

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024**

The regular Board meeting of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) was held on Thursday, April 25, 2024.

BOARD MEMBERS

Deborah Buckland, Chair
G. Ray Driver, Vice Chair
Aundra Wallace, Secretary
Patricia Sams, Treasurer
Arezou Jolly, Immediate Past Chair
Megan Hayward, Board Member

JTA EXECUTIVE STAFF

Nathaniel P. Ford Sr., CEO
Greer Gillis, SVP System Development
Raj Srinath, SVP Finance and Technology
Jeffery Smith, Interim SVP Operations

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Greg Evans, FDOT

OTHERS PRESENT

Katie Smith, Board Administrator
Jessica Shepler, VP Gov. Affairs
Richard Milian, General Counsel

A. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Buckland called the meeting to order at 2:28 p.m. and thanked the Board for attending the meeting and the work session that took place before the Board meeting.

Director Jolly led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Smith completed a roll call confirming a quorum of the Board.

Chair Buckland then provided the safety message for the month of April. “Don’t Learn Safety by Accident.”

Chair Buckland then announced that Scott Cordero from the National Weather Service was in attendance for a special recognition for the JTA. Mr. Ford stated that at the JTA, the number one priority will always be the safety and security of customers, employees, and the residents of this city and region. The Authority has a key role when it comes to emergency preparedness ... one that is never take lightly. He shared that after a thorough review of JTA’s emergency preparedness plans, training, and exercises, which included a site visit to observe the capabilities in the event of a major storm. The National Weather Service is here today to award the JTA the “StormReady” certification.

Mr. Ford and Chair Buckland congratulated Chris Geraci on the award and his leadership.

Director Jolly stepped out of the meeting.

B. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 28, 2024 BOARD WORK SESSION AND BOARD MEETING**

MOTION (Sams/Hayward) to approve minutes. Motion Approved (5-0).

C. **COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON** – Councilwoman Pittman thanked the JTA for the continuous work in the communities of Jacksonville and congratulated the JTA on all of its success. She shared that her district is happy that JTA is listening to their needs. JTA to keep doing what it is doing, and she will keep the residents abreast.

D. **AUTHORITY RECOGNITION AWARDS**

March Employees of the Month:

Bus Operator: Chad Starling

Maintenance: Albert Roberts

Administrative: Ruth Horne

Special Recognition – State Roadeo

Melvin NeSmith: Paratransit Technician with the highest A/C Module Score

The Xpendables (Gilberto Dorta, George McGarry and Rudy Wells: Highest Cummins Engine Module score, highest I/O Controls Module score, highest Vapor Door Module score, and overall winner of the Fixed Route Maintenance Division.

Mr. Ford congratulated the bus operators and maintenance that competed in the Florida Triple Crown Roadeo held on April 20, 2024. He stated there were over 60 competitors from across the state. He thanked Director Jolly for attending the Roadeo. He wished the best of luck to Ramon and the Xpendables as they travel to compete in the Internation Roadeo on April 26-28, 2024.

He also recognized Lorrin Leonard and Ashton Oyler for their work to transition the manual scoring for the Roadeo to an automated solution which will be used at the International Roadeo.

Director Jolly returned to the meeting.

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

Mrs. Smith stated that there are members of the JTA staff in the audience to speak with those that make public comments to further discuss their issues and/or concerns.

1. **Ishmel Davis** – Mr. Davis asked if JTA staff would look into bus routes to Belfort, South Park, Salisbury and routes to medical facilities, St. Vincent’s, St. Lukes, Baptist South, and VA locations. He also shared that he would like security to look at soft spots around JRTC, particularly the employee parking lot and the second-floor access to Greyhound via the pedestrian bridge.

2. **Cornell Oliver** – Mr. Oliver shared he had submitted an application to sit on the JTA Board so he could watch out for those the JTA serves, not business owners. He feels that the TPO should have a seat on the JTA Board. Mr. Oliver also wants to understand more about the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Modifications to ensure equality for those like him. He also would

like to see light rail from the airport to the beaches.

3. John Nooney – Mr. Nooney stated that he was in attendance as he is reaching out to Jacksonville public entities regarding making the landing at Pottsburg Creek private. His ask is for the JTA to sponsor charging stations at Pottsburg Creek Park. Mr. Nooney also submitted his notes related to the JEA Board and the City’s Planning and Development Department Meeting for the record, which are attached hereto.

F. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT: Mr. Ford stated after his report, the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) would provide the Board with details and information related to their divisions.

He shared information on activities over the last month.

The JTA continues to receive recognition from our industry peers and from local and regional leaders for the award of \$147 million in federal discretionary grant funding to build the remaining five segments of the Emerald Trail.

On March 29, 2024, Director Hayward and Director Samms received a briefing and tour of the San Pablo Road Project, the last of the 13 Complete Streets projects, which will close out MobilityWorks 1.0. MobilityWorks 1.0 had an investment of \$170 million in roadway and transit infrastructure improvements that generated over 1,000 jobs.

In early April, a group of community, business and government leaders met for an initial meeting of the JAX Transformation Coalition, where they identified four priorities: Economic Development, Urban Planning and Transportation, Education and Health, and Culture. Darnell Smith, the Mayor’s Chief of Staff and Mr. Ford will co-lead the Urban Plan and Transportation Working Group, to discuss and develop what are the priorities for 2035, and what are some of the outcomes that we will need to accomplish by 2024 and 2025.

