### Project Priorities - Improvements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intelligent Traffic Signal Management</th>
<th>Capacity Improvement (adding lanes to existing roads)</th>
<th>Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements</th>
<th>Building new roadways</th>
<th>Alternative Fuels Program (Such as biodiesel, electricity, ethanol, hydrogen, natural gas and propane)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Priority</td>
<td>High Priority</td>
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</table>

### Non-Strategic Intermodal System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area wide Traffic Signal System Operations and Maintenance</th>
<th>Crestview Bypass from Interstate 1-10 to Wild Horse Drive (Widen to 4 lanes)</th>
<th>Crestview Bypass from Raaberry Road to U.S. Highway 90 (Widen to 4 lanes)</th>
<th>State Road 85 Corridor Management Plan from Airport Road/Old Bethel Road to Aplin Road (Studying of this specific roadway to improve safety for all modes of travel)</th>
<th>State Road 85 from Garden Street to Airport Road (County Road 188) (Adding Sidewalk)</th>
<th>Beal Parkway from U.S. Highway 98 to Mary Esther Boulevard (Corridor Safety Improvements)</th>
<th>Intelligent Traffic Signal Management</th>
<th>Crestview Bypass West from U.S. Highway 90 to State Road 85 (Widen to 4 lanes) Hollywood Boulevard Extension from U.S. Highway 98 to Hill Avenue (Widen to 2 lanes)</th>
<th>State Road 20 from Cat Mar Road to Walton County Line (Widen to 4 lanes)</th>
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### Transportation System Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U.S. Highway 331 (State Road 83) at U.S. Highway 331 (Business County Road 883) (Signal Updates)</th>
<th>Lewis Turner Blvd (State Road 189) at Hospital Rd (Northbound right turn lane)</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Not Priority At All</td>
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### Zip Code:

- **32541**
  - Please share any additional transportation concerns below:

  - Around the Mound is the Biggest game changer for Fort Walton Beach. will transform the City. Please make this number one property for that portion of Okaloosa County. Thanks.

- **32548**
  - Please share any additional transportation concerns below:

  - A high priority should also be around the mound in Fort Walton Beach. There should also be high on the priority list to assist in traffic congestion on 588. With the construction of the new bridge coming in the near this is the perfect time to make all that happen.

- **32549**
  - Please share any additional transportation concerns below:

  - Would like to get updates on road projects that take a long time to follow progress.
**Public Comments**

