

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026**

The regular Board meeting of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) was held on Thursday, March 26, 2026 at JRTC, 100 LaVilla Center Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 32204.

BOARD MEMBERS

Aundra Wallace, Chair
Patricia Sams, Vice Chair
Elaine Brown, Treasurer
Alan Hopkins
Madelen Salter
Daniel Vallencourt

JTA EXECUTIVE STAFF

Nathaniel P. Ford Sr., CEO
Cleveland Ferguson, EVP Administration
Greer Gillis, SVP System Development
Jeffery Smith, SVP Operations
Jessica Shepler, SVP Public Affairs
Heather Obora, SVP Finance

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Max Glober, Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherri Barr, Operations Executive Assistant
Richard Milian, General Counsel

A. **CALL TO ORDER** – Vice Chair Wallace called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. and thanked the Board for attending the meeting.

Director Hopkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Smith provided roll call to confirm a quorum.

Chair Wallace thanked the board members for attending the work session held prior to the Board meeting. He shared information on the topics that were presented and that the Board discussed.

Chair Wallace shared the Safety Message for the Month of March: “Don’t get hooked by phishers!”

B. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 26, 2026 BOARD WORK SESSION AND BOARD MEETING**

MOTION (Brown/Sams) to approve the minutes from February 26, 2026. Motion Approved (6-0).

C. **COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON** – Councilman Johnson was not in attendance but will be given the opportunity to speak should you arrive.

D. **AUTHORITY RECOGNITIONS**

Mr. Ford introduced the winners of the State Roadeo, Operator Roman Farfan and the Xpendables Maintenance Team made up of Rudy Wells, George McGarry and Jarod Morales and congratulated them on a great competition. The Board and staff wished the team luck in the International Roadeo that will be held in May 2026.

Mr. Ford then recognized the employees for the of April 2026.

Monthly Recognitions: Bus Operator: Chanea Lugman

March Maintenance Employee: Alex Matos Morales

March Administrative Employee: Veronica Edwards

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

1. **John Noony:** Mr. Nooney thanked staff for installing the new awning at the JRTC. He stated that ethics is gone in Jacksonville. He shared that there are six different citizens planning advisory committees in Jacksonville and the Office of General Counsel is not represented in the meetings. Mr. Nooney also inquired about who rides public transportation to the Board Meetings. He asked that two declarations be made part of the record.

2. **Devin Williams:** Mr. Williams stated that submitted a comment card but has been informed that his concern has been addressed and will hold comment for now.

3. **Jose Morales:** Mr. Morales thanked JTA staff, leadership and the Board for the work to come to a solution for Connexion Plus. He asked that everyone continue to work together to find additional solutions and consider other opportunities.

4. **Derek Dykes:** Mr. Dykes stated that Jacksonville is known as the first coast and he would like to see Jacksonville be first in accessibility. If the JTA's decision on services doesn't assist his wife and others in the disabled community then JTA needs to keep working on a better solution.

5. **Sharon Dykes:** Mrs. Dykes stated that she submitted a white paper to the City Council and was then forwarded to the JTA. She provided a synopsis of the white paper and its recommendations. She asked that her white paper be considered and continue to work together to come to a solution.

6. **Elizabeth Walker:** Ms. Walker stated that she has been using Connexion because she cannot afford Connexion Plus. Those in the low income cannot afford a trip that is more than eight miles, and she feels that is unfair.

7. **Carnel Oliver:** Mr. Oliver stated he came to the meeting to make a point related to the 1866 Civil Rights Act. He believes that several three parts of the Act apply to JTA's operation. He would like to see all of the City agencies come together to come to address income inequality in the communities.

F. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT:** Mr. Ford thanked the Board members for taking time to meet with him and staff to prepare for Board Day, as well as attending the work session that was held immediately before the Board meeting.

He stated that over the last month there have been many positive developments, engagements and activities which demonstrate the energy, capacity, and dedication of everyone at the JTA each day.

Mr. Ford then provided a few key updates.

As the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the JTA and Chairman of the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) new Automated Vehicles (AV) and Innovation Committee, he participated in two important APTA events during the month. First, at APTA CEO's Roundtable and Business Community Members Group meeting and then as a featured speaker for the APTA Transit CEO's Seminar on two panels.

