



January 7, 2026
Infrastructure Surtax Advisory Committee
Meeting

The regular meeting of the Okaloosa County Infrastructure Surtax Advisory Committee was called to order at 10:21 A.M. in the Okaloosa County Administration Building, 1st Floor Training Room, located at 1250 Eglin Parkway N, Shalimar, FL 32579.

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

Also present were: Craig Coffey, Okaloosa Deputy County Administrator; Jason Autrey, Deputy County Administrator; Faye Douglas, OMB Director; Brad Embry, Okaloosa County Clerk of Court and Comptroller; 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, Michelle Gartman, Project Engineer; Brittany Eager, Surtax Project Coordinator; Major David Allen, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office; Sheriff Eric Aden, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.

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 November 11, 2025. He further noted the meeting is being recorded. It was further noted that three out of five members were present at the start of the meeting, 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. Paul Sjoberg. The motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

Public Comments

None.

Presentations

A. Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Evidence Facility –

Sheriff Eric Aden and Major David Allen gave a presentation to request funding allocation for a new Evidence Facility in North Okaloosa County. Sheriff Aden explained that due to the bifurcation of Okaloosa County, there is a need for an evidence facility in the northern portion of the county to benefit the deputies, citizens, and crime scene investigators. The need also comes from the amount of evidence needing to be stored. Sheriff Aden stated that evidence is required to be kept for 99 years. The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office already owns the property; a new facility would be constructed to include a 3,000 square foot storage facility with a 7,000 square foot vehicle impound lot for a total estimated cost of \$2,707,870.00.

The floor was opened for questions and Vice Chairman Fanto asked if this new facility would be in addition to the existing facility in the south portion of the county, and Sheriff Aden confirmed. Mr. Paul Sjoberg asked if the need was purely geographical or if there would be different types of evidence being stored. Major Allen explained that the new facility would completely replicate the south facility but in addition would be walking distance from the county's incinerator

Chairman Matt Turpin entertained a motion to approve; Mr. Larry Ward motioned to approve; Mr. Paul Sjoberg seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a 4-0 vote.

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. Carmel & Beal Intersection Improvements (ST000010) / District 4 –
We have received 100% construction plans that are currently under engineering review and in development of bid documents.
- b. Lloyd Street Stormwater Improvements (ST000012) / District 4 –
We recently received 90% design plans. There are a handful of right-of-way issues, but we hope to go out to bid for construction by the end of this summer.
- c. Millside Roadway Improvements (ST000013) / District 1 –
The project is 100% designed and right-of-way and easement acquisition is moving along with 2 parcel negotiations ongoing and 2 additional still needing to be negotiated.
- d. West 98 Area Stormwater Improvements (ST000025) / District 4 –
The Wynnehaven Beach Road project received approval from the Board of County Commissioners at their January 6, 2026, meeting to apply for the TRIP Grant.
- e. CR 393 Phase 3 Reconstruction (ST000032) / District 1 –
We are applying for a grant to be able to complete design and move into construction.
- f. OCSO Data Management Center (ST000034) / District All –
Construction and implementation is complete for the Sheriff's Office portion of the project, and the Jail is currently working on milestone 5. Once milestone 5 is complete the project will close out.
- g. Union Avenue Stormwater Improvements (ST000035) / District 5 –
A construction contract with GCUC was approved at the January 6, 2026, Board of County Commissioners meeting and construction is anticipated to start soon.
- h. West 98 Collector Transportation Improvements (ST000036) / District 4 –
We are holding another public meeting this summer. We are still in PD&E study.
- i. Public Safety Driving Pad (ST000040) / District 3 –
The award of the construction contract is tentatively scheduled to go before the Board of County Commissioners at their January 20, 2026, meeting for approval.

j. Traffic Management Center (ST000042) / District 3 –

A task order for CEI was approved at January 6, 2026, Board of County Commissioners meeting. We hope to be in construction of this project before the summer.

Public Works Director, Scott Bitterman, added that the application for a \$1M grant from the DOD was denied so there may be an additional request for allocation on this project.

k. Lancaster Drive Stormwater Project (ST000047) / District 5 –

Project is in 60-90% Design and a Public Meeting will be held to obtain resident opinion on two different design options.