**Total Email, Online Form or Phone Comments Received**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Zip Code</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fort Walton Beach</td>
<td>32547</td>
<td>US98/SR30-FWB Around the Mound</td>
<td>This project, which is currently ranked #4 on the Draft SIS Project Priorities list for FY 2022-26, is a groundbreaking and landscape changing project for the City of Fort Walton Beach and South Okaloosa County. US98 is the major east-west corridor in South Okaloosa County, and it currently bisects Downtown FWB. This proposal to reroute US98 &quot;Around the Mound&quot; would create a true downtown core, open up numerous areas for economic development, and allow for smoother traffic flow for those using US98 as a thoroughfare. The City of FWB partnered with FDOT for the Feasibility Study through a funding match and would be willing to entertain the same type of partnership for the PDAE study. With the Brooks Bridge Replacement Project on the horizon starting in 2022, moving this project forward as soon as possible is key in limiting the disruption for traffic flow and businesses. This project has numerous benefits, mainly improving the traffic flow on US98 in an area where traffic is a major issue and creating a hub for economic development through the revitalization of Downtown FWB. Combined with the improvements being made via the Brooks Bridge project, traffic flow can be vastly improved through these improvements. The City recently adopted a Downtown FWB Master Plan, which includes the Around the Mound option, and this is a top priority for the future of the City of FWB. Please move this project up the priority list as the City is committed to making this happen, and community support for this project is overwhelming.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Walton Beach</td>
<td>32547</td>
<td>Around the mound</td>
<td>Thank you for your service and consideration - As some of your may remember I have been involved with the TPO for almost 20 years now. I have had the pleasure of working on this project for the future of my city, Fort Walton Beach; a city I have spent most of my life. And, I request the TPO committee raise the &quot;Around the Mound&quot; project higher on your list. This long-sought-after realignment of the downtown portion of U.S. Highway 98 will revitalize our downtown and we hope to have in occur in conjunction with the planned start of the Brooks Bridge replacement project in 2022. This project provides our region with much needed improvements including improved traffic flow, increased quality of life, pedestrian friendly enhancements that are desperately needed. This project will not only improve the flow of traffic but also have a huge economic impact and will expand the downtown district of Fort Walton Beach. Please move this project forward!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Walton Beach</td>
<td>32547</td>
<td>&quot;Around the Mound&quot; Project - Fort Walton Beach FL</td>
<td>14 August 2020 TPO/FDOT Project Priorities Dear TPO Committee, It has come to my attention that the &quot;Around the Mound&quot; project is number 4 on the draft TPO/FDOT Project Priorities list. Also, I understand today is the deadline to submit comments to be reviewed by the TPO and committees at their August 20th workshop. Let me first express my utmost support for this extremely important project for the future of my city, Fort Walton Beach; a city I have spent most of my life. And, I request the TPO committee raise the &quot;Around the Mound&quot; project higher on your list. Here are my reasons to support: Public Safety. Currently a major US highway divides our major downtown entertainment and shopping district. At the peak of tourist season, and Destin is a prime example; a few pedestrians are killed each year trying to cross &quot;Bloody 85&quot;. During peak periods, U.S. 98 experiences heavy congestion and delays. &quot;Around the Mound&quot; promises to calm some of the congestion. Downtown Master Plan. Documents state that high levels of commuter traffic along US 98 downtown create &quot;a disconnected environment unfriendly to destination retail, entertainment and high-density residential redevelopment.&quot; It is our stated goal to transform downtown into a vibrant, walkable, living, entertainment, and shopping district. Rerouting the highway will do just that. It will allow city planners to revitalize parks, create plazas, living spaces for urban professionals to work and play; and an area for the community to walk and enjoy. The finest the city has to offer. Overwhelming Public Support. The Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Business Owners have come out loudly in support. This project will singularly transform our City into &quot;The Destination&quot;. Business Growth. One of the key questions potential Business Representatives ask before they consider relocating to a new area is, how livable is the location for their employees. Livability includes open spaces for living, working and entertaining...a relocated &quot;85&quot; will achieve those goals and increase our marketability to those potential businesses wishing to relocate to Florida. Please consider raising and funding &quot;Around the Mound&quot; on the draft TPO/FDOT Project Priorities list at your August 20th workshop. Please feel free to contact me, if you have further questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>FT WALTON BEACH</em></td>
<td>32547</td>
<td>&quot;Around the mound&quot; Fort Walton Beach</td>
<td>This project is vital to the future of Fort Walton Beach. It needs to be moved up in priority to tie in with the construction of the Brooks Bridge replacement project. Working these two projects in parallel will reduce the overall time the city residents and visitors on Hwy 98 will be inconvenienced by highway and/or bridge construction. Around the mound traffic flow is critical to the city as they go forward with the downtown revitalization. Please move this project up on the priority list! Thank you.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Dear TPO Committee;

It has come to my attention that the “Around the Mound” project is number 4 on the draft TPO/FDOT Project Priorities list. Also, I understand today is the deadline to submit comments to be reviewed by the TPO and committees at their August 20th workshop.

Let me first express my utmost support for this extremely important project for the future of my city, Fort Walton Beach; a city I have spent most of my life. And, I request the TPO committee raise the “Around the Mound” project higher on your list.

This long-sought-after realignment of the downtown portion of U.S. Highway 98 will revitalize our downtown and we hope to have in occur in conjunction with the planned start of the Brooks Bridge replacement project in 2022.

Here are my reasons to support:

- Public Safety. Currently a major US highway divides our downtown entertainment and shopping district. At the peak of tourist season and destination retail, entertainment and high-density residential redevelopment. It is hard to have the traffic move and congestions. “Around the Mound” promises to calm some of the congestion.

- Downtown Master Plan. Documents state that high levels of commuter traffic along U.S. 98 downtown create “a disconnected environment unfriendly to destination retail, entertainment and high-density residential redevelopment.” It is our stated goal to transform downtown into a vibrant, walkable, living, entertainment, and shopping district. Rerouting the highway will do just that. It will allow city planners to revitalize parks, create plazas, living spaces for urban professionals to work and play; and an area for the community to walk and enjoy the finest the city has to offer.

- Overwhelming Public Support. The Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Business Owners have come out loudly in support. This project will singularly transform our City into “The Destination”. Business Growth. One of the key questions potential Business Representatives ask before they consider relocating to a new area is, how livable is the location for their employees. Livability includes open spaces for living, working and entertaining…a relocated “98” will achieve those goals and increase our marketability to those potential businesses wishing to relocate to Florida.

Please consider raising and funding “Around the Mound” on the draft TPO/FDOT Project Priorities list at your August 20th workshop. Please feel free to contact me, if you have further questions.

