

**MINUTES OF THE
JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD WORK SESSION
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023**

The Jacksonville Transportation Authority Board of Directors held a Work Session Thursday, October 26, 2023 in the Board Room of the Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center located at 100 LaVilla Center Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 32204.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Debbie Buckland, Ray Driver, Arezou Jolly, Aundra Wallace, Megan Hayward, and Patricia Sams.

JTA STAFF PRESENT: Nathaniel Ford, Cleveland Ferguson, Charles Frazier, Greer Gillis, Raj Srinath and Katie Smith.

OTHERS PRESENT: Richard Milian, General Counsel

I. WELCOME: Chair Buckland called the Work Session to order at 2:11 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT: The Chair called for Public Comment. There were no requests by the public to comment.

III. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

a. Quarterly Investment Report: Mr. Ferguson introduced JTA's new Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Mr. Srinath. The floor was then turned over to Scott Sweeten from PFM to provide JTA's quarterly Investment Report and an update on the economic market.

Mr. Sweeten began the market overview and the current market themes that shows the economy growth is stronger than expected, inflation remain above Federal Reserves and there continues to be creation of new jobs by the labor market.

He then provided information on JTA's Operating Funds Core Portfolio which shows the Authority is in great shape as it relates to compliance. He also provided information related to issuer diversification and portfolio statistics. Mr. Sweeten then provided the Board with the portfolio performance and benchmark performance. He completed his presentation with a look at the accrued interest earnings since inception.

Mr. Ford stated that with a new CFO, Mr. Srinath and PFM will take a deep look at the portfolio.

IV. LONG RANGE PLANNING AND SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

a. MobilityWorks 2.0: Mrs. Gillis provided an update on MobilityWorks (MW) 2.0. She shared accomplishments of Fiscal Year 2023 and what is ahead in Fiscal Year 2024. She shared that MobilityWorks 2.0 Program includes 17 projects, 10 roadway and 7 transit totaling \$489M.

Mrs. Gillis shared that \$1.3M has been spent on planning for the projects and all projects have begun in some way. She also shared the accomplishments to date on MW 2.0 projects, which included information on JTA's Workforce Development Plan.

She then shared the delivery strategy for the 17 projects over 30 years. A breakdown on the projects using the Paygo Strategy or the Rapid Delivery Strategy was provided to the Board for their review. Mrs. Gillis provided a deep dive into the Emerald Trail project delivery as it relates to funding and potential gaps. The Board and staff discussed the opportunities for grant funding and that past success on JTA projects and the relationships that have been built will have a positive impact on winning the grants.

Mrs. Gillis concluded by sharing the proposed procurement schedule for the projects with the Board. There was discussion as well on workforce and that although the current number is low, due to being in the planning stage, the numbers will grow as the next stages begin.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Childcare Program: Mrs. Gillis shared that in 2021 the JTA created the Women in Leadership (WIL) group. This cohort was created to provide training and coaching by division leaders. There are 10 women in the cohort which is led by Khisha Dukes and Mrs. Gillis.

Mrs. Gillis shared that in 2022 the cohort was tasked with researching the concerns and need for childcare and are excited to share their findings with the Board of Directors.

Deborah Gonzalez kicked off the presentation and asked Tracie Williams to provide her impact statement related to the childcare initiative. Ms. Williams also provided the agenda for the presentation: the research, the fiscal impact and the open it up for questions from the Board.

Terri Smith then asked the members of the WIL to introduce themselves. Ms. Smith then presented the data for national childcare which shows that the cost of licensed childcare is out of reach for most families. The data shows that 72 percent of parents report spending more

than 10 percent of their income on childcare. She also provided the results from the employee survey related to childcare. The average monthly cost in the Jacksonville area was provided which is what led to the recommendation of JTA providing a monthly stipend of \$500, with a annual limit of \$6,000.

Endya Freeman then provided the Board with options that were considered by WIL, which included benefits of each and the JTA cost. Option four, JTA Childcare stipend was the most preferred by the WIL.

Ms. Gonzalez then provided a summary slide of what had just been presented to the Board. She also provided a snapshot of the benefits for taxpayers, customers, and employees. Ms. Gonzalez concluded with eligibility and the timeframe to roll out each phase of the childcare program.

Chair Buckland congratulated the WIL on a great job and this program will be an added benefit to the workforce.

There was discussion on the returns and how staff will adapt as the program moves forward.

Mr. Ford stated that he and the WIL want to give the Board an opportunity to think through this program and then bring it back for action at the December meeting.

Director Hayward shared her appreciation of the ladies presentation and then inquired about the families that have more then one child.

Director Sams said great job. She then asked if drop-in care on-site was considered. The response was yes and will look at that option in the future as the program roll phases out.

Chair Buckland announced that it is time for the annual CEO Evaluation. Mr. Milian provided details of the process for the Board to complete and submit their evaluation of Mr. Ford.

There being no further business, the work session adjourned at 3:34 p.m.


Debbie Buckland, Chair

SEAL


Aundra Wallace, Secretary