Mr. Ford, along with Chair Buckland and Directors Jolly and Sams attended the APTA Legislative Conference. During the conference they heard from officials from USDOT, FTA, FRA, and congressional leaders. They also had an opportunity to meet with Congressman Rutherford, Congressman Bean, staff from Senator Marco Rubio’s office, as well as other key stakeholders, such as FTA Interim Administrator, Veronica Vanterpool.

He congratulated Chief Operating Officer, Jeffrey Smith on being selected to Senior Executive program from the ENO Center for Transportation. This is an intensive and advanced leadership development program bringing together a select few top senior executives from across the country.

Mr. Ford then congratulated Chair Buckland on being recognized as a Leadership Jacksonville 2024 Honoree due to her leadership and dedication to our community.

There was a lot to celebrate in April and the JTA looks forward to May which will be even bigger. On May 29, 2024, JTA will hold the ceremonial groundbreaking of the Ultimate Urban Circulator (U²C) first phase, the Bay Street Innovation Corridor. This groundbreaking will kick-off a string of important events as the following day, May 30, 2024 the annual State of the Authority will held and on May 31, 2024, JTA will host National Autonomous Vehicle (AV) Day.

Mr. Ford concluded with a highlight video of April's activities.

Director Jolly recognized Mr. Ford's opportunity to participate on a panel at the French Embassy. Chair Jolly and Director Sams also provided their take-aways from the Legislative Conference.

G. DIVISION REPORTS

1. **ADMINISTRATION MONTHLY REPORTS** – Mrs. Shepler in Mr. Ferguson's absence shared highlights of the Administration Division and their activities through March, which included Real Estate and Economic Development and the Quarterly Customer Experience Report.

2. **FINANCE MONTHLY REPORTS** – Mr. Srinath shared details of the Monthly Finance Reports for March and activities in his division. He also shared details of the Quarterly Investment Report. Mr. Srinath recognized members of his staff that assisted with the Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

Director Jolly left the meeting.

3. **OPERATIONS MONTHLY REPORT** – Mr. Smith provided the Board with a summary of the Operations report through March 2024 and activities in his division. He added that customer service met with David Stone regarding his public comment in March. Mr. Smith stated that a notice is being posted on the buses for customers to move their belongings out of seats to allow others to sit.

Director Hayward inquired about the cause of the mechanical failures shared in the report. Mr. Smith responded that maintenance's new AI system will help determine mechanical issues in advance so vehicles can be serviced and/or repaired in a faster time to get them back in to service.

4. **SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT MONTHLY REPORT** – Ms. Gillis shared details of the System Development Report through March 2024 and activities in her division. She provided timeline on JTA requesting and become the Community Transportation Coordinator for Nassau County. Mrs. Gillis advised the Board that the bump on the entrance to the JRTC Hub that Mr. Davis spoke about at the January meeting and that is being fixed, it was due to some drainage issues.

She also addressed Mr. Oliver's comments about safety related to lighting on certain routes and that it is being addressed during the corridor improvements. She further noted that staff has reached out to the City of Jacksonville to check on the lighting. In addition, there was a comment last month related to chargers not working in the JRTC lobby, they have been fixed.

H. CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items under Consent.

I. ADOPTION AGENDA

There were no items for Adoption.

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

There were no items for the Safety, Audit and Compliance Committee.

Director Sams stated that staff intended to present information on the Safety and Compliance Audit Report that was provided in March. However, due to a medical issue, that presentation will be provided at a later date.

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

ACTION ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF FARE POLICY MODIFICATIONS – BEST FARE PROGRAM

Mr. Srinath stated that staff recommends the Board approve the two amendments to the Authority's fare policy. (1) Florida Driver Licenses and State of Florida Identification (ID) Cards to be accepted onboard all fixed route services as proof of eligibility for senior fares for passengers aged 65 and older. (2) Implement a Best Fare Program based on fare capping the MyJTA application

MOTION (Hayward/Wallace) to Approve the Fare Policy Modifications for the Best Fare Program. Motion Approved (5-0).

L. SERVICE DELIVERY (Hayward, Committee Chair)

There were no items for Service Delivery Committee.

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

ACTION ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR PARKING MANAGEMENT SERVICES – Mrs. Shepler stated that staff recommends the Board authorize

the CEO to amend the agreement between JTA and Elite Parking to exercise the option to upgrade the equipment and technology at the Kings Avenue Parking Garage as part of the Parking Management Services contract. The total cost of the new equipment and installation is \$200,000 with a monthly charge of \$1,200 for ongoing service and support. The original contract included

an option for JTA to have Elite upgrade the technology and equipment at the Kings Avenue Garage. To ensure there are no data breaches, staff asked to move forward with exercising the option.

MOTION (Wallace/Sams) to Approve Contract Award for Parking Management Services.

Motion Approved (5-0).

2. APPROVAL OF REAL PROPERTY DISPOSITION – BOWDEN ROAD - Mrs. Shepler stated that staff recommends the Board authorize the CEO to enter into negotiations with Cochiolla LLC for sale of real property on Bowden Road located in front of the University Transit Hub. The purchase price is \$1,360,000, which in line with the appraised property. The subject parcel is identified as a portion of the Duval County Property Appraiser's Real Estate Number 152677-0000 comprised of roughly 1.4 acres.

MOTION (Sams/Hayward) to Approve the Real Property Disposition for Bowden Road.

Motion Approved (5-0).

N. OLD BUSINESS

There was no New Business

O. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business


Chair Buckland announced that the next Board meeting is scheduled for May 30, 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

SPM



Debbie Buckland, Chair



Aundra Wallace, Secretary