He also had the privilege of attending the ITS America Policy Summit in Washington, DC along with several colleagues from Florida, including Florida Department of Transportation Secretary (FDOT) Jared Purdue. It was at the summit that it was announced that HOLON has been officially listed as a Transit Vehicle Manufacturer in the United States by the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), an important milestone for them and a crucial regulatory step forward toward bringing the HOLON shuttles to Jacksonville streets in the coming years.

Mr. Ford added that in addition, he participated in meetings with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and with USDOT Secretary Sean Duffy. Following the trip to Washington, HOLON's Chief Technology Officer Dr. Flavio Friesen and Head of U.S. Engineer Tiago Mota came down to visit the JTA. They took a ride on the Neighborhood Autonomous Vehicle Innovation (NAVI), and toured the Autonomous Innovation Center (AIC), as well as our test and learn facility in Armsdale.

On March 12, 2026, the JTA held its first Bus Operator Graduation of the year where 14 new employees graduated and are already out on the road serving the Jacksonville community.

On March 18, 2026, the JTA joined transit agencies around the country to celebrate National Transit Employee Appreciation Day.

On March 24, 2026, the JTA held a Downtown Mobility Roundtable with downtown community leaders, stakeholders, and organizations for an in-dept discussion on the future of the Skyway. The JTA regularly host discussions with various segments of our community and since staff are in the middle of our Ultimate Urban Circulator (U²C) Phase II Skyway public meetings, we wanted to provide a direct, personal setting to update downtown partners on the status of the Skyway and encourage their respective feedback and participation in future planning. Going forward, Mr. Ford has made it a priority to continue having these smaller meetings with business

and civic members to gather their opinions and feedback and bring this information back to the Board as staff and the Board consider next steps of the U²C.

In addition, the U²C Phase II Skyway Rehabilitation & Downtown Service Expansion Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study public meetings are nearly complete. The final meeting will be held following the Board meeting.

JTA's Senior Vice President and Chief Infrastructure and Development Officer Mrs. Gillis joined the River City Live television show on News 4 Jax the week of March 16, 2026, to talk about the Skyway. She presented the alternatives and encouraged the public to join the community meetings and participate in the discussion.

Mr. Ford announced that the Connexion Advisory Committee Meetings will continue in April and May to begin planning for Fiscal Year 2027. The next meeting is coming up on April 8, 2026 and an update will be provided at the board meeting next month.

He thanked the Board for their leadership, the Connexion advisory committee, and the JTA team. The new Connexion Plus fare structure was approved last month and will go into effect on April 2, 2026.

Mr. Ford concluded his report with a video of activities over the last month.

H. CONSENT AGENDA

No items under consent.

I. ADOPTION AGENDA

No items under adoption.

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

Chair Wallace announced that Director Hopkins has agreed to serve as the Chair of the Safety, Audit and Compliance (SAC) Committee. Director Hopkins shared that he is honored to serve and looks forward to working with the team. He was impressed by everyone that he has met with and appreciates the information he was provided that gave him the confidence to serve in this role.

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

Director Brown thanked Mr. Ford and staff for the meetings in advance of the Board meeting to share details of not only the items under this committee but all items on the agenda and other updates from across the Authority.

1. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR ADVERTISING: Ms. Shepler stated that staff recommends the Board approve the ranked shortlist and authorize the CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with Vector Media Holding Corp, the highest-ranked proposer, to provide

professional services in support of advertising and naming rights across designated JTA assets. The term of the contract is a five-year base, with two one-year renewal options. The Board will also give the CEO to move to the second-ranked firm should negotiations fail with the first-ranked vendor. The awarded firm will serve as the JTA's exclusive advertising sales partner, responsible for maximizing revenue, ensuring brand alignment, and maintaining the highest quality standards across all placements.

This is ultimately a revenue generating contract and the total contract value as proposed pre-negotiation of minimum annual guarantees would be no less than \$4,750,000 in revenue and \$1,000,000 in media trade.

MOTION (Vallencourt/Sams) to approve the contract award for advertising. Motion Approved (6-0).

2. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR ENGINES AND ENGINES

PARTS: The item was deferred.

L. **SERVICE DELIVERY** (Glober, Committee Chair)

1. **APPROVAL OF NON-REVENUE SUPPORT VEHICLE PURCHASES:** The item was deferred.

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

Director Sams provided a verbal report on the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Meeting that was held in March 2026 Board meeting and shared details of the items that were discussed and took up for approval.

1. **APPROVAL TO TEMPORARILY AMEND ARTEA AVENUE GROUND LEASE:** The item was deferred.

