



**Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board
Draft Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, February 13, 2025
Polk County Administration Building, Commission Boardroom
330 West Church Street
Bartow, FL 33830

Voting Members Present:

Commissioner Martha Santiago
Commissioner Michael Scott
Commissioner Bill Braswell
Commissioner Rick Wilson
Commissioner Rebecca Troutman
Mayor Bill Mutz
Commissioner Sara Roberts McCarley **Vice Chair**
Commissioner Stephanie Madden
Mayor Pro Tem Brian Yates
Commissioner Tracy Mercer
Commissioner Jack Hilligoss
Commissioner Jordan Helms
Mayor Omar Arroyo
Commissioner Vernel Smith
Mayor Trish Pfeiffer **Chair**
Vice Mayor Nancy Daley
Vice Mayor Jeremy Clark

Central County and Ridge Bloc Voting Members:

Mayor Marlene Wagner

South County Bloc Voting Members:

Commissioner Jim Watts

Central County and Ridge Bloc Alternate Members:

Mayor Joe LaCascia

South County Bloc Alternate Members:

Council Member Adam Greenway

Advisory Members Present:

L.K. Nandam
Ryan Kordek
Heather Bryan

Representing:

Polk County BoCC
City of Lakeland
City of Lakeland
City of Lakeland
City of Winter Haven
City of Winter Haven
City of Lake Wales
City of Auburndale
City of Haines City
City of Haines City
City of Bartow
City of Lake Alfred
City of Davenport
Representing:
Town of Lake Hamilton

Representing:

City of Fort Meade

Representing:

City of Polk City

City of Frostproof

Representing:

FDOT, District One
Polk County TPO
TPO Legal Advisor

Other Persons Present:

Edith Perez
Charlene Ross
Jazlyn Heywood
Andrew Valazquez
Sharon Garrett
KC Rivera
Julia Davis
Angela Kaufman
Isai Chavez

Representing:

FDOT
FDOT
Turnpike
AECOM
Polk County Citizen
Polk TPO
Polk TPO
Polk TPO
Polk TPO

1. Call to Order

Chairwoman 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 Watts represented the South County Bloc and Mayor Wagner represented the Central County and Ridge Bloc. Advisory Council members present were Secretary L.K. Nandam, FDOT, Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO, and Heather Bryan, Polk County Legal.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

Chairwoman Pfeiffer opened the floor for public comment. Sharon Garrett was present to speak. Ms. Garrett has concerns about her home with the proposed corridors.

4. Agenda Review

Ryan Kordek, TPO Executive Director, presented the agenda review. He noted that today’s agenda includes Polk TPO Draft meeting minutes from December 19, 2024; Election of Polk TPO Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson along with other board appointments; Public Hearing on Draft amendments to the Momentum 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and to the FY 2024/25-2028/29 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); Resolution 2025-01 Adopting Safety Performance Targets; Central Polk Parkway Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE) presentation; and, the SunRail extension (PD&E) Study presentation.

Consent Agenda

5. Approve Minutes – December 19, 2024

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

Motion: Motioned by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Roberts McCarley. Motion carried without dissent.

Other Action Items

7. Election of Polk TPO Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

Julia Davis, TPO Staff, asked the TPO to conduct elections for Chair and Vice-Chair, the current officers are Mayor Pfeiffer as Chair and Commissioner Roberts McCarley as Vice-Chair.

Motion to retain as Chair (Pfeiffer): Motion to approve by Commissioner Braswell, seconded by Vice Mayor Clark. Motion carried without dissent.

Motion to retain as Vice-Chair (Roberts McCarley): Motion to approve by Vice Mayor Clark, seconded by Commissioner Braswell. Motion carried without dissent.

8. TPO Board Appointments

Julia Davis, TPO Staff, asked the TPO to make appointments to three boards.

- A. The first is the Local Coordinating Board, the Chairperson is drawn from the Polk Transportation Planning Organization. The current Chairperson is Vice Mayor Jeremy Clark from City of Davenport, he is eligible for reappointment

Motion to continue reappointment of Vice Mayor Jeremy Clark: Motion to approve by Commissioner Troutman, seconded by Vice-Chair Roberts McCarley. Motion carried without dissent.

- B. The second committee is Suncoast Transportation Planning Alliance (SCTPA). Polk County is represented along with six other counties MPO's in the Tampa Bay area. The current representatives are Mayor Trish Pfeiffer, Commissioner Mike Musick and Commissioner Guy LaLonde.

Motion to continue representatives: Motion to approve by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Troutman. Motion carried without dissent.

- C. The last Board appointment is the Central Florida MPO Alliance (CFMPOA) comprised of the six MPO's to the east of Polk County and Polk. The current representatives are Commissioner Martha Santiago, Vice Mayor Nancy Daley, Mayor Pro Tem Brian Yates and we have a vacancy.

