

**MINUTES OF THE  
JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
BOARD WORK SESSION  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026**

The Jacksonville Transportation Authority Board of Directors held a Work Session on Thursday, February 26, 2026.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Aundra Wallace, Patricia Sams, Max Glober, Elaine Brown, Alan Hopkins, Madelen Salter, and Daniel Vallencourt.

**JTA STAFF PRESENT:** Nathaniel Ford, Cleveland Ferguson, Jeffery Smith, Jessica Shepler, Heather Obara and Katie Smith.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Richard Milian

**I. WELCOME:** Chair Wallace called the Work Session to order at 12:38 p.m. and welcomed the Board, staff and public. He acknowledged the three new Board members and congratulated Alan Hopkins, Madelen Salter and Daniel Vallencourt on their appointments and Max Glober for his reappointment.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT:** There were no requests to speak.

**III. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**a. Better Jacksonville Transportation Bonds:** Ms. Obara stated that this item is for information only and no Board action will be requested. She provided an overview of the Better Jacksonville Plan (BJP) and the BJP Transportation Bond Series 2026 that are held by the City of Jacksonville (City). The bonds were originally issued in 2008 to support the transportation program portion of the BJP. In 2015, the City issued bond series 2015 to refund series 2008 bonds. Ms. Obara then shared the plan of finance for the series 2015 bonds that has an outstanding principal of \$159.9 million with a debt service reserve fund of \$8.6 million. She stated that while maintaining the maturity schedule, the new 2015 series bonds mature in 2037 and shared the plan of finance to restructure the 2015 series bonds.

Refinancing the Series 2015 Bonds with the Series 2026 will generate savings as the refunding debt service (2026) is lower than the current debt service (2015). A snapshot of the options was presented that showed that annual savings could be generated. Ms. Obara shared that the City, in conjunction with their financial advisors determined that option 2, the non-callable, is correct option and JTA concurred with that determination. She concluded her presentation with the financing timeline that has already begun.

Director Brown thanked the JTA staff for taking time to do a deep dive of the budget amendment and shared her appreciation of work and the sacrifices that are being made.

**IV. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Amendment:** Ms. Obara shared the preparation process Fiscal Year 2026 budget overview that began in December of 2024 and shared the budget's executive summary. The summary included notable events that impacted the budget and created the need to amend the budget. Staff will eliminate \$14,197,590 in expenses with no reduction to transit services. Ms. Obara stated the adjustments to the budget will be made in salaries, wages and fringe benefits (\$6,770,176), as well as other expenses (\$7,427,41). The administrative realignment included not filling vacancies, administrative staff, not operations staff, will have a realignment, and there will be a reduction in salaries for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2026, with performance increases being frozen.

Ms. Obara also provided details to other expenses or services that will be reduced which include contracted services, Connexion contract, and material reductions in other areas. AA breakdown of how the services will be impacted.

Director Vallencourt asked how the sales tax revenue was missed, is this shortage normal. Ms. Obara shared that due to there not being a review of the projections or any anticipated changes being provided from the time the budget was approved. With the changes at the state level with sales tax holidays and commercial rental tax appeal that took effect after the budget was approved and the timing to get the tax amount, the Authority is well into the fiscal year causing this shortage.

Director Hopkins inquired about the interest income. Ms. Obara shared that the interest income is dependent upon the amount of funding that is the reserves. The level of funding is dictated by grant reimbursement, an example is the \$6 million that is still pending from the Bay Street Innovation Corridor (BSIC) grant, as well as reimbursements from formula grants from Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026.

Director Milian stated that over the last 12 or 13 years the JTA has seen a surplus in the budget, as sales tax usually is higher than budgeted.

Chair Wallace asked if the sales tax is shared with any other entity. Ms. Obara stated that the sales tax revenue is collected by the state and then gets moved through to the City for the City to disburse. She then confirmed Chair Wallace's statement that if the City has projects, they are utilizing these sales tax revenues, the City will have to go through the same process that the JTA is.