2. **APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR DESIGN SERVICES – EMERALD TRAIL SEGMENT 3 SOUTHWEST CORIDOR (P-26-004):** Mrs. Gillis stated that staff

recommend the Board authorize the CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with Volkert, Inc., the highest-ranked proposer, for Design Services for Emerald Trail Segment 3 Southwest Connector (P-26-004). The total contract value is not to exceed \$2,000,000. The Contract term shall be for 450 days with the Authority having the option to renew. If negotiations with the number one ranked firm fail, staff will begin negotiations with the number two ranked firm, respectfully. She shared that as discussed in the Board's work session, Segment 3 of the Emerald Trail, known as the Riverside Link, will provide critical neighborhood connections between Five Points, Riverside, Lackawanna, and McCoys Creek, while improving access to schools, parks, and transit.

Design services are required to advance the project to final design and permitting, incorporate updated Emerald Trail Design Guidelines, and coordinate multimodal connectivity within a ½-mile radius of the trail. Funding is from the Local Option Gas Tax proceeds.

Mrs. Gillis thanked the partners from Groundwork Jax and the City for assisting with the evaluation.

Director Vallencourt stated that he was recusing himself from voting on the item. Mr. Milian stated that he spoke with Director Vallencourt and although he doesn't feel there is a conflict but wants the record to show the recusal. Director Vallencourt's Conflict of Interest Form is attached hereto for the record.

MOTION (Sams/Brown) to approve the contract amendment for supervening events for BSIC phasing agreement II. Motion Approved (6-0).

G. DIVISION REPORTS

1. **ADMINISTRATION MONTHLY REPORT** – Mr. Ferguson shared activates for the Administration Division which included meeting with Director Hopkins to discuss items that fall under the SAC Committee's purview.

2. **FINANCE MONTHLY REPORTS** – Ms. Obora provided the financial report to the Board through January 2026.

3. **OPERATIONS MONTHLY REPORT** – Mr. Smith provided the Board with the Operations Report through February 2026.

4. **PUBLIC AFFAIRS MONTHLY REPORT** - Mrs. Shepler shared the Real Estate and Economic Development Report for February 2026 and what is coming in March.

5. **SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT MONTHLY REPORT** – Mrs. Gillis provided the System Development Report through February 2026.

N. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business

O. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.



Max Glober, Secretary



Aundra Wallace, Chair

APPOINTED OFFICERS (continued)

- A copy of the form must be provided immediately to the other members of the agency.
- The form must be read publicly at the next meeting after the form is filed.

IF YOU MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE DECISION EXCEPT BY DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING:

- You must disclose orally the nature of your conflict in the measure before participating.
- You must complete the form and file it within 15 days after the vote occurs with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who must incorporate the form in the minutes. A copy of the form must be provided immediately to the other members of the agency, and the form must be read publicly at the next meeting after the form is filed.

DISCLOSURE OF LOCAL OFFICER'S INTEREST

Jonathan

I, Joshua Daniel Vallencourt, hereby disclose that on March 26, 20 26 :

(a) A measure came or will come before my agency which (check one or more)

- inured to my special private gain or loss;
- inured to the special gain or loss of my business associate, _____ ;
- inured to the special gain or loss of my relative, _____ ;
- inured to the special gain or loss of _____, by whom I am retained; or
- inured to the special gain or loss of _____, which is the parent subsidiary, or sibling organization or subsidiary of a principal which has retained me.

(b) The measure before my agency and the nature of my conflicting interest in the measure is as follows:

The vendor that was being considered for the contract does business with a mutual company. To err on the side of caution, I recused myself from considering or voting on the contract award.

If disclosure of specific information would violate confidentiality or privilege pursuant to law or rules governing attorneys, a public officer, who is also an attorney, may comply with the disclosure requirements of this section by disclosing the nature of the interest in such a way as to provide the public with notice of the conflict.

April 1, 2026
Date Filed


Signature

NOTICE: UNDER PROVISIONS OF FLORIDA STATUTES §112.317, A FAILURE TO MAKE ANY REQUIRED DISCLOSURE CONSTITUTES GROUNDS FOR AND MAY BE PUNISHED BY ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING: IMPEACHMENT, REMOVAL OR SUSPENSION FROM OFFICE OR EMPLOYMENT, DEMOTION, REDUCTION IN SALARY, REPRIMAND, OR A CIVIL PENALTY NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000.