My name is David Schmidt 17 Oak Aji Circle for Walton Beach Florida 32548. The meeting item is in formally known as the “Around the Mound” project on Highway 98 located just West of the Brooks Bridge in for Walton Beach and just in complete support of this project or the necessary safety enhancements that will bring our region specially our community was being a military heavy community first responders in the mission are relying on a improve traffic flow and greatly appreciate you continuing to move this project forward. Thank you.

- Emerald Coast Regional Council,

I am reaching out to show my support of the Fort Walton Beach Around the Mound Project. This project is one of the most important projects to improve the economic landscape of Downtown Fort Walton Beach. With moving hwy 98 to the projected path the Downtown Fort Walton Beach area will have additional parking and availability for business owners like me to invest, build or locate their businesses in the Downtown area. It’s not often that businesses, elected officials and the general public all agree on something. The people of Fort Walton Beach want this project to happen.

This project is ready to move forward with the help of FWB elected officials, FWB staff, FDOT and the TPO. Please continue the progress of this project so we can make our city a better place to live, work and play.

Good morning

The Around the Mound project is a great project and I’m glad to see it is one of the top priorities on your 2022-2026 project priority list. This project would offer a great alternative to the current landlocked, heavily trafficked downtown Fort Walton Beach area. The revitalization of downtown Fort Walton Beach is crucial to the future of this small community and I greatly encourage you to move this on up your priority list.

Thank you for your time.
ECRC/TPO—Thanks for this opportunity to share updates on the ‘Around the Mound’ Project in Downtown Fort Walton Beach. When you reflect back on your community service some years from now, the fact that YOU voted to make certain that the Around the Mound Project was created—will be at the top of your list of successes. With the diversion of Hwy 98 traffic to just slightly north of its current location in Downtown FWB—you convert BLOCKS of the downtown community into a strolling marketplace. The boundaries of the current downtown footprint will expand in all directions, featuring the addition of parks and businesses onto some of the current VACANT waterfront property. Residents & Visitors will safely enjoy—what will become—a Thriving Metropolis of Wonderfulness. Fort Walton Beach will become one of the Best Downtowns in Southern Livings Best of Listings. It will become a destination.

1. City of Fort Walton Beach has talked about this game changer since 1992—but never been able to line everything up to get it on this list.
2. With a gentle redirecting of one road , the City of Fort Walton Beach is forever changed for the better.
3. The Current City Council and FWB Chamber board ALL are unanimously in support of the project—as well as ALL businesses in downtown who responded to our survey and attended meetings. (I have not heard from one business against it)
4. Finally after 25+ years of having some elected officials afraid to make hard decisions, the current City Council and the current members of the TPO— have become a new generation of progressive municipal leadership who are truly making the transformation changes needed in our area.
5. The staff of The Emerald Coast Regional council have been wonderful to work with as they assisted our Chamber and City in working thru the process.
6. The City is working hand and hand with FDOT to complete the Feasibility study—and the City of FWB is paying FDOT the agreed upon total contracted for the study. The City of FWB has 'skin in the game'.
7. Because of the great relationship between City of FWB and FDOT, the City is considering negotiating with FDOT so the City might contract—or perform—the PD&E to help expedite the process
8. Although not officially approved by City Council yet; many on the leadership of The City of FWB are prepared to allocate additional funding for a portion of the PD&E to facilitate the advancement of the time schedule/completion date.
9. Now that it appears the City of Destin is not ready to take the next step in their Destin Connector project—which means the Okaloosa County Convention & Visitors Bureau funds allocated to that project may become available for this PROJECT.
10. Although our Fort Walton Beach Community does not want to be the bad guys— ‘bump’ any of the three priorities above the number #4 ranked— Around the mound, it does look to us that the Around the Mound project is ready for PD&E—which will assist TPO with a balanced work program.

The Fort Walton Beach Community THANKS you for the consideration of our request.

Top Ten reasons the Around the Mound should become the Top SIS Priority in Okaloosa County:
1. The City of Fort Walton Beach has talked about this game changer since 1992—but never been able to line everything up to get it on this list.
2. With a gentle redirecting of one road , the City of Fort Walton Beach is forever changed for the better.
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The Fort Walton Beach Community THANKS you for the consideration of our request.

TPO/TCC/CAC Committees Virtual Workshop on June 22, 2020

Non-SIS Priority #3 Crestview Bypass-PJ Adams/Antrooch Road: Can you show the local funds for this project? Yes, will confirm local fund amounts with Okaloosa County.

