

DRAFT POLK TPO RESOLUTION 2026-04

RESOLUTION OF THE POLK TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (TPO) SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF A STATE ROAD 60 SCENIC HIGHWAY; TO SEEK AN OFFICIAL SCENIC HIGHWAY DESIGNATION BY THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT).

WHEREAS, at its meeting on April 9, 2026, the Polk TPO received a presentation by Rob Kincart and Myrtice Young seeking support for the designation of State Road 60, otherwise identified in petition as "Route 60 Coast-to-Coast Scenic Highway", as a Florida Scenic Highway, pending such designation by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT); and

WHEREAS, a Byway Organization is being established to protect, enhance and preserve the intrinsic resources of the designated corridor, while supporting their use for appropriate economic development, recreation and tourism interests; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Route 60 Coast-to-Coast Scenic Highway traverses a 56.1-mile corridor within Polk County, from County Line Road at the Hillsborough County boundary to the Kissimmee River at the Osceola County boundary, and includes the jurisdictions of Bartow, Lake Wales, Mulberry, Polk County and Winter Haven; and

WHEREAS, the primary intent of the Florida Scenic Highways Program is to designate roadway corridors to preserve, maintain, and enhance Florida's exceptional cultural, historical, archaeological, recreational, natural, and scenic resources for the traveling public's enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, within Polk County the State Road 60 corridor contains numerous cultural, historical, archaeological, recreational, natural and scenic resources along and adjacent to the corridor supporting its eligibility for scenic highway designation and are depicted in Attachment A; and

WHEREAS, the State Road 60 corridor crosses the Ridge Scenic Highway (State Road 17) in Lake Wales and received the support of the Polk TPO (TPO resolution 2003-01) and was designated by FDOT as a Florida Scenic Highway in 2005; and

WHEREAS, the cities of Bartow, Lake Wales and Mulberry, along with Polk County and the Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC) have expressed their support for the designation of State Road 60 as a Florida Scenic Highway; and

WHEREAS, the Byway Organization now seeks to submit a Letter of Intent to FDOT as the first step to create the Route 60 Coast-to-Coast Scenic Highway to help better

recognize the intrinsic resources on State Road 60 in Polk County, to ensure preservation of the County's history, heritage, and picturesque scenic beauty while bringing increased economic benefit to the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Polk Transportation Planning Organization at its regular meeting convened on April 9, 2026:

1. That the Polk TPO supports the creation of the Route 60 Coast-to-Coast Scenic Highway, and the Byway Organization's efforts to seek designation by the FDOT.
2. The Polk TPO encourages other communities and interested parties to support the designation of the Route 60 Coast-to-Coast Scenic Highway as a Florida Scenic Highway and to participate in the Byway Organization.
3. The Polk TPO requests FDOT to provide staff and consultant services support to the Byway Organization to assist in the preparation of required documentation for the scenic highway designation, including the Corridor Management Plan.

Signed:

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley, Chair
Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

April 9, 2026

Date

ATTEST:

Ryan Kordek, TPO Executive Director

Approved by the TPO Attorney as to
form and legal sufficiency:

Heather Bryan, TPO Attorney