



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

Thursday, January 22, 2026

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

Members Present:

James Phillips
Chuck Barmby
Tess Schwartz, **Chair**
Heather Reuter
Ted Adkins
Bob Wieggers
Jeffrey Ball
Raymond Perez
Marisa Barmby
Richard Ranck
Jay Jarvis
Ben Ziskal
Carlie Flagler, **Vice Chair**

Representing:

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

Others Present:

Ryan Kordek
Angela Kaufman
Tracy Mullins
KC Rivera
Moe Lavasani
Jazlyn Georges
Andrew Velasquez
Chanda Bennett

Representing:

Polk TPO Staff
Polk TPO Staff
Polk TPO Staff
Polk TPO Staff
AECOM
Florida Turnpike
Florida Turnpike
Polk County Land Development

1. Call to Order

Chair Tess Schwartz 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 – December 4, 2025.

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, 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

Ryan Kordek, TPO staff, requested the committee appoint a Chair and Vice Chair, noting that the Bylaws permit both positions to serve two (2) year terms and that the chair and vice-chair are currently in the first year of their terms.

Bob Wieggers nominated Tess Schwartz as Chair and Carlie Flagler as Vice Chair.

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

6. Vision Zero Polk Presentations

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

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

Marisa 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 Marisa Barmby. Motion carried unanimously.

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

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 (5) corridors, with three (3) 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 data 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 TMA-SU funds. Marisa Barmby asked how electric bikes are classified; Mr. Lavasani noted they are generally categorized as bicycles.

7. Review/Approve Draft Amendments to FY 2025/26 – 2029/30 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)

Angela Kaufman, 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 Phillips, 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)

Ryan Kordek, TPO staff, 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 (4) 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 planning support related to 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 Phillips, seconded by Carlie Flagler. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation and Status Reports

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

Jazlyn Georges, Florida Turnpike, provided an update on the Central Polk Parkway and its four (4) segments, highlighting community outreach efforts conducted from April 2024 through December 2025 for the US 27 to US 17/92 corridor.

Andrew Velasquez, 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. Velasquez summarized the two (2) corridors under consideration, and Ms. Georges detailed the project's five (5) 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

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 committee 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

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

Marisa 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 and FDOT for assistance if needed.

12. Polk TPO – 2025 Year in Review

Mr. Kordek provided a brief overview of the summary that was provided in the meeting packet.

13. Committee Member Comments

No Committee comments.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

The next TAC Meeting is scheduled for March 19, 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 Statute, 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.