Commissioner Santiago asked to be rescinded from nomination due to the conflicts in her schedule.

Commissioner Troutman nominated Mayor Omar Arroyo of City of Haines City as a member.

Motion to appoint Mayor Omar Arroyo as a member: Motion to approve by Commissioner Troutman, seconded by Vice Mayor Clark. Motion carried without dissent.

Mayor Arroyo stated he would like to nominate Commissioner Vernel Smith to be the alternate.

Motion to appoint Commissioner Vernel Smith as an alternate: Motion carried without dissent.

Motion to continue Vice Mayor Nancy Daley: Motion carried without dissent.

Motion to continue Mayor Pro Tem Brian Yates: Motion carried without dissent.

9. Public Hearing on Draft Amendments to the Momentum 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO Director, presented the Draft amendments to the Momentum 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan. The amendments are part of the “Moving Florida Forward” initiative also known as the “I-4 Accelerated” project. A Public Hearing was opened, and no comments were brought to the floor, the public hearing was closed. The floor was opened to Board Members and there were no Board member comments. Roll call vote required.

Motion: Roll call vote was taken, and it was a unanimous vote.

10. Public Hearing on Draft Amendments to FY 2024/25-2028/29 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Angela Kaufman, Polk TPO Staff, made a presentation on the proposed FY 2024/25 – 2028/29 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments. These amendments included the North Lake Fitness Trail for a new design segment to be programmed in FY 2025 with Federal funding. Lakeland UZA – Alliance for Independence for funding for vehicles/equipment. Lakeland Area Mass Transit (LAMTD) capital funding for fixed routes for Lakeland and Winter Haven Area Mass Transit. I-4 Moving Florida Forward Projects for east of US 27 to West of State Road 429 to accelerate the widening project of I-4 and to include Osceola’s project west of State Road 429 to east of World Drive to ensure continuity of the project as a modification. The floor was opened for public comments and no comments were given. The floor was then closed for public

comments. The floor was opened for Board Member comments and no comments were received. The floor was closed, and a roll call vote was taken.

Motion: Motioned by Vice-Chair Roberts McCarley, seconded by Vice Mayor Clark. A roll call vote was taken, and it was a unanimous vote.

10. Review/Approve Draft TPO Resolution 2025-01 Adopting the Safety Performance Targets for the Polk TPO

Isai Chavez, Polk TPO Staff, made a presentation explaining the Resolution 2025-01 adopting FDOT's Safety Performance Targets and the goal of Vision Zero.

The Board members expressed concerns about bicycle lanes and pedestrian safety. Secretary L.K. Nandam stated the strategies with Target Zero. Mayor Mutz stated a proactive way to control the injuries of cyclists.

Motion: Motioned by Commissioner Brasswell, seconded by Commissioner Troutman. Motion carried without dissent.

Presentations and Status Reports

11. Central Polk Parkway Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE) from State Road 60 to US 17/92

Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO Director, provided a brief history of the Central Polk Parkway East project going back to 2005.

Jazlyn Heywood of Florida Turnpike made a presentation explaining the two different projects of the Central Polk Parkway which includes project 451419-1 which is in PD&E and project 451419-2 an alternative corridor evaluation.

Commissioner Braswell asked if County funding could co-mingle with the state's funds to expedite the project. Secretary L.K. Nandam stated partnerships are always a positive.

Vice-Chair Roberts McCarley expressed concerns due to past corridors and other opportunities with the proposed corridors.

13. Sunrail Extension Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study

Charlene Ross, FDOT, made a presentation on this project, its background and a study of key issues.

Reports

14. Executive Director's Report

Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO Executive Director, announced the 20th Anniversary of the Ridge Scenic Highway; introduced the 2024 Year in Review booklet; introduced Cindy Mitchell as the new member of the TPO's Planning staff. He then provided a summary of the key projects that will occur in 2025 including Envision 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan, Vision Zero Action Plan, I-4 Moving Florida Forward and US 27 Interchange improvements, the Central Polk Parkway, SunRail Extension PD&E study, and high-speed passenger rail.

15. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

Edith Perez, FDOT District 1, provided a brief summarization of application deadlines. She stated that there is an upcoming workshop in the spring for US 92 County Line Road from Amberjack Blvd to Frontage Road. She thanked Polk TPO staff for their assistance.

16. Board Member Comments

Mayor Pro Tem Yates asked if there was an update for the Thomas Nursery Road widening project; he stated he would like the opportunity to comment on the project.

Commissioner Brasswell and Mayor Mutz questioned the SunRail PD&E timeframe.

17. Adjournment – Next meeting date is April 10, 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 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.