

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025

The regular Board meeting of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) was held on Thursday, February 27, 2025.

BOARD MEMBERS

Aundra Wallace, Vice-Chair
Patricia Sams, Secretary
Megan Hayward, Treasurer
Max Globber, Member

JTA EXECUTIVE STAFF

Nathaniel P. Ford Sr., CEO
Cleveland Ferguson III, EVP Administration
Greer Gillis, SVP System Development
Raj Srinath, SVP Finance and Technology
Jeffery Smith, SVP Operations
Jessica Shepler, SVP Public Affairs

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Greg Evans, FDOT
Donald H. Horner III, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Katie Smith, Board Administrator
Richard Milian, General Counsel
Rahman Johnson, Council Liaison
Doreen Myers, FDOT Representative

A. **CALL TO ORDER** – Vice-Chair Wallace called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. and thanked the Board for attending the meeting and welcomed the public and new Board members, Max Globber who was in attendance and Donald H. Horner who was unable to attend due to an unavoidable conflict.

Director Sams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Smith completed roll call.

Vice-Chair Wallace then provided the safety message for the month of February. “Safety is a Team Effort – Look Out for Each Other.”

Vice-Chair Wallace stated that before moving into the agenda he wanted to announce the process for when the Chair of the Board seat is vacated. He shared that per JTA bylaws, the Vice Chair shall be vested with the same responsibilities and shall perform all the functions of the Chair in case of the absence or disability of the Chair. With that, Vice-Chair Wallace appointed a nominating committee to select a slate to present to the full Board at the March meeting to vote on the Board leadership.

The nominating committee will be: Vice-Chair Wallace, Donnie Horner and Pat Sams who will serve as the nominating committee chair. The committee will meet at a date and time to be determined before the March 27 Board meeting.

B. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 23, 2025 BOARD WORK SESSION AND BOARD MEETING**

MOTION (Sams/Hayward) to approve the minutes from January 23, 2025. Motion Approved (4-0).

C. **COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON** – Councilman Johnson shared information on legislation that City Council will take action on related to JTA budget amendments. He thanked the JTA for the continued work for the community.

D. **AUTHORITY RECOGNITION AWARDS**

February Employee Recognitions

Bus Operator: Kendarius Fitzpatrick

Maintenance: Harold Groggins

Administrative: Tracy Miller

Special Recognitions

Security: Jamal Mack

E. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** There were two public comments.

1. John Nooney: Mr. Nooney stated he has been advocating for public access to the waterways in Duval County. He shared the history of the meetings and activities related to the waterways. Mr. Nooney asked that the minutes from Florida Inland Navigation District Board of Commissioners meeting held on January 17, 2025 be put on the record. A copy of those minutes are attached hereto. Mr. Nooney stated that the JTA and its Bus Rapid Transit could be an unbelievable partner.

2. Annette Pugh: Ms. Pugh shared her concerns about seatbelt use on fixed route buses. She stated that Bus Operators will not assist riders or say that seat belts don't work. Vice-Chair Wallace asked Mr. Ford and Mr. Smith to address Ms. Pugh concerns, at which time JTA staff met with her.

Vice-Chair Wallace thanked Mr. Nooney and Ms. Pugh's for their comments.

F. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT:** Mr. Ford stated that the JTA had another successful month, with lots to share, but will keep it brief.

He began by welcoming the two new Governor appointed board members, Max Glober, Vice President of Marketing for First Coast Energy, LLP, the parent company of the Daily's convenience store brand and Donnie Horton III, Vice President of Investor Relations at Intrepid Capital, who could not attend the meeting. He shared that he had the opportunity to meet with each of them over the past week.

Mr. Ford recognized the service of two past Board Members, Debbie Buckland and Ari Jolly, who will be invited to attend a Board meeting to thank them for their service.

He also recognized Jessica Shepler as she was recently promoted to Senior Vice President of Public Affairs.

