



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.