



November 12, 2025  
Infrastructure Surtax Advisory Committee  
Meeting

The regular meeting of the Okaloosa County Infrastructure Surtax Advisory Committee was called to order at 9:58 A.M. in the Okaloosa County Courthouse, First Floor, Board of County Commissioners Chambers, located at 101 James Lee Blvd. E., Crestview, FL 32536.

Members present: District 4 representative: Chairman: Matthew Turpin; District 2 representative: Vice Chairman: Jeff Fanto; District 1 representative: Larry Ward; District 3 representative: Hannah Wilburn; District 5 representative: Paul Sjoberg.

Also present were: Craig Coffey, Okaloosa Deputy County Administrator; Joshua Allen, Okaloosa Clerk of Court, Board Services Director; Nick Tomecek, Public Information Officer; Scott Bitterman, Director of Public Works / County Engineer; Roy Petrey, Engineering Manager; Carisse LeJeune, Surtax Project Manager; Rob VandenBroeck, Road Division Chief, Stephen Blalock, Project Engineer; Dylan Schroeder, Surtax Engineer-in-Training; Brittany Eager, Surtax Project Coordinator.

#### **Opening Remarks and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was opened by Chairman Mr. Matthew Turpin. Mr. Craig Coffey stated that the meeting had been properly noticed in accordance with section 286.011, Florida Statutes on March 24, 2025. He further noted the meeting is being recorded. It was further noted that all five members were present, which constitutes a quorum.

#### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Turpin called for a vote regarding the approval of the meeting minutes. Vice Chairman, Mr. Jeff Fanto made the motion, and it was seconded by Mr. Larry Ward. The motion passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

#### **Public Comments**

None.

#### **Presentations**

None.

#### **Project Updates**

Chairman Turpin initiated the discussion with an agenda item dedicated to project updates.

##### A. Project List Update –

Ms. LeJeune provided valuable insights into several projects that have made significant progress through October 31, 2025.

- a. Beachview Drive Drainage Improvements (ST000002) / District 2 –  
Currently in Design using RESTORE Act funding. The County has also applied for a County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP) grant to support construction.

- b. John King Road Widening (ST000004) / District 1 –  
We recently went through eminent domain process, and we were awarded by the judge. Waiting for the judge to sign off on all orders of taking. Will be preparing to put out an advertisement for bid as soon as right-of-way is complete.
- c. Millside Roadway Improvements (ST000013) / District 1 –  
The project is 100% designed and right-of-way and easement acquisition is moving along.
- d. West 98 Area Stormwater Improvements (ST000025) / District 4 –  
Multiple subprojects are underway under this umbrella effort.  
  
County Pond 314 –  
Work is complete and project close-out is pending.
- e. Live Oak Church Road Intersection Improvements (ST000028) / District 1 –  
Construction is complete and project close-out is pending.
- f. College Boulevard / Forest Rd Multi-Use Path (ST000030) / Districts 1, 3, & 5 –  
Construction is underway. Okaloosa County received a State Appropriation grant through FDOT for \$1.5 Million for Construction and Surtax funding is being used for a \$1.5 Million match.
- g. Union Avenue Stormwater Improvements (ST000035) / District 5 –  
Bid opening for construction scheduled November 19, 2025.

Ms. LeJeune invited questions and discussions on the projects, and the following were raised.

Chairman Turpin asked for an update on US 98 & Stahlman.

Ms. LeJeune explained that City of Destin has applied for a grant and if awarded Okaloosa County will provide the local matching amount that was promised in the interlocal agreement.

Chairman Turpin then inquired if there were any further questions from the committee. No additional questions were raised.

#### B. Surtax Revenue / Expense Summary –

Ms. LeJeune reviewed the project reconciliation spreadsheets, highlighting a total budget of \$281 million. \$121 Million is allocated from surtax funds, while the remainder is grant funding and other revenues. She emphasized ongoing efforts to leverage surtax dollars with external funding sources.

She invited questions from the committee.

Vice Chairman Fanto wanted to revisit the discussion of public safety project limitations and went on to discuss Fire Districts that receive Ad Valorem Tax Revenues and how they are not eligible to receive funding from this committee.

The committee agreed this limitation should be revisited. Chairman Turpin supported discussing future recommendations to expand eligibility for critical services like fire protection and asked that the Okaloosa County attorney be consulted on the matter for the next 10-year Project List.

Chairman Turpin then inquired if there were any further questions from the committee. No additional questions were raised.

C. SW Crestview Bypass Funding Summary –

Ms. LeJeune provided the updated report to the committee, reviewed the budget and expense information, and stated she would be happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Turpin invited questions; hearing none, the meeting proceeded to the Surtax Webpage Dashboard.

D. Surtax Webpage Dashboard –

Ms. LeJeune then presented static dashboard pages from the infrastructure website, highlighting 42 active projects, budget comparisons between surtax and grant funds, and project locations. The dashboard includes detailed project scrolling features and various graphical budget and revenue displays.

Chairman Turpin invited questions; hearing none, the meeting proceeded to the annualized funding projection.

E. Annualized Funding Projection –

Ms. LeJeune reviewed updated project budgets and future expenditure estimates through 2029, noting several projects that are yet to be allocated, but will be coming online soon to include: Mooney Road, Indian Lakes, Bayshore and Griffith Mill, US 98 and Stahlman, and Poquito Road.

