

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
THRUSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025**

The regular Board meeting of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) was held on Thursday, December 11, 2025 at JRTC, 100 LaVilla Center Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 32204.

BOARD MEMBERS

Aundra Wallace, Vice Chair
Patricia Sams, Secretary
Elaine Brown
Max Glober
Donald Horner

JTA EXECUTIVE STAFF

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

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

OTHERS PRESENT

Katie Smith, Board Administrator
Richard Milian, General Counsel
Rahman Johnson, Council Liaison

A. CALL TO ORDER – Vice Chair Wallace called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and thanked the Board for attending the meeting and the work session that was held prior to the meeting. He shared that there was a lot of discussion at the work session related to Fare Modifications and that he appreciates Mr. Ford and staff's work to present the information that will be beneficial to the community.

Director Horner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Smith provided roll call to confirm a quorum.

Vice Chair Wallace shared the Safety Message for the Month of December: "Make Safety Your Tradition."

Vice Chair Wallace tuned the floor over to Director Horner to provide an update on the Board's Nominating Committee.

Director Horner shared that the Nominating Committee met twice and selected the following slate of officers for 2026:

Aundra Wallace, Chair

Patricia Gillum Sams, Vice Chair

Max Glober, Secretary

Elaine Brown, Treasurer

Vice Chair Wallace thanked the committee for their work.

MOTION (Sams/Brown) to approve the slate of officers for 2026 as presented by Director Horner. Motion Approved (5-0).

Vice Chair Wallace stated that at the last Board meeting, the Board adopted resolutions recognizing past Board Members for their service. He then introduced two former JTA Board Chairs, Debbie Buckland and Ari Jolly.

Vice Chair Wallace and Mr. Ford shared their appreciation of all the work that was done under Mrs. Buckland and Mrs. Jolly's time at the JTA.

Mrs. Buckland and Mrs. Jolly both shared that it was an honor to serve with such a great organization and they look forward to the continued success by the JTA Board, CEO and staff.

Vice Chair Wallace then presented each of them with their resolution.

As Mrs. Buckland was the last Chair of the JTA Board, she was also presented with her gavel and photobook from her time as Chair.

Vice Chair Wallace was presented with his gavel for his Chair ship.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 27, 2025 NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING AND BOARD MEETING AND NOVEMBER 21, 2025 NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

MOTION (Sams/Brown) to approve the minutes from Nominating Committee Meetings and Board Meeting. Motion Approved (5-0).

C. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON – Councilman Johnson had a conflict and was unable to attend the meeting.

D. AUTHORITY RECOGNITIONS

November Recognitions: Bus Operator: Muszedty Reddick, Maintenance Employee: Steven Nguyen and Administrative Employee: Karen Moore

December Recognitions: Bus Operator: Lecelia Harris, Maintenance Employee: Barry McCance and Administrative Employee: Traci Mills-Womack

Employee of the Year Recognitions: Bus Operator: David Grant, Maintenance Employee: Harold Goggins and Administrative Employee: Joyce Payad

Donald Chapman Award Recognition: Ramon Farfan

Mr. Ford also recognized the winners of Local Roadeo:

Bus Operator: Ramon Farfan

Maintenance Team: the Xpendables, Rudy Wells, George McGarry, and Jarod Morales

Paratransit Driver: Sammie Bailey

Mr. Ford then recognized Bill Milnes, who recently retired from the JTA after 20 years of service with the communications and Multimedia department. Mr. Milnes was the creator the JTA's Making Moves television program that is still in production.

E. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: There were no public comments.

F. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT: Mr. Ford stated that today is the last Board meeting of 2025 and shared a few highlights from the last month.

On December 1, 2025, JTA launched a new campaign called "Better Together". This campaign is focused on the customer survey feedback staff received over the past year, letting the community know we listened and will highlight how each day we work to go from good to great improving service reliability, courteousness, and the cleanliness of buses and facilities. Staff will hold five community meetings in the month of January, to go out into the community, directly to the people to share the multiple transportation service offerings available for citizens, from fixed-bus services and First Coast Flyer to paratransit services and beyond, assisting the community in learning how to use the mobility options available to them and providing travel training as needed.

He responded to a request by the Board to address several matters raised related to the recent lawsuit filed by the JTA's JAX Transit Management Corporation (JTM) against the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1197 to secure sign off on the Public Agency Transportation Safety Plan (PTASP), which is required to be filed annually in accordance with federal regulations. The JTA/JTM has spent almost a year trying to work with the ATU to get the PTASP signed. Without this federally mandated Safety Plan, the JTA is in jeopardy of losing an estimated \$100 million which impacts the entire organization, including Safety, Paratransit, Inventory, Facilities, Training/Development and Construction projects. Based on conversations I have had with Union leadership, I believe we all understand the necessity of getting this done on behalf of this community and I believe we will move forward, in good faith, to get this matter resolved soon.

