Polk Transportation Planning Organization

Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board
Draft Meeting Minutes

Thursday February 12, 2026
Polk County Administration Building, Commission Boardroom
330 West Church Street
Bartow, FL 33830

Voting Members Present:	**Representing:**
Commissioner Martha Santiago	Polk County BoCC
Commissioner Michael Scott	Polk County BoCC
Commissioner Bill Braswell	Polk County BoCC
Commissioner Rick Wilson	Polk County BoCC
Commissioner Rebecca Troutman	Polk County BoCC
Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley, **Vice Chair**	City of Lakeland
Mayor Pro Tem Guy LaLonde Jr	City of Lakeland
Commissioner Mike Musick	City of Lakeland
Commissioner Stephanie Madden	City of Lakeland
Commissioner Terry Coney	City of Lakeland
Commissioner Ahsley Troutman	City of Lakeland
Mayor Pro Tem Tracy Mercer	City of Winter Haven
Mayor Jack Hilligoss	City of Lake Wales
Vice Mayor Jordan Helms	City of Auburndale
Commissioner Omar Arroyo	City of Haines City
Vice Mayor Vernal Smith	City of Haines City
Commissioner Trish Pfeiffer, **Chair**	City of Bartow
Vice Mayor Jeremy Clark	City of Davenport

South County Bloc Members:

Commissioner Dawn McDonald (Voting Member)	City of Mulberry
Council Member Adam Greenway	City of Frostproof

Central County and Ridge Bloc Members:

Advisory Members Present:	**Representing:**
Wayne Gaither	FDOT, District One
Ryan Kordek	Polk TPO Director
Dane Norman	TPO Legal Advisor

Other Persons Present:	**Representing:**
Angela Kaufman	Polk TPO Staff
Tracy Mullins	Polk TPO Staff
Cindy Mitchell	Polk TPO Staff
KC Rivera	Polk TPO Staff
Moe Lavisani	AECOM
Adam Lunn	Lakeland Linder
Jazlyn Georges	Florida Turnpike

Andrew Vasquez	AECOM
Edith Perez	FDOT
Sharon Garrett	Member of the Public

INTRODUCTION

1. **Call to Order**

   Chair Trish Pfeiffer called the TPO Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. **Confirmation of Quorum**

   KC Rivera, Polk TPO staff, confirmed a quorum. Commissioner Dawn McDonald represented the South County Bloc; no representatives were present for the Central County or Ridge Blocs. Advisory Council members in attendance included Wayne Gaither (FDOT), Ryan Kordek (Polk TPO), and Dane Norman (Polk County Legal).

   Chair Trish Pfeiffer welcomed new TPO Board members, Commissioners Terry Coney and Ashley Troutman of Lakeland, and acknowledged updated titles for several board members.

3. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

   Chair Pfeiffer opened the floor for public comment.

   Sharon Garrett expressed concerns about the potential loss of her family land in connection with the planned Central Polk Parkway.

   Chair Pfeiffer closed public comment.

4. **Agenda Review**

CONSENT AGENDA

5. **Approve TPO Board Meeting Minutes – December 9, 2025**

6. **Approve Polk TPO Executive Director Quarterly Timesheets and Expense Reimbursements**

7. **Approve Polk TPO Draft Resolution 2026-01 Recommending the Lakeland Area Mass Transit District (LAMTD) as the Designated Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) for Polk County**

Motion: Motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Santiago. Motion carried without dissent.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

8. **TPO Board Administrative Items**

   Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO Executive Director, informed the board of some administrative actions needed.

   a. **Election of Polk TPO Chair and Vice Chair**

Mr. Kordek, introduced this item and presented the past Chairs and Vice Chairs. He explained that, under the TPO bylaws, Chairs are permitted to serve for up to two years.

Commissioner Brasswell nominated Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley as Chair.

Motion: Motion made by Commissioner Brasswell, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. Motion carried without dissent.

Commissioner McDonald nominated Council Member Adam Greenway as Vice Chair.

Motion: Motion made by Commissioner McDonald, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. Motion carried without dissent

b. TPO Board Appointments

i. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board

Mr. Kordek explained that the TPO Board appoints the chair of the LCB from its members. The LCB's current chair is Vice Mayor Jeremy Clark and he has agreed to continue to serve as Chair.

Commissioner Brasswell made a motion to retain the current chair, Vice Mayor Jeremy Clark.

Motion: Motion was made by Commissioner Brasswell and seconded by Commissioner Arroyo. Motion carried without dissent.

ii. Suncoast Transportation Planning Alliance (SCTPA)

Mr. Kordek provided a brief background on the SCTPA.