Mr. Paul Sjoberg asked if the new development has any effect on this project.

Mr. Jason Autrey and Mr. Scott Bitterman explained that the Contractor will have to improve any disturbed area.

l. Valparaiso Blvd Sidewalk (ST000052) / Districts 3 & 5 –

This Project has an interlocal agreement with City of Niceville for design. The County will be paying for Construction and maintenance. A Construction Contract has been issued, and the pre-construction meeting will be held later this month.

Ms. LeJeune invited questions and discussions on the projects, hearing none the committee moved on to Surtax Revenue and Expense Summary.

B. Surtax Revenue / Expense Summary –

Ms. LeJeune reviewed the project reconciliation spreadsheets, noting that the values are as of December 10, 2025, but only cover costs through the end of fiscal year 2025.

Mr. Jason Autrey provided additional information regarding Southwest Crestview Bypass opening schedule.

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

C. Surtax Webpage Dashboard –

Ms. LeJeune then presented static dashboard pages from the infrastructure website.

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

D. Annualized Funding Projection –

Ms. LeJeune reviewed updated project budgets and future expenditure estimates through 2029.

Mr. Bitterman added that elements of the Union Avenue Stormwater project will be addressing the Bayshore Drive stormwater needs as well, and therefore a separate project for Bayshore Drive will not be necessary.

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. Annual Report FY2025 / Districts (All) –

The committee reviewed and discussed the FY2025 Annual Report and Chairman Turpin requested that additional language be added stating “This Annual Report is coordinated through OMB and the Clerk’s Office. The Report is consistent and there has been no discrepancies noted.”

Chairman Turpin opened the floor for a motion. Vice Chairman Fanto motioned, and Mr. Ward seconded. The motion was approved unanimously with a 4–0 vote.

Further Discussion was had relating to the upcoming Surtax Referendum.

B. SR85 Crestview Evening Relief (ST000039) / Districts 1 & 3 –

Ms. LeJeune gave the committee some background information regarding the project and introduced the request to encumber \$10 Million in Surtax Funding for the project for local contribution to the FDOT Project for adding lanes and reconstructing SR 85 from Live Oak Church Rd. to PJ Adams Pkwy.

Chairman Turpin asked if the project scope included the Shoal River Bridge.

Mr. Jason Autrey clarified that it does not and further discussion continued with questions from the committee.

Chairman Turpin opened the floor for a motion. Mr. Sjoberg motioned, and Mr. Ward seconded. The motion was approved unanimously with a 4–0 vote.

C. Around the Mound (ST000048) / District 2 –

Ms. LeJeune introduced the project and the request for allocation of \$675,000.00 for the County’s portion of design costs as part of an interlocal agreement with the City of Fort Walton Beach.

Vice Chairman Fanto asked about the portion that the City of Fort Walton Beach will be committing to the project and Mr. Autrey stated \$2.675 Million.

Chairman Turpin opened the floor for a motion. Vice Chairman Fanto motioned, and Mr. Sjoberg seconded. The motion was approved unanimously with a 4–0 vote.

Office of Management and Budget

Ms. Douglas stated that we should meet the projected budget of \$22 Million for FY2026.

Clerk of Court and Comptroller

Mr. Embry stated that the Power BI Dashboard was established for transparency and their office is willing to help with any messaging.

Mr. Sjoberg asked if there was a place to see the percentage split of the Infrastructure Surtax Revenues and Mr. Autrey stated that it is a statute that can be added. ?

Vice Chairman Fanto asked for a follow up regarding using Surtax Funds for fire districts. Discussion ensued and Mr. Autrey informed the Vice Chairman that Surtax funding cannot be used for fire districts at this time due to fire departments being their own taxing district. Mr. Fanto asked if this could be changed for the future. Mr. Autrey and Mr. Bitterman will check with the County attorney to see if this is legally allowed.

Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at the Okaloosa County Courthouse in Crestview.

Adjournment

Mr. Larry Ward motioned to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman Jeff Fanto. Motion approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittany Eager

Surtax Project Coordinator