Mr. Ford recognized JTA's Council Liaison, Rahman Johnson for his involvement in this matter and the statement he issued on December 8, 2025.

He added that also over the last couple of months, staff have been working through the challenge of one of the subcontractors of the automated drive system walking away from their US service. As an update, Balfour Beatty and Beep have told us that they have negotiated a one-year agreement for OXA to continue servicing and maintaining these vehicles, which we are awaiting in writing. This will allow us to continue to get closer to the manufacturing of the Holon Autonomous Vehicles (AV) and get us to that true purpose-built AV shuttle of the future.

Mr. Ford shared that he was recently in DC last week to meet with elected officials and the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT). While talking with the USDOT we learned that they explicitly see automation and new mobility technologies as essential to improving safety, mobility, and overall performance of the US transportation system. They have repeatedly pointed to Jacksonville's Ultimate Urban Circulator (U²C) project as an example to other cities of the

direction that communities should be thinking towards when considering public transportation. By continuing forward, we remain in the position of leaders, shaping the future rather than reacting to it.

He shared that he was recently asked to clarify some of the history and decision making that has gone into our U²C program. Board Administrator Mrs. Smithe placed a memo titled “A Decade of Progress” at your seats. This details the bold visionary, collective effort over the last ten years that has led to the development of the U²C program and the Neighborhood Autonomous Vehicle Innovation (NAVI) service launch. We are not just building for today; we are building for the future and generations to come.

Mr. Ford concluded his Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Report by stating that he is honored to have this opportunity to share highlights with Board and the public. While the JTA and the U²C program has come under focus over this past year, JTA has remained transparent and steadfast. The JTA handles harder better, we don’t wait for easy and this team of industry leaders handles hard well, and they have my full faith and confidence to move our city forward and get the job done. He added 2025 has been a monumental year, and we have accomplished so much over the past twelve months.

G. DIVISION REPORTS: Division Reports were moved to the end of the meeting.

H. CONSENT AGENDA

**1. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR BUS PLATFORM RESTROOMS
AT JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION CENTER (B-25-010)**

MOTION (Sams/Brown) to approve consent agenda item H.1 as staff recommends. Motion Approved (5-0).

I. ADOPTION AGENDA

**RESOLUTION 2025-27: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION GRANT AGREEMENT – PUTNAM COUNTY TRANSIT STUDY:**

Mrs. Gillis stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2025-27 authorizing the CEO to enter into Public Transportation Grant Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for Fiscal Year 2026 Putnam County Transit Study. The purpose of this Agreement is to provide for the Department’s participation in State Planning and Research and planning for Transit Systems Management/Operations to increase ridership. Funding for this project will total \$143,000. The FDOT will provide 100 percent funding.

MOTION (Sams/Brown) to adopt Resolution 2025-27 to Authorize the filing of FDOT grant agreement for Putnam County Transit Study. Motion Approved (5-0).

1. **RESOLUTION 2025-28: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FISCAL YEAR 2026**

SECTION 5310 SCHEDULING AND TRIP PLANNING SOFTWARE: Mr. Ferguson stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2025-28 authorizing the CEO to execute the documents necessary to file a grant application not-to-exceed \$674,896 with the FDOT for scheduling software and maintenance for Trapeze and Transportal.

2. **RESOLUTION 2025-29: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FISCAL YEAR 2026**

SECTION 5310 VEHICLE PURCHASE GRANT – CLAY COUNTY: Mr. Ferguson stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2025-29 authorizing the CEO to execute the documents necessary to file a grant application not-to-exceed \$900,000 with the FDOT for the purchase of five paratransit vehicles for Clay County.

3. **RESOLUTION 2025-30: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FISCAL YEAR 2026**

SECTION 5310 VEHICLE PURCHASE GRANT – DUVAL COUNTY: Mr. Ferguson stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2025-30 authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to execute the documents necessary to file a grant application not-to-exceed \$720,000 with the FDOT for the purchase of four paratransit vehicles for Duval County.

4. **RESOLUTION 2025-31: AUTHORIZATION TO FILE FISCAL YEAR 2026**

SECTION 5310 VEHICLE PURCHASE GRANT – NASSAU COUNTY: Mr. Ferguson stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2025-31 authorizing the CEO to execute the documents necessary to file a grant application not-to-exceed \$540,000 with the FDOT for the purchase of three paratransit vehicles for Nassau Transit service, which is operated by the Authority.

