# WELCOME TO THE POLK TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Polk Transportation Planning Organization





### "

With a multifaceted economy and central location, Polk County is in an enviable position.

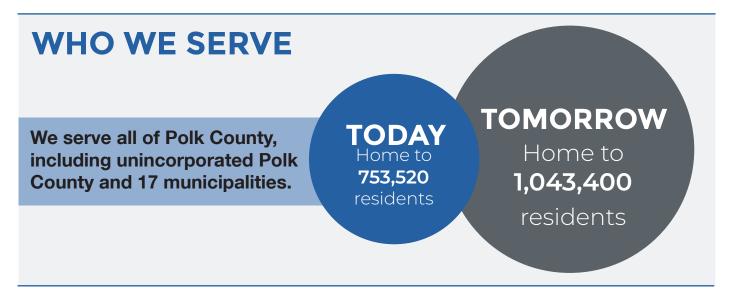
- Florida Trend Community Profile: Polk County, May 2020

# **ABOUT THE POLK TPO**

The Polk Transportation Planning Organization is a **transportation policy-making organization** mandated by federal and state laws. Established in 1977, the agency serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Lakeland and Winter Haven urbanized areas.

The Polk TPO is responsible for making sure federal and state dollars spent on existing and future transportation projects and programs are based on a **continuing, cooperative and comprehensive** transportation planning process.

It provides a forum that brings together county and city commissioners, municipal officials and other transportation and land use professionals to implement a **safe, efficient and multimodal transportation system.** 



## WHO ARE OUR PARTNERS?

- Polk County Government
- Florida Department of Transportation
- Polk TPO Board
- Technical Advisory Committee
- Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board
- Transportation Adviser Network
- Lakeland Area Mass Transit District

- 17 Incorporated Municipalities of Polk
- Polk County Residents
- Suncoast Transportation Planning
  Alliance
- Central Florida MPO Alliance
- Federal Highway Administration
- Federal Transit Administration

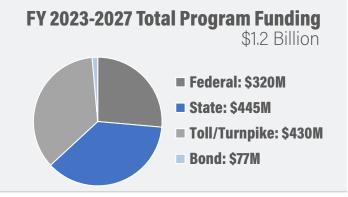
## WHAT WE DO

### LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN: MOMENTUM 2045

The plan represents the transportation vision for Polk County through the planning horizon year of 2045. The plan characterizes current and future transportation needs and highlights the multimodal recommendations to address these needs.

#### TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The purpose of the TIP is to provide a list of all transportation projects in the county funded from federal and state sources over the next five years.



#### **PRIORITY PROJECTS**

The TPO works with various stakeholders to develop an annual list of priority transportation projects that are submitted to FDOT for consideration during the development of the 5-year work program. Projects worth more than \$200 million were prioritized in 2022.



### TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

This plan serves as the 10-year transit vision for more than one million residents and visitors and guides the investment of more than \$350 million over a 10 year period. It identifies how to best serve the mobility needs of residents, employees and visitors.

### UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Describes the transportation planning projects and programs to be performed within Polk County by the Polk TPO, and is the basis for allocating federal, state and local funds for transportation planning purposes. Developed every two years, the UPWP documents all planning tasks and related activities.

#### **ROADWAY NETWORK DATABASE**

The database includes information on the current traffic volume and level-of-service for Polk County's major roads. It contains 26 fields of transportation data for more than 1,300 miles of state, county and city roads - one of the largest road networks in Florida.

#### SAFETY PROGRAMS

The goal is to elimate deaths and serious injuries from county roads. Among the safety programs are the Community Traffic Safety Team; the Coalition on Injury Prevention; Bicycle, Pedestrian Safety/Infrastructure Team; Pledge to Slow Down campaign and the Vision Zero iniitative.



#### **MULTI-USE TRAILS MASTER PLAN**

Polk County has 120 different trails totaling nearly 400 miles in length. This trail master planning study addresses four trail corridors which provide connections to the existing and planned trails of Central Florida's communities and the statewide trail network.

### **REGIONAL COORDINATION**

The Polk TPO is part of two regional transportation alliances that span 16 counties across central Florida. There are 12 MPO/ TPOs representing the 16 counties. The Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance and the Central Florida MPO Alliance coordinate on regional transportation issues and projects.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

The Polk TPO encourages early and continuing participation by residents in the planning and decision-making process. The Public Participation Plan serves as a guidebook for the public as to how and when they can engage in the regional transportation planning and decisionmaking process.



## **HOW WE ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY**



The Adviser Network was created to better engage with our residents and community partners.

Community forums are held on a variety of transportation-related topics on a quarterly basis, both in-person and virtual and members are also updated via email regularly with regard to events, important news, surveys and opportunities for public comment.



**FACEBOOK:** 

## Hit the trail and submit your video by

10/31 to win!

Winners receive a hiking and safety package!

Polk Transportation Planning Organization







# POLK TPO BOARD

The TPO Board is comprised of elected officials including all five county commissioners and representatives from 15 of the 17 municipalities in Polk.

The TPO Board adopts and maintains a long-range multi-modal transportation plan that includes highway, public transportation, passenger rail, pedestrian, bicycle and multi-use trail improvements. It establishes local priorities for the use of federal and state funds on transportation projects. Annually, the Board adopts a Transportation Improvement Program that includes the FDOT's Five-Year Work Program and implements the long-range plan.

#### Chairperson, Commissioner Roy Tyler, Haines City Vice Chairperson, Commissioner Jack Myers, Auburndale

Commissioner Martha Santiago, Polk County BoCC Commissioner Neil Combee, Polk County BoCC Commissioner Bill Braswell, Polk County BoCC Commissioner Rick Wilson, Polk County BoCC Commissioner George Lindsey, Polk County BoCC Mayor Bill Mutz, Lakeland Commissioner Phil Walker, Lakeland Commissioner Sara McCarley, Lakeland

#### South County Block:

Vice Mayor Jon Albert (Voting Member), Frostproof Commissioner Jim Watts (Alternate 2), Fort Meade Commissioner Collins Smith (Alternate 1), Mulberry

#### East County Block:

Commissioner Steven Metosh Sr. (Voting Member), Eagle Lake Mayor Joe LaCascia (Alternate 1), Polk City Commissioner Jeremy Clark (Alternate 2), Davenport Mayor Marlene Wagner (Alternate 3),Lake Hamilton Mayor Nancy Daley (Alternate 4), Lake Alfred

Commissioner Chad McLeod, Lakeland Commissioner Bill Read, Lakeland Commissioner Mike Musick, Lakeland Commissioner Brian Yates, Winter Haven Mayor Pro Tem Nat Birdsong, Winter Haven Commissioner Jack Hilligoss, Lake Wales Commissioner Tanya Tucker, Bartow

#### **Advisory Members**

L.K. Nandam, FDOT District 1 Secretary Parag Agrawal, Polk TPO Executive Director Elizabeth Voss, Polk TPO Attorney



Polk Transportation Planning Organization

Drawer TS-05, Post Office Box 9005 Bartow, Florida 33831-9005

Phone: (863) 534-6486

www.PolkTPO.com