



July 3, 2025

Mr. Jamie Driggers, P.E.
Interim District One Secretary
Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Post Office Box 1249
Bartow, Florida 33831-1249

RE: POLK TPO - ADOPTED 2025 PRIORITY TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Dear Secretary, Driggers:

Please find attached the Polk Transportation Planning Organization's (TPO) 2025 Transportation Priorities which were adopted by the TPO Board on Thursday, June 12, 2025. The TPO's list of multi-modal transportation priorities consists of 25 projects that include candidate highway, multi-use trail, transportation alternative projects (TAP) and transportation management area (TMA) funded projects. These projects are being submitted to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for consideration in the development of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 – 2031 Draft Work Program. Several projects I would like to highlight are listed below.

Priority Road Projects (Page 1)

The TPO's top priority on the state highway system is **US 98 (FPN: 197564-4)** between Edgewood Drive and Main Street in Lakeland. This is a long-standing priority of the Polk TPO and as it was mentioned at the Board meeting, the traffic volume is currently exceeding the capacity of the roadway along portions of the corridor. The PD&E and Design phases have been completed, and the planned improvements can be made within the existing right-of-way (ROW). The TPO's priority request is seeking **construction funding**.

Candidate Freight Projects on the SIS (Page 2)

A TPO priority and project of regional and statewide significance has been the completion of the two to four-lane widening of **State Road 60** in eastern Polk County. State Road 60 is one of only four (4) state arterials south of Interstate

4 on the Florida Peninsula that stretch from coast to coast. Most of the corridor is at least four-lanes wide, however there is a 27-mile section in Polk and Osceola counties that remains two-lanes. As part of the 2025 priorities, the TPO is seeking funding for ROW acquisition on FPN: 433856-2 and funding for design on FPN: 433856-3. In support of this priority request, the TPO submitted these projects as candidates for funding through the **National Highway Freight Program**. The Grant submittal requests \$19.6M for design and ROW and in approving these projects **the TPO approved \$2M in TMA-SU funding to supplement or match the grant request.**

CIGP/TRIP Projects (Pages 2, 7 and 8)

As part of the Board's action, they approved the two to four-lane widening of **Thompson Nursery Road** for County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP) and/or Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) funding. Upon completion, this improved road along with State Road 540 (Winter Lake Road), will provide a contiguous four-lane corridor between State Road 570 (Polk Parkway) and US 27 and provide significant relief to the state highway system on roads such as **US 17, State Road 540 (Cypress Gardens Blvd)**, and portions of **US 27 and State Road 60**. The County is requesting \$5M in CIGP/TRIP funds in support of **construction** activities. As you know, TRIP projects are also required to be prioritized and approved by a regional entity such as the Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance (SCTPA). The SCTPA, which consists of the MPOs in the greater Tampa Bay area, considers candidate projects from both District Seven and District One MPOs. For District One, this includes the Sarasota/Manatee MPO and Polk TPO. **Thompson Nursery Road is the number #1 ranked priority** on the combined Sarasota/Manatee MPO and Polk TPO list of projects. This joint list has been approved by both MPO/TPO Boards along with the SCTPA which approved the list of projects at their meeting on May 23, 2025.

Complete Street and Multi-Use Trail Projects (Pages 3 and 4)

The TPO priorities also include a number of requests in support of complete street and multi-use trail projects throughout the County. The top-ranked project on this list is **Eight Street NW and Avenue L NW Complete Street Enhancements (FPN: 453407-01)** in Winter Haven. This project (construction phase) was removed from FDOT's Work Program earlier this year as the funds (Carbon Reduction) were removed from the project and other funds were not available to keep it programmed. Lastly, the TPO has included as part of its

priorities, four (4) SUN Trail projects which have been submitted by local governments. These include the **Lake Parker – Tenoroc Connector** and **Lakeshore Drive Trails** in Lakeland and the **Jackson Avenue Corridor** in Bartow which are part of the new regional **Collier to Polk Trail**, as well as the **Old Dixie Trail** between Auburndale and Lake Alfred.

We appreciate your consideration of these requests. Enclosed you will find the complete listing of the candidate projects the Board approved. If you have any questions, or need any additional information regarding these projects, please contact our staff director Ryan Kordek, at (863) 534-6558.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Trish Pfeiffer, Chairwoman
Polk Transportation Planning Organization
(TPO)

TP/rk

Enclosures

1. Adopted 2025 TPO Priority Transportation Projects

cc: Nicole Mills, FDOT1
Lavenia Toole, FDOT1
Gerlinde Masters, FDOT1
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