TPO/TCC/CAC Committees Virtual Workshop on June 22, 2020

SIS Priority #10-11-10/SR 8 from Santa Rosa County Line to SR 85: It looks like the TIP shows it is funded. Can you confirm and show funds? TPO Staff confirmed with FDOT that only Design has been Funded (FY 2020). No further phases are funded at this time.

TPO/TCC/CAC Committees Virtual Workshop on August 20, 2020

Non-SIS Priority #1 Aerawide Traffic Signal System O&M. It looks like there’s a typo for the funding in FY 2021 showing $40,000 instead of $406,000. Yes, typo has been corrected in new draft.

TPO/TCC/CAC Committees Virtual Workshop on August 20, 2020

Has there been discussion on the Santa Rosa Boulevard project that has been in the newspaper? Is that a state road or a county road? The portion that is in the newspaper is county maintained. The funding is coming from the TAP program and local agency funding for the sidewalk.

TPO/TCC/CAC Committees Virtual Workshop on August 20, 2020

Non-SIS Priorities – Given the lack of funding shown on this table, is there any federal, state, or local funding missing? The list of projects are from the Cost Feasible portion of the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. There is 20 years worth of projects shown and only 5 years worth of funding. Also, any projects fully funded through construction in the first three years of the FDOT Work Program are moved to the fully funded list.

TPO/TCC/CAC Committees Virtual Workshop on August 20, 2020

The last LRTP amendment included the SR 85 at PJ Adams Parkway interaction improvement. Should it be added to the bottom of the Non-SIS list? Yes, it will be added to the new draft.

TPO/TCC/CAC Committees Virtual Workshop on August 20, 2020

SIS Priority #1 SR 85 (SR 123 to Mirage Avenue): Are the funds shown FY 2022 allocated or just projected? Those funds are currently allocated in the FDOT Work Program for the Preliminary Engineering (PE) or Design Phase.

TPO/TCC/CAC Committees Virtual Workshop on August 20, 2020

SIS Priority #9 US 98 (East of Cody Lane Interchange to Mary Esther Boulevard): What are the funds shown in FY 2021 for? The funds shown in FY 2021 are for the Preliminary Engineering (PE) or Design phase of the project. The next unfunded phase is Right-of-Way.

TPO/TCC/CAC Committees Virtual Workshop on August 20, 2020

Have we heard anything about the governor funding anything with stimulus funding from the Coronavirus pandemic? We have not heard anything regarding Coronavirus funding for transportation projects. FDOT stated they would provide public report from their Revenue Estimating Conference.

TPO/TCC/CAC Committees Virtual Workshop on August 20, 2020

SIS Priority #4 US 98 Fort Walton Beach Around the Mound: There is a need to move this project up to be aligned with the Brooks Bridge Replacement Project to minimize the construction impact on the community. Comment noted.

TPO/TCC/CAC Committees Virtual Workshop on August 20, 2020

SIS Priority #4 US 98 Fort Walton Beach Around the Mound: It is critical to synchronize the Around the Mound project with the Brooks Bridge Replacement. Otherwise, we will prolong construction in that area for years and years. Comment noted.

TPO/TCC/CAC Committees Virtual Workshop on August 20, 2020

Do we have enough data to show where the local half-cent surtax has been spent? Are those local funds being used to spread FDOT dollars? The Okaloosa County website shows the projects that have been funded with the half-cent surtax. The TPO’s Project Priorities only show projects that are requesting state and federal funds. Any local project using only local funds will not appear on the TPO Project Priorities tables. The segments of the Crestview bypass (Non-SIS Priorities #2 and #3) were originally only requesting state and federal funds but are now being funded with local and grant dollars. This frees up funds for other projects on the list to be funded in next year’s FDOT Work Program.
### Social Media Data

#### Facebook
- **Event Reach (Newsfeeds):** 2K
- **Responses (Going, Interested, etc.):** 10

#### Geographical Areas Reached
- **Crestview:** 27%
- **Ft. Walton Beach:** 16%
- **Niceville:** 6%
- **Destin:** 6%
- **DeFuniak Springs:** 4.69%

#### People Reached
- **Women (All Ages):** 74%
  - Women 55-64: 23%
  - Women 45-54: 15%
  - Women 35-44: 17.80%
  - Women 25-34: 11.50%
- **Men All Ages:** 26%

#### YouTube Video Analytics
- **Total (Unique) Views:** 12
- **Average View Duration:** 5:12 42%
- **Traffic Source**
  - External: 53.30%
  - Facebook: 38%