The current SCTPA members are:

- Commissioner Trish Pfieffer
- Commissioner Mike Musick
- Mayor Pro Tem Guy LaLonde

Commissioner Brasswell motioned to retain representatives of the TPO Board for SCTPA members.

Motion: Motion made by Commissioner Brasswell, seconded by Commissioner McDonald. Motion carried without dissent.

c. TPO Board Meeting Time and Location

Mr. Kordek presented the Board poll results regarding the time and location of future TPO Board meetings, noting that most members preferred maintaining the 9:00 a.m. meeting time over 1:00 p.m. He also reviewed a five-year cost comparison for relocating to the FDOT Conference Center, outlining associated advantages and disadvantages. Mr. Kordek also reported ongoing discussions regarding potential renovations to the current boardroom to better accommodate both BoCC and TPO meetings. As a result, he recommended that the Board continue to meet in the BoCC boardroom.

9. **Public Hearing on Draft Amendments to FY 2025/26 – 2029/30 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**
   Angela Kaufman, TPO Staff, presented the amendments for the FY 2025/26 – 2029/30 TIP for LAMTD funding for the rehabilitation of a maintenance building.

   Chair Roberts McCarley opened the public hearing for public comments. Seeing none, Chair Roberts McCarley closed the public hearing.

   Motion: Motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Musick. Motion carried without dissent.

   Roll Call vote was taken and approved without dissent.

10. **Vision Zero Polk Presentations**
    a. **Review/Approve Draft TPO Resolution 2026-02 Adopting the Safety Performance Targets for the Polk TPO**
    Tracy Mullins, representing TPO staff, presented the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Safety Performance Targets and requested adoption of the resolution supporting these targets. He noted FDOT's goal of zero fatalities and zero serious injuries by 2026, highlighting progress in reducing overall injuries. However, Mr. Mullins expressed concern over rising fatalities and increasing bicycle and pedestrian injury rates in Polk County.

    Motion: Motion made by Council Member Greenway, seconded by Commissioner McDonald. Motion carried without dissent.

    A lengthy and substantive discussion took place between the Board and Mr. Mullins regarding the Safety Performance Targets.

    b. Vision Zero Action Plan/Safe Street for All (SS4A) Update
    Moe Lavisani, the project consultant representing AECOM, presented the goals of the Target Zero roadway safety initiative, emphasizing the need to identify and implement effective solutions based on a clearer understanding of underlying issues. He reported that 465 survey responses were received through public involvement efforts, with distracted driving and lane discipline identified as top concerns. The team's focus is on High Injury Network (HIN) locations and areas with the highest rates of fatalities and serious injuries. They have developed fact sheets for each HIN corridor to support targeted strategies, along with a crash data dashboard. Mr. Lavisani noted that three (3) workshops will be held in the corridors with the highest crash rates to gather additional public input: Lake Ariana Civic Center, Wahneta Elementary School, and Sleepy Hill Elementary School.

    Commissioner Troutman expressed concern that school-based workshop times may not accommodate working families. Ryan Kordek explained that the times were chosen to coincide with student pickup periods to engage parents directly. Commissioner Scott suggested holding two meetings within the Kathleen Corridor to increase participation. Commissioner Troutman also referenced a slide noting proposed "road diets" in Lakeland. Chairwoman Robert McCarley stressed the importance of considering land use patterns and behavioral trends when evaluating safety strategies and proposed improvements.

11. **Review/Approve Selection Committee's Recommended Ranking of Consulting Firms and Authorize Staff to Negotiate with the Highest Ranking Firm in Response to the TPO's Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 25-686 (I-4 Intermodal Passenger Rail Station Planning and Feasibility Study)**
Cindy Mitchell, Polk TPO staff, provided an update on the I-4 Intermodal Passenger Rail Station Feasibility and Planning Study, presenting the final ranking of consultant proposals. HDR Engineering Inc. ranked first.

Ms. Mitchell requested Board approval of the final ranking and authorization to enter into an contract negotiations with HDR Engineering.

Ms. Mitchell thanked all participants in the RFP process. Commissioner Madden who was the Board's representative on the selection committee shared her experience and review of the responses to the RFP. Commissioner Troutman confirmed that if negotiations with HDR Engineering are unsuccessful, the process will proceed with the second-ranked firm.

Motion: Commissioner Musick moved approval, seconded by Commissioner Scott. Motion carried unanimously.