MOTION (Brown/Sams) to adopt Resolutions 2025-28 through 2025-31 for Fiscal Year 2026 Section 5310 Funding. Motion Approved (5-0).

5. **RESOLUTION 2025-32: AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE A PERPETUAL**

EASEMENT WITH FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION: Mrs. Shepler stated that staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution 2025-32 authorizing the CEO to execute a perpetual easement with the FDOT for a portion of 0 Philips Highway, which is JTA's hub located at Butler Boulevard and Philips Highway, identified as Duval County Property Appraiser Real Estate #147996-0005 consisting of 17,816 square feet or roughly 0.41 acres of the total 7.84 acres.

MOTION (Sams/Brown) to adopt Resolution 2025-32 to Authorize the execution of a perpetual easement with FDOT. Motion Approved (5-0).

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

No items under Safety, Audit and Compliance.

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

1. APPROVAL OF LOCAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES LABOR AGREEMENT: Mrs. Shepler stated that staff recommends the Board approve the Labor Agreement between the JTA and International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM&AW), its District 112 and Greyhound Local Lodge 759. The terms of the agreement were accepted by the membership in their meeting held on November 18, 2025. Effective dates of the Agreement are December 1, 2025 through November 30, 2028.

MOTION (Sams/Brown) to approve the Local IAM&AW Labor Agreement. Motion Approved (5-0).

L. SERVICE DELIVERY (Vacant, Committee Chair)

No items under Service Delivery Committee.

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

No items under Long Range Planning and System Development Committee.

N. OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business.

O. NEW BUSINESS

There was one item under New Business.

1. APPROVAL OF FARE MODIFICATION PILOT PROGRAM (2026): Mr. Ferguson shared that the Fare Modification Pilot Program was presented by staff and discussed by the Board in the work session. The Board has agreed to move this item forward for consideration by the Board.

Mr. Ferguson stated that staff recommends that the Board approve the proposed Fare Modification Pilot Program, including the fare rates, service adjustments, and pilot time periods as presented in the December 2025 Fare Modification Pilot Proposal. Approval authorizes implementation of the pilot beginning December 15, 2025, with certain fare modifications effective February 1, 2026, and concluding August 31, 2026, subject to ongoing monitoring and Board reporting.

The pilot is designed to: Reduce barriers to entry for new and occasional riders; Encourage ridership growth through fare simplification and targeted fare reductions; Support a transition to cashless and open-payment systems that lower operating costs and improve safety; and Test policy changes prior to permanent adoption, with regular reporting to the Board. Mr. Ferguson added that

The Authority also adopted a biennial fare indexing policy in 2019, which capped fare adjustments at 10 percent. The proposed pilot includes a temporary modification to this policy to allow for fare reductions that exceed the existing cap, enabling a meaningful test of ridership elasticity and revenue response. He also shared fare rates and structures outlined in the presentation provided to the Board at the work session.

Director Brown thanked staff for the information and the discussion at the work session to answer the Board's questions. She feels that fare modification is a gift to the community, as this is not happening at other agencies.

Vice Chair Wallace stated that this is what leadership looks like, this is not a .25, .50 reduction, it is a .75 reduction. The JTA is about innovation, and this is certainly innovation.

The Board is looking forward to the reports on how this pilot program is going.

MOTION (Sams/Brown) to approve the Fare Modification Pilot Program. Motion Approved (5-0).

Vice Chair Wallace shared his Board Committee appointments as follows:

Safety, Audit and Compliance: Donald Horner

Service Delivery: Max Glober

Finance and Administration: Elaine Brown

Long Range Planning and System Development: Patricia Sams

H. DIVISION REPORTS

1. ADMINISTRATION MONTHLY REPORTS – Mr. Ferguson provided the Administration Report for Small Business Enterprise.

2. FINANCE MONTHLY REPORTS – Ms. Obora provided the financial report to the Board through October and provided highlights from the processed invoices report, the agency sponsorship and membership report and procurement report.

3. OPERATIONS MONTHLY – Mr. Smith provided the Board with a few highlights of the Operations Report through October 2025.

4. PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Mrs. Shepler shared highlights of the Real Estate and Economic Development and Customer Experience Reports for November.

5. SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT MONTHLY REPORT – Ms. Gillis provided a snapshot of the System Development Report through October 2025.

Vice Wallace stated that 2025 has been exciting and let's look forward to 2026. Happy Holidays to everyone.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:01p.m.

SLM:



Max Glober, Secretary



Aundra Wallace, Chair