



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

Thursday, March 27, 2025

FDOT District One Conference Room
801 North Broadway Ave
Bartow, Florida 33830

Members Present:

James Philips
Chuck Barmby
Tess Schwartz, **Chair**
Sean Byers
Julie Womble
Ted Adkins
Bob Wieggers
Jeffrey Ball
Lorraine Peterson
Raymond Perez
Jay Jarvis
Ben Ziskal
Carlie Flagler, Vice-Chair

Representing:

City of Lakeland
City of Lakeland
City of Lakeland
City of Winter Haven
City of Auburndale
City of Haines City
City of Bartow
Town of Lake Hamilton
Town of Dundee
City of Davenport
Polk County Roads & Drainage
Polk County Planning
Citrus Connection

Others Present:

Ryan Kordek
Julia Davis
Angela Kaufman
William Roll

Representing:

Polk TPO Staff
Polk TPO Staff
Polk TPO Staff
Kimley-Horn

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- January 23, 2025

Motion to approve January 23, 2025, meeting minutes.

Motion: Motioned by Julie Womble, seconded by James Phillips. Motion carried without dissent.

4. Agenda Review

Ryan Kordek, TPO Director, gave an overview of the TAC agenda. Action items included 2025 Transportation Priorities Subcommittee and the Draft TPO Resolution 2025-02 Adopting Performance Targets. Presentations and Status Reports included Envision 2050 LRP updates, Vision Zero Polk updates and the 2025 Roadway Network Database. Communication and Reports included the Legislative updates. Mr. Kordek stated it was staff's intention that a majority of this morning's time could be spent on the 2050 LRTP Update as there are a number of items to discuss.

[Action Items](#)

5. 2025 Transportation Priorities Subcommittee

Angela Kaufman, Polk TPO Staff, asked for four volunteers with one being an alternate for the transportation priorities project review committee. The committee made the following nominations:

1. Carlie Flagler
2. Ben Ziskal
3. Bob Wiegers
- Alt. Julie Womble

Motion: Motion to approve the nominations was made by Chuck Barmby, seconded by Ted Adkins. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Review/Approve Draft TPO Resolution 2025-02 Adopting Performance Targets for Pavement, Bridge and System Performance for the Polk TPO

Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO Executive Director, provides a presentation on the updated bridge and pavement and system performance targets and measures. He provided an overview and comparison between Polk County and other nearby and similar sized counties. FDOT recently updated a few of the targets so there is a need for the Polk TPO to follow suit.

Motion: Motion to approve was made by Jay Jarvis, seconded by Jeffery Ball. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Envision 2050 – Long Range Transportation Plan Update

A. Northeast Polk County Sub Area Study: William Roll, Kimley-Horn, provided a presentation and overview of the Northeast Polk Sub Area Study. This includes planned improvements along with the needed connector roads to help enhance the grid network in the northeast portion of the county along with providing connections to the planned Central Polk Parkway. Several corridors were emphasized that will be important in this regard including Ernie Caldwell Blvd, Bates Road, Kokomo Road and Lake Hatchineha Road (CR 542).

Ryan Kordek added the LRPT 2050 is forecasting two hundred and fifty thousand people moving to the northeast portion of the county in the next 25 years so the new LRTP will consider many new road improvements in the area. Also, there are several transit improvements being considered as well including the extension of SunRail commuter service which is currently being evaluated (PD&E Study) by FDOT District One.

Updated Preliminary Revenue Estimates (Local Funding): William Roll, Kimley-Horn, presented a summary of revenue that will be used to support implementation of candidate projects identified in the LRTP. These are funds that are reasonably expected to be made available to carry out the LRTP. In doing so, the Polk TPO must demonstrate fiscal constraint and ensure the LRTP reflects realistic assumptions and future revenues. Based on the preliminary revenue estimates, we anticipate significantly less funding will be available to allocate towards the project identified in the LRTP.

Public Outreach Strategy: Ryan Kordek provided information about the different types and strategies of public engagement for Envision 2050.

Vice-Chair Carlie Flagler asked if we use other social media platforms. Mr. Kordek replied we're planning to use the TPO's Facebook page which has a large number of followers along with our Transportation Adviser Network.

Transit Development Plan (TDP) Update Status: Julia Davis, Polk TPO Staff, provided a summary of what is involved in a TDP major update, the timeline schedule, and the stats for the public outreach form last year.

Vice-Chair Carlie Flagler, Citrus Connection, presented the TDP Needs Plan which is composed incorporating public input. Citrus Connection had 410 responses from the public outreach. The top issues/needs are later service, shorter trips and more frequent services.

Julia Davis asked the committee for an open discussion.

8. Vision Zero Polk Update

A. Vision Zero Action Plan: Isai Chavez, Polk TPO Staff, presented a timeline for Vision Zero. The committee was asked who they think can be part of the safety project as a stakeholder committee. Isai also informed the committee, City of Lakeland just adopted their own Safety Vision Zero Plan.

B. Best Foot Forward: Isai Chavez, Polk TPO Staff, informed the committee a committee was recently held to solicit input from stakeholders for dangerous road crossings in need of evaluations. As a result, eight (8) crosswalks have been picked for the Best Foot Forward project. The project consultant and FDOT are moving forward with conducting evaluations of these locations. The list of sidewalks being evaluated will be emailed to the committee. Additionally, the TPO will attempt to have the Best Foot Forward staff provide a presentation at a future meeting.

9. Polk TPO 2025 Roadway Network Database

Ryan Kordek provided a presentation on the new 2025 Roadway Network Database that was recently updated. Based on the updated information in the Roadway Network Database there are now six (6) road segments that have a failing level-of-service (LOS) in Polk County. This is an increase from a year ago and includes US 98 in Lakeland and portions of US 27 between Haines City and Interstate 4. Pine Tree Trail in northeast Polk County and Marigold Avenue in Poinciana are also failing.

Communications and Reports

10. Committee Member Comments

Mara Latorre, Citrus Connection, asked if the RND could include speed limits and if the RND is downloadable. Mr. Kordek replied staff will look into the speed limits and the RND can be downloaded from the TPO's website. Staff also brought printed copies of the document which are available for committee members.

11. Legislative Update

Julia Davis, Polk TPO Staff, presented a summary of the Florida Senate Bill 462 that proposes some new requirements for MPOs in Florida.

12. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m. The next TAC Meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2025, and will also be held at FDOT's Conference Center.

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.