Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization

OUTLOOK 2040

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2040 Transportation Needs Plan Adopted 1
How Much Can We Afford? 2
Development of the 2040 Cost Feasible Plan 3
How you can get Involved 3
Next Steps 3
Who is the Transportation Planning Organization? 4
Where Do We Go From Here? 4

Special points of interest:
• Transportation Survey online now! http://www.wfrpc.org/programs/o-w-tpo/long-range-plan

2040 TRANSPORTATION NEEDS PLAN ADOPTED

The Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) adopted the 2040 Transportation Needs Plan at their August 11, 2016 meeting. This plan contains roadway, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian projects that are needed between now and the year 2040 to meet the mobility needs of the region. The 2040 Needs Plan contains over ninety mobility projects ranging from widening US98 in Walton County and SR85 in Okaloosa County to providing express transit service between Crestview and Eglin Air Force Base. In addition to the projects, the 2040 Needs Plan also contains twelve mobility programs that will help improve travel within the region. These include programs that fund the operation and maintenance of traffic signals, conducting roadway corridor studies and funding operational improvements identified in those studies, as well as the creation of a regional multi-use trail system. The 2040 Needs Plan totals just under $3 billion for all of the projects and programs.

To see the full list of 2040 Needs Plan Projects, please visit the TPO’s LRTP project website at: http://www.wfrpc.org/programs/o-w-tpo/long-range-plan

Traffic on Beal Parkway

December Okaloosa–Walton TPO Meetings

When: December 15, 2016
Time: Citizens’ Advisory Committee: 9:30
   Technical Coordinating Committee: 1:30
   TPO board: 3:00
Where: Destin City Hall Annex 4100 Indian Bayou Trail,
       Destin, FL 32541
The 2040 Needs Plan will cost just under $3 billion to fully complete. The Okaloosa-Walton TPO does not have $3 billion to implement all of the projects contained in the needs plan. In fact, the TPO only receives about $536 million between now and the year 2040 to implement these projects and programs. The existing revenue will only fund approximately 18% of the transportation needs of the region.

Where Does the Money Come From?

The funding the TPO uses to implement transportation projects comes from state and federal gas tax revenues. So each time you purchase gasoline or diesel fuel, you are contributing to the funds used to make these improvements. Currently we pay $18.4 cents in federal gas tax per gallon of gas and a state gas tax of $13.1 cents per gallon.

As cars continue to get better gas mileage and as cars that run on alternative fuel sources continue to become more popular, we will see a continued decline in the gas tax revenues. As a declining revenue source, there is a present day need to find a better way to fund transportation operations, maintenance and capacity projects.

Development of the 2040 Cost Feasible Plan

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO is working on matching up the limited funding to the most important transportation programs and projects. Their goal is to get the biggest return on those transportation investments. Creating a system of transportation projects that work together to address the region's mobility needs. The TPO sponsored a series of public workshops in early November to solicit public input on which projects and programs should receive funding. These were held in the South Walton Library and in Crestview at the University of Florida Extension Office. In addition, the TPO made presentations to a number of community groups such as the South Walton Rotary Club and the Fort Walton Beach Kiwanis Club. Input received from these groups along with input from the participating municipalities has helped forge the draft 2040 Cost Feasible Plan.

Below are a sample of some of the programs and projects contained in the draft 2040 Cost Feasible Plan:

- Area wide Traffic Signal Operations $12 million
- Corridor Management Program $2.4 million
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Program $6 million
- Public Transportation Program $6 million
- Destin Cross-Town Connector $1.8 million for right-of-way and construction
- Crestview Bypass from Wild Horse Drive to I-10 $21 million for construction
- US98 at Stahlman Avenue $1.8 million for construction of a new intersection
- Hollywood Boulevard Extension from Hill Avenue to US98 $13 million for right-of-way and construction
- Express Transit Service from Niceville to Destin $900 thousand for purchase of new busses
- US98 from Mack Bayou to US331 6 laning $82 million for right-of-way and construction
- US331 from US90 to the Alabama State Line 4 laning $93 million for right-of-way and construction

For a full list of the draft 2040 Cost Feasible Plan projects, please visit the TPO’s Long Range Transportation Plan website at http://www.wfrpc.org/programs/o-w-tpo/long-range-plan
**How You Can Get Involved**

**Website**
Visit [www.wfrpc.org/o-w-tpo/long-range-plan](http://www.wfrpc.org/o-w-tpo/long-range-plan) to learn more about the TPO, the LRTP, project schedule, events, and projects under consideration. You may also provide feedback, let us know your needs and priorities, submit comments, ask questions, and sign up to receive newsletters.

**Presentations**
Would your civic, business, or community group like to learn more about the TPO or the plan update and share your thoughts? We'll come to you! Call or e-mail us to let us know about your group. See box below for contact information.

**Newsletters**
Outlook 2040 newsletters are distributed and posted on the website. They contain the latest happenings and information on upcoming workshops. Call or e-mail if you would like to receive the newsletter.

The Okaloosa-Walton TPO welcomes your input, questions, and comments on the TPO planning activities or the Long Range Transportation Plan Update. Please contact LRTP Project Manager, Jill Lavender, or Public Involvement Coordinator, Kathy Saldana, for more information.

**Next Steps**
The Okaloosa-Walton TPO will receive a detailed presentation on the Draft 2040 Cost Feasible Plan at their December 15th meetings. The TPO board will meet at 3:00 p.m. The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and Citizens’ Advisory Committee (CAC) meet the same day, at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. respectively. These meetings are open to the public and you are encouraged to attend and participate in the discussion of the proposed 2040 Cost Feasible Plan.

---

**Contact Information**

Ms. Jill Lavender, LRTP Project Manager
jill.lavender@wfrpc.org
850.332.7976 x212

Ms. Kathy Saldana
Public Involvement Coordinator
kathy.saldana@wfrpc.org
850.332.7976 x204
Who is the Transportation Planning Organization?

The Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is the local, intergovernmental transportation policy board for the urbanized areas of Okaloosa and Walton counties in Florida. The board is comprised of local government officials who make decisions regarding transportation at the regional level. The Okaloosa-Walton TPO is required by federal and state legislation to establish a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive planning process. The TPO also works to increase safety, security, accessibility, mobility, and connectivity for people and goods.

In addition to the TPO board, the Okaloosa-Walton TPO has a Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and a Citizens’ Advisory Committee (CAC). These committees provide input and recommendations to the board from a technical standpoint and from the citizen’s point of view.

Want to get involved? The Okaloosa-Walton TPO is accepting applications for citizens to serve on the CAC. To request an application, please contact our Public Involvement Coordinator, Kathy Saldana at kathy.saldana@wfrpc.org or 850-332-7976 x204.

Information on the TPO meetings may be found on-line here: http://www.wfrpc.org/programs/o-w-tpo/calendar

Where Do We Go From Here?

Once the TPO has adopted the LRTP, what happens next? Beginning in the Summer of 2017 the TPO will establish project priorities for the projects that have been included in the 2040 Cost Feasible Plan. These will be transmitted to the FDOT. In December the FDOT is expected to share the Five-Year Work Program with the TPO and then the TPO will update the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is a document listing and describing projects which will improve transportation capacity and effectiveness.

The 2040 LRTP will be updated again beginning in the Summer or Spring of 2020 and the new 2045 LRTP will need to be adopted by the TPO in June of 2021 and the cycle will begin again.