Mr. Ford then shared a few of the activities that the JTA and staff have been involved in

over the last month.

The JTA competed in the Florida Triple Crown Bus Roadeo in Gainesville. Jacksonville's best from the local Roadeo went head-to-head with winners from the other transit agencies to determine who is the best in Florida. The JTA was named the Fixed Route Division Grand Champion for achieving the highest combined score in both the Fixed Route and Maintenance Divisions. Congratulations to Bus Operator Ramon Farfan, Maintenance Technician Joshua Andone, and the Xpendables Maintenance Team—George McGarry, Rudolph Wells, and Jarrod Morales.

The week of February 17, 2025, the JTA leadership team along with key Jacksonville stakeholders, traveled to Auburndale, just outside of Orlando, to check out the Authority's new Autonomous Vehicles at the Florida testing facility. Two of these vehicles have already arrived in Jacksonville and will continue their testing on the Bay Street Innovation Corridor. Also, the Autonomous Innovation Center ribbon cutting is scheduled for April 17, 2025.

Two new JTA bus shelters were installed near the River City Marketplace to give local veterans seeking medical care an easier journey. The new shelters were installed outside of the UF Medical Center and the city's newest VA Clinic on Max Leggett Parkway and are accessible using Route 1-A.

As a part of the City of Jacksonville's observance, the JTA, showed its community support by participating in the parade to honor the legacy of civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. Ford concluded the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) report by sharing a video highlighting all of the activities over the last month.

G. DIVISION REPORTS

1. **ADMINISTRATION MONTHLY REPORTS** – Mr. Ferguson provided the Administration Report to the Board and provided highlights of the Procurement Report for January.

2. **FINANCE MONTHLY REPORTS** – Mr. Srinath provided the financial report to the Board through January, as well as the processed invoices report and the agency sponsorship and membership report. He also shared details on the true-up process.

3. **OPERATIONS MONTHLY REPORT** – Mr. Smith provided the Board with details of the Operations Report through January 2024. He shared also details of the planned maintenance on the Skyway in March.

4. **PUBLIC AFFAIRS** - Mrs. Shepler shared highlights of the Real Estate and Economic Development Report for January and stated that staff would begin providing the Board with a Customer Service Report on a monthly basis in March 2025.

5. **SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT MONTHLY REPORT** – Ms. Gillis provided an

overview of the System Development Report through January 2025 and that the quarterly Small Business Report was provided in the Board Package for information.

H. CONSENT AGENDA

1. APPROVAL OF CONTACT AWARD FOR FILTER PURCHASES (B-25-008)

2. DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

MOTION (Sams/Glober) to approve Consent Agenda items H.1 and H.2 as staff recommends. Motion Approved (4-0).

I. ADOPTION AGENDA

No Items.

J. SAFETY, AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (Hayward, Committee Chair)

1. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR CLAIMS ADJUSTER

SERVICES: Mr. Ferguson stated that staff recommends the Board authorize the CEO to amend the annual contracted amount for Allied Adjusters by five percent. The amendment reflects an annual increase from \$165,000 to \$173,250 and a full contract price total amount of \$858,000 instead of \$825,000, or an increase of \$33,000. Allied Adjusters, Inc. has been the adjuster for the JTA since 1998. There has been an increase in claims submitted to Allied Adjusters, Inc. as well as an increase in the cost of police and Florida Highway Patrol.

MOTION (Hayward/Sams) to approve Contract Amendment for Claims Adjuster Services. Motion Approved (4-0).

K. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (Sams, Committee Chair)

1. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

RELATIONS SERVICES (P-25-015): Mr. Ferguson stated that staff recommends that the Board authorize the CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with The Southern Group to provide Local Government Relations Services (P-25-015). This is a five-year contract with no renewal options. Total compensation is not to exceed \$114,000 annually. The total contract value is \$570,000. This contract will support, assist and advocate for JTA's projects and initiatives with the Jacksonville City Council and other local governments within the surrounding 5-county area of Northeast Florida.