12. **Review/Approve Draft Planning Tasks for the Polk TPO's FY 2026/27 – 2027/28 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**
Ryan Kordek, TPO staff, presented the process in developing the two-year Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), outlining the TPO's grant-funded budget. Mr. Kordek also reviewed key UPWP components for the next two years, including the four-year federal certification review of the TPO, the Board's annual report, congestion management process, long- and short-range transportation planning, and public participation. He also highlighted the I-4 Intermodal Passenger Rail Station Planning and Feasibility Study that will need to be funded as part of the new UPWP. He stated there will be a need to de-obligate funding from current fiscal year to next fiscal year in order to fund the project.

Commissioner Troutman asked about the significant decrease in federal funding from the current UPWP the proposed new UPWP. Mr. Kordek explained that, following the completion of several large projects including the preparation of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan, less federal funding will be required in the new budget.

Motion: Council Member Greenway moved approval, seconded by Commissioner Troutman. Motion carried unanimously.

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PRESENTATIONS AND STATUS REPORTS

13. **Lakeland Linder International Airport Presentation**
    Adam Lunn, representing Lakeland Linder International Airport, provided an overview of airport operations, including flight activity, cargo services, and commercial operations. He reviewed the Terminal Area Master Plan, which has received FDOT approval and is awaiting FAA forecast approval. The plan includes development of Area 10 as an intermodal center to accommodate the Citrus Connection, rideshare services, and charter buses, as well as a parking garage designed to support advanced air mobility aircraft. As part of the planning process, the airport will refine these concepts into a Program Definition Plan (PDP).

    Mr. Lunn also discussed a proposed consolidated fuel farm and efforts to secure a pipeline connection from the Port of Tampa to Orlando, which would reduce interstate truck traffic, improve fuel reliability, and provide reserve capacity during emergencies. He highlighted plans for a Northeast Quadrant MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) facility capable of servicing large aircraft such as 767s and 737s, along with a Government MRO facility. Additionally, the Sun ’n Fun Master Plan has been integrated into the airport’s overall master plan.

14. **Central Polk Parkway East Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE) and Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study**
    Jazlyn Georges, Florida Turnpike, presented an overview of the proposed Central Polk Parkway East, a new toll facility to be constructed in four segments:

    a) US 27 to north of Lake Mabel Loop Road
    b) North of Lake Mabel Loop Road to south of Johnson Avenue
    c) South of Johnson Avenue to north of US 17/92
    d) US 17/92 to the future Poinciana Connector

    Ms. Georges shared a project video and highlighted the regional significance of the Parkway, including its connection to the Poinciana Parkway extension to I-4. She noted that current travel times from US 27/I-4 area to State Road 429 range from 50–70 minutes, while the proposed improvements could reduce travel time to 23–28 minutes. Community outreach efforts have included meetings for both the US 27–US 17/92 and US 17/92–Poinciana Connector corridors.

    Andrew Velasquez, AECOM, provided background on earlier planning phases, noting that twelve alternate routes were evaluated and the Cypress Park Route (CR 580) was deemed less suitable due to multiple constraints along the corridor. Ms. Georges outlined environmental impacts and challenges associated with the Cypress Park Route, and Mr. Velasquez summarized the selected corridor moving forward.

    Ms. Georges concluded with a project status update: the project is entering Phase Two, which includes the PD&E study for the US 27–US 17/92 segment, while the PD&E study for US 17/92–Poinciana Connector is nearing completion.

REPORTS

15. Executive Director's Report

a. 2025 Year in Review

Ryan Kordek presented the TPO's Year in Review for 2025 highlighting key projects and accomplishments of the TPO and thanked the Board for their strong support and direction in the past year.

b. Letter of Support for the Statewide Advancement of Enhancements at Intercity Passenger Rail Crossings Program

Mr. Kordek explained the purpose of the letter of support which has been requested by the FDOT for the statewide Intercity Passenger Rail Crossing Program Grant. He noted the letter affirms the TPO's commitment to advancing safety and operational improvements at rail crossings as part of the statewide initiative.

16. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

Wayne Gaither, FDOT, provided additional feedback regarding the letter of support for the statewide Intercity Passenger Rail Crossing Program.

Edith Perez, FDOT, reported that the draft 2025 Joint Certification is underway, with Part One currently under review, and commended Adrian Marquez for his contributions to the process. She also noted several upcoming deadlines:

- UPWP submission in GAP by March 15 for review
- PL Agreement due May 15
- TA and Congestion Management applications due in GAP by March 31

17. Opportunity for Public Comment

Chair Roberts McCarley opened the floor for public comments. Seeing none, closed the floor.

18. Board Member Comments

Chairwoman Roberts McCarley opened the floor for public comment. Seeing none, closed the floor.

19. Adjournment – Next meeting date is April 9, 2026.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Santiago.

The meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully transcribed by KC Rivera, TPO Office Manager IV.

Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, states that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.