## V. LONG RANGE PLANNING AND SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

**a. Supervening Events:** Mr. Milian stated the Board Meeting agenda has an item, M.1 that requests the Board to approve contract amendment for the BSIC due to supervening events. He then gave the history of the contract with Balfour Beatty Construction (Balfour) that includes the contractor to design, build, operate and maintain the BSIC project. In July of 2025, Balfour submitted a claim for supervening events (change order) in the amount of \$5,234,173. The JTA and Mr. Milian reviewed the claim in great detail and began negotiation with Balfour over the last six months. An agreement was reached, pending Board approval, that the claim can be settled with a lower amount, \$2,672,826. He stated that the other portion of this approval request is to extend the contract to June 30, 2026 to coincide with the grant extension.

Mr. Milian added that some of the details of the claim and change orders are usual in the industry and that he and the JTA feel that settling this claim is in the best interest of the JTA.

Mr. Ford stated that each of the Board members did receive an in-depth briefing related to this item during their one-on-one meetings with me this week. He added information on some of the items included in the claim and that they are legitimate claims due to changes in the type of sensors that would be used to the type of vehicles and the testing that would be needed. As the vehicles had to be retrofitted, more testing was required.

Director Vallencourt stated this was basically a four percent change order. Is the JTA at a point where it needs to settle the claim and avoid litigation. Mr. Milian shared litigation is possible, but considering the JTA is still working with Balfour to continue to operate and maintain the BSIC, so settling is the recommendation.

**b. U2C Phase II PD&E Overview:** Mrs. Shepler shared an overview of the Ultimate Urban Circulator (U2C) Phase II and that community meetings began on February 24, 2026. She then shared the timeline of the Skyway and how the Authority created the U2C Program. An overview of the information that is being shared with the public at the community meetings. There are five alternatives that are being presented to the public and provided the details of the alternatives with the Board. Mrs. Shepler concluded with the next steps for Phase II.

Director Brown asked for details of the format for the community meetings. Mrs. Shepler shared that there will be a voiceover presentation that rolls through the entire meeting to allow the public to come and go at their leisure. There are stations set around the room to provide information and answer questions for each of the five alternatives.

Director Hopkins asked about the cost analysis for each of the alternatives. Mrs. Shepler replied that of course cost is an important component. These meetings are step one to provide the

public with basic overall alternatives. However, the cost range or cost analysis for each alternative are being developed and will be included in the second round of community meetings.

Director Salter asked for staff to include the economic impact that each of the alternatives will have for the community. Mrs. Shepler confirmed that it will be.

Mrs. Shepler responded the Director Globber's inquiry on the date for the second round of meetings which will be the April May timeframe.

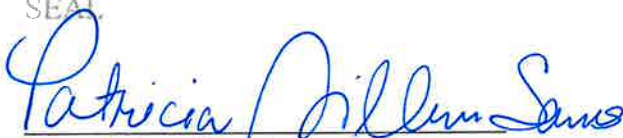
Chair Wallace shared that he has lived in three cities that have the same mover. He provided his thoughts on each of the alternatives that were presented.

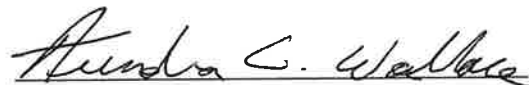
Director Salter shared her thoughts on each alternative, and her thought is on safety and for staff to consider the cost for any security that may be needed.

Mr. Ford shared some of the items that have to be taken into consideration like the payback to the FTA. He then went through a brief overview of the five alternatives that are being considered.

**VI. ROUNDTABLE:** There were no items under roundtable.

**VII. ADJOURN:** There being no further business, the work session adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

SEAL  
  
~~Max Globber, Secretary~~  
Patricia Billum Sams, Vice Chair

  
Aundra Wallace, Chair