MOTION (Sams/Glober) to approve Contract Award for Local Government Relations Services (P-25-015). Motion Approved (4-0).

2. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR ORACLE

MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES: Mr. Srinath stated that staff recommends the Board authorize the CEO to extend the Oracle License, Maintenance and Support contract (SS 19-008) for four years. This software supports all of JTA's business applications, such as accounting,

payroll, inventory management, fleet management, as well as others. The annual cost is \$600K for a total in the four years of \$2.4M. The Fiscal Year 2025 budget includes this year's cost, and the subsequent years will be covered in each Fiscal Year's budget.

MOTION (Sams/Hayward) to approve Contract Amendment for Oracle Maintenance and Support Services. Motion Approved (4-0).

L. SERVICE DELIVERY (Jolly, Committee Chair)

1. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR BUS FRAME AND ACCIDENT REPAIR (P-25-014): Mr. Smith stated that staff recommends the Board authorize the CEO to execute a contract with CoachCrafters, Inc. for the assembly, installation, and servicing of bus frames and heavy structural component repairs on Fixed Route buses. The estimated cost for the service will be a not-to-exceed amount of \$1M for a five-year period of performance. Approval of this item will allow for the repair of Fixed Route bus frames when structural damage occurs either through normal use or collision to allow the affected bus to continue in service. Frame replacement or heavy structural repairs are highly technical and specialized in nature and require special equipment to ensure the repairs are safe and structurally sound. All repairs follow the manufacturer's specification.

The Authority's maintenance department and the local collision centers do not have the necessary experience or the required equipment to complete these types of heavy-duty repairs safely or as specified by the bus manufacturer. As such, the JTA historically outsourced the frame repairs on Fixed Route buses to qualified subject matter experts. This contract is funded by Local Operating funds included in the Fiscal Year 2025 through 2030 budgets.

MOTION (Hayward/Sams) to approve the Contract Award for Bus Frame and Accident Repair (P-25-014). Motion Approved (4-0)

M. LONG RANGE PLANNING AND SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT (Wallace, Committee Chair)

No Items.

N. OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business.

O. NEW BUSINESS

No New business.

Director Hayward stated that she had two issues she would like to address: Ridership numbers and Sponsorship numbers.

She expressed her concerns on the sponsorship of JAXUSA and that a member of that organization is also a member of the JTA Board and that this needs to be reviewed by

an independent auditor to ensure the JTA Board is not being exposed to any liability. She asked that someone explain how the sponsorship helps riders.

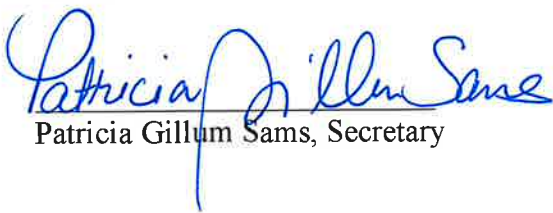
Director Hayward then shared her concerns about ridership numbers and how the numbers provided to external agencies are different than the numbers provided to the Board. She is aware that the numbers provided to the Board are updated retroactively, but are the numbers being corrected to the external agencies, as the numbers vary by thousands of riders. She also inquired about other transit agencies and if they are reporting incorrect numbers or updating incorrect numbers.

Mr. Milian stated that the Vice-Chair Wallace asked for a legal opinion if his position with JAXUSA conflicts with him serving the JTA Board. Mr. Milian also stated that he and his staff reviewed that extensively and have issued a legal opinion, which he is happy to distribute to the Board.

Mr. Ford stated that he and staff will examine Director Hayward's concerns related to ridership numbers and report back to the Board at the next Board meeting. He added that recognizing that ridership numbers vary based on what modes are included in any reporting which can create some confusion.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

SEAL


Patricia Gillum Sams, Secretary


Aundra Wallace, Vice-Chair