Mr. Bitterman added that four of those projects will also have Restore Act money for design.

Mr. Sjoberg voiced concern about the risk of running out of projects. Mr. Bitterman and Mr. Coffey explained that the County has been using Surtax funding to leverage additional funding opportunities to bring on projects using the Crestview Bypass as an example.

Chairman Turpin asked if there were any questions from the committee. Hearing none, the meeting moved on to Agenda Items and Discussions.

**Agenda Items and Discussions**

Chairman Turpin initiated the Staff Reports discussion.

A. Northwest Crestview Bypass (ST000015) / Districts 1 & 3 –

Chairman Turpin introduced the Staff Report for Northwest Crestview Bypass.

Ms. LeJeune explained that since the committee last met there has been an update regarding the Northwest Crestview Bypass corridor preservation. The property at 102 Springwood Circle became available for a purchase price of \$239,800.00. Staff recommended the purchase at the listed price due to the anticipated cost to acquire the property would be higher through eminent domain.

Due to the urgent nature and timing of the property purchase, staff were unable to request recommendation of allocation from the committee prior to requesting approval from the Board of County Commissioners. The Board approved the purchase and budget transfer from FY26

Surtax Reserves in the amount of \$250,000 for the purchase price and closing and legal fees at the November 4, 2025, regular meeting.

Chairman Turpin asked for clarification that the purchase was made for potential right of way and asked if there were any additional questions from the committee. Hearing none, he introduced the next agenda item.

B. Santa Rosa Blvd Improvements (ST000024) / District 2 –

Ms. LeJeune updated the committee that the state appropriations grant from FDOT in the amount of \$1 Million was awarded and a local match of \$2.8 Million was required at time of award. Due to time constraints staff were unable to request recommendations for allocation from this committee prior to the grant award going to the Board of County Commissioners for approval. The request for allocation of FY26 Surtax Reserves in the amount of \$2,802,281 was approved by the board on October 21, 2025.

Vice Chairman Fanto asked if there would be additional funding needed for FPL utility undergrounding. Ms. LeJeune stated that staff is anticipating a binding cost estimate in December. Mr. Bitterman clarified that the decision to have the utilities undergrounded has not yet been made. He further explained that the Board of County Commissioners will need to make that determination and then funding sources would be procured at that time, but there is already an MSBU established for that area to potentially be able to share some of the cost. There is still a chance an additional funding request could come ~~about~~ back to the Committee for consideration.

The committee proceeded to the next agenda item, Dirt Road Stabilization.

C. Dirt Road Stabilization (ST000021) / Districts 1 & 3 –

Ms. LeJeune informed the committee that since the inception of the “50 in 5” project approximately 200 miles of roadway have been stabilized and 148 miles have been capped, well exceeding the initial goal of only 50 miles. Ms. LeJeune requested additional surtax allocation of \$5 million to asphalt cap the remaining 52 miles of stabilized roads to complete the project and to cover contingency.

Chairman Turpin opened the floor for a motion. Ms. Wilburn motioned, and Mr. Fanto seconded. The motion was approved unanimously with a 5–0 vote.

D. Emergency Communications Equipment (ST000018) / Districts All –

Mr. Coffey requested recommendation for allocation of FY26 Surtax Reserves in the amount of \$850,000.00 for close-out costs for this project. This is an increase of 3.2% of the total project.

Mr. Coffey spoke about the importance of the project and the improvements that it has already made countywide. He went on to discuss the struggles that the project has faced with material price increases during 2020, delays of materials, as well as requirements causing the towers to be no fall towers, and some towers to be additional heights.

Chairman Turpin opened the floor for a motion. Mr. Fanto motioned, and Mr. Sjoberg seconded. The motion was approved unanimously with a 5–0 vote.

E. Four Prong Lake Area Drainage Improvements / District 5 –

Ms. LeJeune requested a recommendation of FY26 Surtax Reserves allocation in the amount of \$1 million for Four Prong Lake Area Drainage Improvements to cover design and construction.

Ms. LeJeune stated the project would improve severe flooding of the area that is caused by heavy rain events. The area receives water from US 98 and unincorporated Okaloosa County but has no outfall. The project will create an outfall into the Gulf of America, which are considered waters of the United States. Ms. LeJeune went on to explain that the Army Corps of Engineers has already approved a permit for the project.

Mr. Sjoberg inquired about the location of the drainage system, asking if it would go between houses. Mr. Bitterman explained that the approximate location would be near the gazebo in James Lee Park. He also added that the homeowners had paid for conceptual designs and permitting approximately 5 years ago, but the Army Corps of Engineers stated that it had to be done by the County as the County is the owner of James Lee Park, where the overflow occurs.

Mr. Bitterman also added that Four Prong Lake is within City of Destin city limits, and there is currently an interlocal agreement that states the City of Destin will maintain the outfall once constructed and would take responsibility of any future fees the state or federal government charged.

Chairman Turpin opened the floor for a motion. Mr. Ward motioned, and Mr. Fanto seconded. The motion was approved unanimously with a 5–0 vote.

**Office of Management and Budget**

None.

**Clerk of Court and Comptroller**

None.

**Schedule Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at the South End location in Shalimar (address TBD).

**Adjournment**

Chairman Turpin motioned to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman Fanto. Motion approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittany Eager

Surtax Project Coordinator