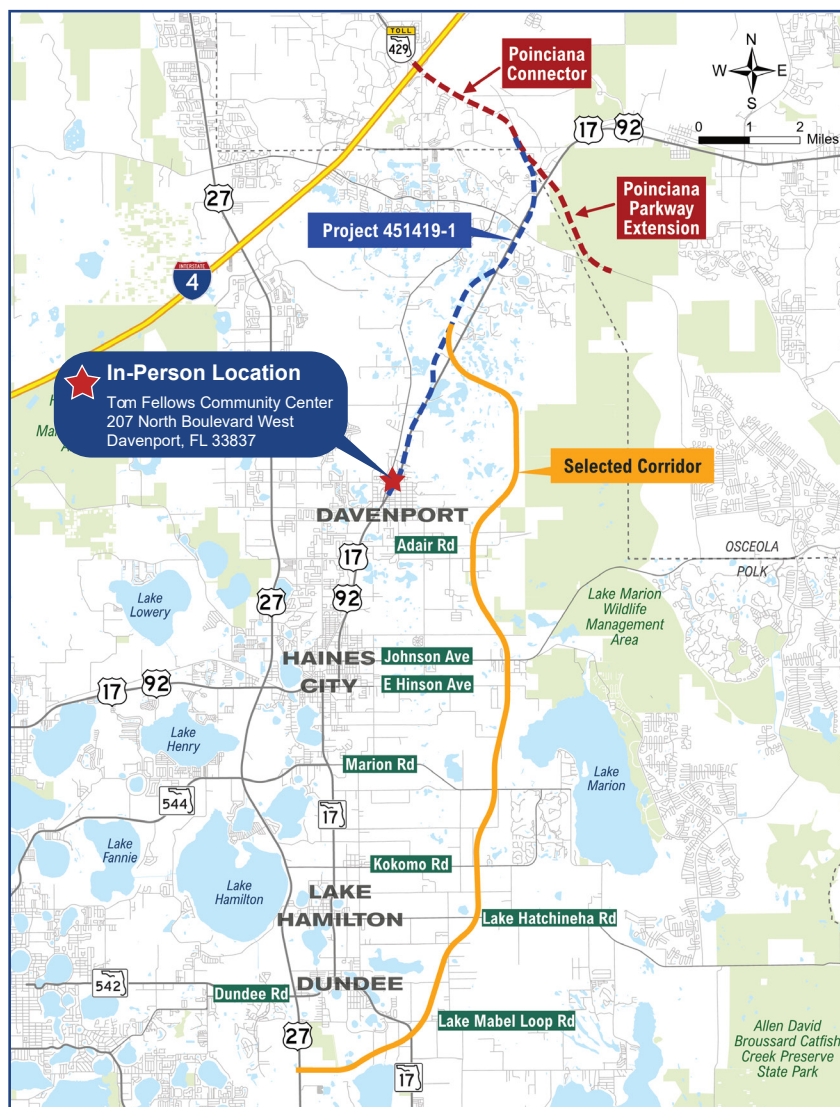
Four initial corridors (A, B, C, and D) were presented for public input in January 2025. The options were narrowed to Corridors E and F and presented for public input in May 2025. **A refined Corridor F has been selected to move forward into the Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study phase.** 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

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Consultant to Florida's Turnpike Enterprise
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Scan the QR code to visit
project website:



TPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Agenda Item 10.1/22/2026

AGENDA ITEM

Polk County's Comprehensive Plan Transportation Element Draft Revisions

PRESENTER

Chanda Bennett, Polk County Land Development Division

SUMMARY

The Polk County Land Development Division is requesting the TAC to review and provide comments on the County's proposed Transportation Element revisions by February 6th. The proposed Revisions are based on recent public participation efforts and the review of the County's Comprehensive Plan Review Committee.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Information Item Only - No Action Required

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment will be passed out at meeting

TPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Agenda Item 12.1/22/2026

AGENDA ITEM

TPO Year in Review 2025

PRESENTER

NA

ATTACHMENT

1. TPO year in review 2025

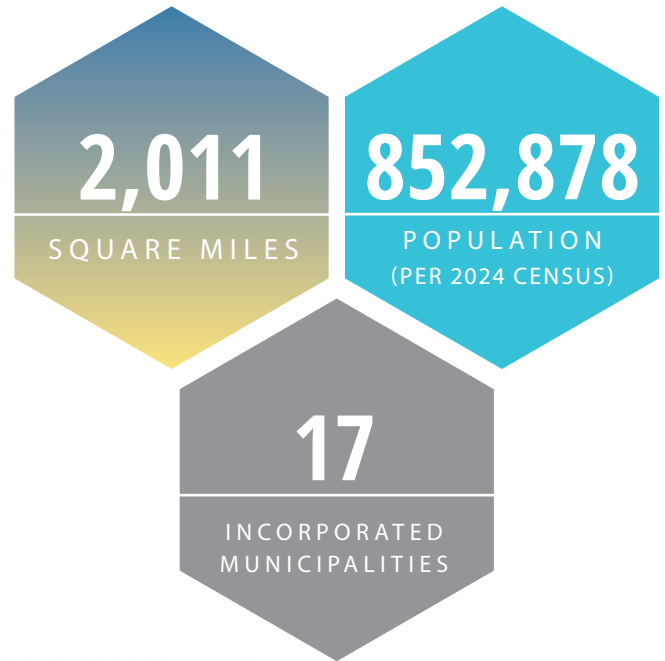


POLK TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION YEAR IN REVIEW



PolkTPO.com

> POLK COUNTY BY NUMBERS



> 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

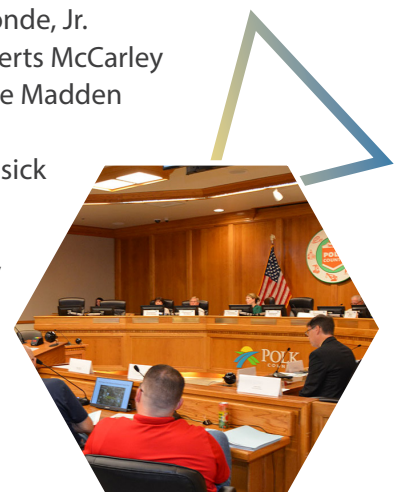
Commissioner Willie Quarles - Dundee

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

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.



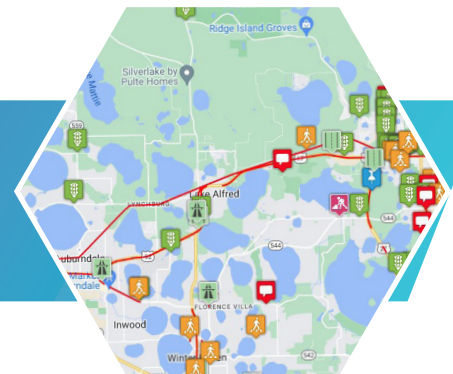
PAST LRTP PROJECTS

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.





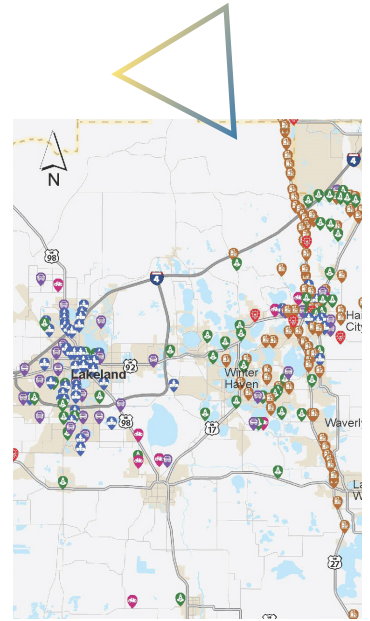
› VISION ZERO POLK

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

TPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Agenda Item1/22/2026

AGENDA ITEM

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

SUMMARY

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Power Point Presentation

ATTACHMENT

1/22/2026 TAC Power Point Presentation