

ON THE

GO INFO



Transportation Planning Organization
Mobility Briefs

Fall Edition 2023

Upcoming Meetings

December 7

Technical Advisory
Committee Meeting
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Polk County Admin. Building
Room 413

December 11

TPO TD LCB
(Quarterly Meeting)
1:30 p.m.

Polk County Admin. Building
Boardroom

December 14

TPO Board Meeting
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Polk County Admin. Building
Boardroom



Do you want to learn about the trails in Polk County? Join us this Friday!

Polk County Parks and Trails Community Event - Friday, October 27, 4 - 6 p.m.

at The Bike Shop of Winter Haven
(249 3rd Street SW, Winter Haven)
Hosted by Polk TPO

Celebrate Polk County Parks and Urban Trails this month by learning more about our county's trail systems and their multiple uses. Join us Friday, October 27 at The Bike Shop of Winter Haven from 4 to 6 p.m., for a community event hosted by Polk Transportation Planning Organization.

Here's what awaits:

- Connect with trail experts from Polk TPO, the City of Winter Haven, Polk County Parks and Recreation and more.
- Chance to win prizes and giveaways.
- Free Helmets with fittings.
- Hear from county and city representatives.
- Embark on a guided trail walk in the city.

Leading up to the event we are giving you an opportunity to show us “how you trail” in Polk with a selfie photo contest. (see below for more details) Stay tuned to our event page for event updates. We look forward to seeing you there!

[Event Page](#)



Polk County residents may soon be able to travel by rail to Orlando

SunRail Expansion Study (TCAR)



The **Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)** recently partnered with the **Polk TPO** to conduct a planning study to analyze the feasibility of extending the **SunRail** into Polk County from the Orlando area to offer multi-modal transportation options to the County residents and encourage more economic development opportunities.

The Study recommends extending SunRail into Polk County in 2 phases. In Phase 1, the 16-mile rail extension would be extended to Haines City and will include stations at Loughman, Davenport and Haines City. In Phase 2, the Sun Rail would be extended to Lakeland. As per the planning estimates, the SunRail extension to Haines City will have projected annual ridership of 282,000 riders by 2035 and will cost \$23 million/mile to construct and annual cost of \$12 million to operate and maintain. Throughout the study, FDOT engaged the community residents and various stakeholders, including 4800 participants for the initial preference survey and 2400 participants for the study recommendation virtual workshop.

At the October 12, TPO Board meeting, the Board adopted the findings of the Study and requested FDOT to further evaluate the concept.

Thus Concludes the 2023 Federal Certification Review



Polk TPO had their **Transportation Management Area (TMA)** federal certification review site visit on September 12.

It was a 2-day event in which staff from the **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)** and **Federal Transit Administration (FTA)** visited the County to review the transportation planning process of the Polk County region.

Staff members from **Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)**, **CitrusConnection** and the **Polk TPO** had a great discussion with the federal partners on a range of transportation issues including, best practices of the region, transportation plan financial constraints, transit elements and the TPO organization structure.

The event also included the federal partners visiting various sites to see some of the notable projects of The City of Lakeland and CitrusConnection.

The federal certification review takes place every four years. A Transportation Management Area (TMA) is designated by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation for an

urbanized area with a population of at least 200,000. The review also included a public comment period for input from the community on the transportation planning process.



I-4 projects planned to help alleviate congestion

Moving Florida Forward



Construction has been scheduled for two major (2) projects along **Interstate 4** in Polk County. This includes the reconstruction of the interchange at State Road 33 in northeast Lakeland (Exit 38), along with the six to ten-lane widening of the Interstate between US 27 and the Champions Gate exit at the Polk/Osceola County Line. These projects are the top 2 priority project of the **Polk TPO**. They will begin in late 2024 and fall of 2026 respectively.

These projects were part of **Governor DeSantis' Moving Florida Forward** plan announced in January of this year. In addition to the two projects along I-4 in Polk County, FDOT announced that the widening of the Interstate between Champions Gate and the Osceola Parkway will begin in late 2024.

ENTER TO WIN! Polk County Trails Selfie Contest



This month we are celebrating our Polk County Parks and Urban Trails by sharing photos at our favorite Polk trails. Simply snap a selfie, share and be entered for a chance to **win Two Trail Bundles!**

How to enter:

1. Take a stunning selfie at your favorite Polk park or urban trail.
2. Tag **Polk TPO** or email to **kristieannaclasen@polk-county.net**
3. In your entry, tell us why you love this trail and share your ideas for making it even better.

Contest ends: October 26, 2023

Let's Celebrate the natural beauty of Polk County and work together to make our favorite trails even better.

[TPO Polk Facebook](#)





Polk Transportation
Planning Organization

863-534-6468



polktpo.com

Polk County Transportation Planning Organization | 330 W. Church St., Bartow, FL 33830

[Unsubscribe miannenelson@polk-county.net](mailto:miannenelson@polk-county.net)

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